

Hello again from Geoff,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I know that it has been a really difficult time, in many different ways. I am sure that we all have found it a struggle to cope with certain aspects of our 'lockdown lives'. I also know that many people have been incredible in their support for others...even while social distancing!

This desperate situation has brought the best out of many people who have done things like shopping for others, contacting people on their own, looking out for neighbours and delivering printed versions of 'Thoughts for the Day' to those who have no internet access, keeping contact with all Sunday School families. I know many people have been involved in making scrubs uniforms, face masks and mask bands: to name but a few of the things that have been going on. I also know that the people at Montgomery Hall and the Salvation Army have been working ultra-hard to get food to those who need it most.

Towards the end of April, I took some food to the food bank at Montgomery Hall and discovered that demand had risen by a staggering 1000%. This shocked me so much that I decided I wanted to do something to help. I also noticed that my wife was spending hours each day, contacting people in the Mothers Union to organise a range of ways their members could do things to help those in need and to supply scrubs etc. to the NHS. So I want to help both the food bank and the Sheffield Diocese MU. The only thing I could think of was to do a sponsored cycle ride from Lands' End to John O'Groats, but in my conservatory.

I found a route that was 1407 kilometres and thought if I do 50k a day from May 1st, I'll complete it on 28th May. I, actually finished on 22nd May, having gradually got further each day and doing 80k on the last day. I did 1420k to make sure I had gone far enough.

As I write this, the amount raised stands at £2333 so a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has very generously donated and to those who encouraged me to keep going.

You can still donate on www.crowdfunder.co.uk/geoffsletjogbybikemay2020

As lockdown eases, I fear that that we will have another increase in Covid cases, so I urge everyone to be extra vigilant and stay safe...

PLEASE. Keep working together in love and friendship.

Geoff

From the Vicar. **WATH ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**

The last 11 weeks have been very strange for me, including having all my 3 children + a girlfriend living here [not my girlfriend I might add!]. The lack of social contact which forms such an important part of what it means to be part of the Christian community, the body of Christ, I have personally found difficult at times. Plus, the lack of interaction with the wider community, other than via e mails & videos etc. There is also the lack of certainty about when any sort of service might be held in Church. Numerous wedding couples and baptism families have been in contact to cancel, postpone and ask when we might be able to host their significant event. To which the answer is 'we do not know', which is not what people want to hear.

But like many other Churches around the world we here in Wath have had to find new ways of being the Christian community, and different ways of offering pastoral care and spiritual nourishment. In this I am grateful to Charles and Beth for their regular contributions, and to Mike and Sharon for

keeping our website and Facebook pages up to date. I am also grateful to Rachel who put together the Church contact list just before lockdown, this has been invaluable in keeping in contact with most people.

If you have not been receiving regular e mails from me and would like to receive them, then please send me your e mail details to vicar@wathparishchurch.co.uk and I will include you in the regular mailings. You can also access services and information via the Church website and our Facebook page.

But what has come out of this for me are 2 particularly important points that will no doubt influence our future. Firstly, that there is something about the people of God, gathering together as the community of faith, that cannot be reproduced by e mails, telephones or videos. They have their place, and thank God for them as they have been a lifeline to many, but there is nothing like the physical touch or presence of being with others who have a shared ethos, many sports fans would say the same, having watched 40 minutes of a football game with no spectators I turned it off, it is the people that make the event. We matter to each other and to God.

Secondly that modern technology can aid us in our faith and worship. I hope you have enjoyed our Sunday services, Evening Prayer, Thoughts for the day, Prayer meeting and Quiz. That you have been moved by the virtual choirs that have popped up around the UK and further afield. That you have joined in worship with others from across the Diocese, Country, and the World, as Churches have posted online their own services, worshipping God in the context of their own cultures. That you have enjoyed services by more traditional means, the TV and Radio. Personally, whilst I was aware that some of this was 'out there', I think that it will be part of our future, both in inspiring the Saints and in expressing the love of God to those who are not yet part of us and to those who want to enquire without physically entering a building.

After 11 weeks I have much more I could say, but I won't! Other than to say 3 final things.

That we are praying for you, if you have a specific request please send it to me.

If you are in any sort of need then please contact me or someone else.

Be thankful for all that you have and enjoy, rather than pondering on what you lack.

May the God of peace enfold you in his love and watch over you.

Every Blessing

John

MIKE UNDERWOOD – Planned Giving Officer

"I have some bad news and some good news for you", said the vicar.

"The good news is that the contractors can fix the church roof, it will cost about £15,000, and we can afford it. The bad news is that this money is in your pockets."

Our Church roof doesn't need mending, but money is needed so we can continue to pay wages and train new clergy, plus support those struggling in our community.

Can you help?

A relevant bit about me. Despite having got the lowest-ever recorded mark in computer studies at Durham University, in 1980, I taught myself some computer skills when the "Windows" and "Office" software came about. Being OK at using computers is one of the "essential requirements" of the job!

I have other roles in the Church too, including website admin, and being a founder member of the gardening group.

My job is to make it easy for you to give regularly. Gift Aid allows UK taxpayers to increase the contribution you donate (by an appreciable 25%) and without costing you anything extra. I would also be the person to speak to if you wanted to make a one-off gift or leave something in your will.

It's my job to tell you about the **Parish Giving Scheme**, which makes it easy to set up a direct debit in complete confidentiality, automatically sorting the gift aid, channelling what you donate to your Church, and letting you make any regular donation linked to inflation.

The process **only takes about ten minutes** - phone **0333 002 1271** and give them:

1. Parish code 350635235 – for Wath parish Church
2. Your bank sort code and account number

That's all you need to do to support us in the good work for Church and community.

If you would like more information, try the church website <https://wathparishchurch.co.uk> and look for the giving page, or contact me on 07846960313.

Mike.

***SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED.***

March 2020

3 rd	Eamonn Miller	Aged 65
5 th	Muriel Rose	Aged 82
13 th	Elaine Mace	Aged 64
23 rd	Ellis Speight	Aged 82

April

20 th	Molly Fairman	Aged 86
22 nd	Keith Robertshaw	Aged 63
23 rd	Angela Porter	Aged 70
23 rd	Shirley Scott	Aged 83
28 th	Joan Iola Frances Bingham Dale	Aged 102

May

7 th	Josephine Cocking	Aged 75
8 th	Margaret Bradbury	Aged 85
13 th	Peter Rose	Aged 85
19 th	Sandra Wilson	Aged 70
29 th	June Elizabeth Mellard	Aged 88