



Newsletter of St John's Johnstone & St Margaret's Renfrew April & May 2021



www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Dear friends of St John's & St Margaret's,

How many times have I had to rewrite this piece in preparation for sending out this newsletter?! As I have had to keep production right up to the line I believe everything herein to be accurate – do check the website for any changes, or feel free to give me a call to just check things out, I really won't mind.

Our buildings are opening again with a “*max capacity of 50 depending upon 2m dosial distancing requirements*”. This means that we can have a max of **29 people at St Johns** and **24 at St Margarets**. The services will be the same format as just before Christmas: *collection of names & phone numbers, mask wearing for all, no singing, single use Orders of Service, strict seating and doors open 15mins before the service begins*. It is a pain but we are getting there, and our part in helping to stop the spread of COVID is important so please come prepared and do what you are asked by the sidespeople. As before all our services will be recorded and then put up on our YouTube Channel for people to join in with who cannot get to church.

Details of how we shall keep Holy week are enclosed, so do take a look and join in online and on the phone as you are able.

Happy Easter to you all – young and older alike.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

Very Rev Reuben Preston – Rector



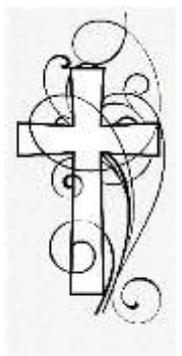
0945 & 1130 Sunday Services
recorded in our buildings
then put online
& 6pm Zoom Evensong Service



On the
telephone
& on Zoom

↑
← **Church** →
with one another

alone or
with others as
we use the
prayer leaflets
sent with this
mailing



For April & May our Zoom & Telephone access remains

Tel: 0131 460 1196 Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407 Passcode: 076546

or use this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83241840407?pwd=YnBqWkxEeW5NMIBuTDRmbDc0cFZhUT09>



In this mailing you have received

Your Palm Cross for 2021

A Way of the Cross

Stations of the Cross booklet for use at the Good Friday service

An Easter Card – with Eastertide Prayers

This Newsletter

it is also available on our website to share with friends

A Prayer for you use at home with your Palm Cross

Almighty and everlasting God,
may these palm crosses

be for us who have received them at home
a sign of Christ's victory over sin and death;
and may we who have been baptised in his name,
worship him as king, obey him as Lord,
and follow him in the way of the Cross,
which leads to eternal life.

We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Happy Easter 2021

Our Charge's church buildings are opening for Easter Day

0945am Easter Day Eucharist **St Johns Johnstone**

1130am Easter Day Eucharist **St Margarets Renfrew**

*All our Holy Week worship is online zoom & telephone
details are on the following pages*



1st an **OoFing** big Thank you from Lisa

Observing our Faith (OoFs) – the verdict!

This year we have had to celebrate many of our Festivals away from church. Our Rector anticipated this and saw it as an opportunity to encourage us all to keep the feasts and festivals at home as part of our lives as disciples. Enter the ordinand's project! From all Saints to Candlemas, we showered you with leaflets, 7 in all, with a range of suggestions for celebrating each feast and we invited contributions to webpages so we could share pictures and thoughts of what we had done. We don't know how many used the leaflets or tried the activities, but we received over 30 contributions to the webpages sent in by 12 different people (plus George) and another 8 sent pictures of their Christingles. It was great to have such imaginative contributions.

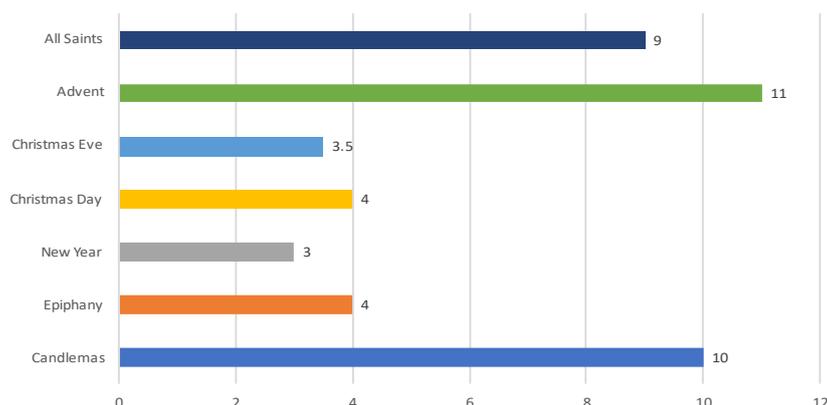
We are grateful to those who also donated towards the cost of having the leaflets so nicely printed and posted to everyone on both congregational lists, over 200 in all.

And to cap it all, we then asked you to tell us what you thought! Many thanks to those who filled in the survey forms which arrived online, by email, and in hard copy. Thanks also to those who emailed further comments or attended the Zoom evenings a few months ago to talk about the OoFs.

19 people responded to the survey, 17 of them from St Margaret's and 2 from St John's. All remembered seeing the OoFs and most (13) said that they had looked at all of them.

15 reported trying at least one of the activities. The most popular were making a nativity image for the window during Advent, making a candle and blessing someone for Candlemas and choosing a modern saint for All Saints.

Which of the activities did you try?



The most popular aspect of the leaflets was the content and that they made people think. Few gave a reason for not liking them – one said they had not helped them think.

12 people said they had looked at the OoF pages on the website. (Of course, this is just from those who answered the survey.) Most (79%) said the leaflet had helped them to celebrate the faith at home, although two did not find this and two more were not sure.

All 19 who responded said that they had felt connected with the church during lockdown. Here is a flavour of the comments received:

"I appreciated the opportunities that it presented for spending some time to focus on my faith. My saint helped me to remember the good people that I have encountered, and the nativity was a reminder of the real meaning of Christmas."

"I can appreciate the input made in setting this up but for me – it was difficult and 'not my thing'."

A 10% response rate is not bad for a survey like this (*John Mitchell tells me*) but we still don't know how the majority of those who received the leaflets found them. And the OoFs were only a small part of what the church provided to keep people connected during lockdown, including newsletters and prayer booklets. It does seem as though they met their purpose for some, though it is also clear that one size doesn't fit all. So please keep telling us what works (and doesn't work) for you! And have a blessed Holy Week and Easter, however you celebrate it.

The Rector said, "The OoFs were a tool for helping us to think about the life of faith in our daily living. They really did cause me to stop and think as I saw the contributions people offered for the OoF web pages. I am aware of how much further we have to go in the dimension of sharing our faith and talk about how we perceive God at work in our lives is an act of witness. They have been a valuable step on this journey together."

All yours for the getting



AND Remember to download our weekly Intercessions, Pewsheet & Gospel Reflection from our website www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Thank you for your donations towards the extra costs of keeping connected, it has been really good to hear how people have valued the mailings....

If you would like to make a donation towards the printing, postage and preparation costs of our Newsletters please send your donation to the Rector at 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD or send it electronically to www.paypal.me/reubenjamespreston



Thank you for your continued giving to our Churches

For Online & Telephone banking use these details for your giving:-

to St Johns the Evangelist Episcopal Church:

Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 80-16-53 Acct No. 00356544

to St Margarets Episcopal Church:

Royal Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 83-26-22 Acct No. 00196266

Or send your giving for St John's or St Margaret's to the Rector at his home 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD and Reuben will ensure your cheques/cash are banked. If you would like to give directly please use these details above or you can give via PayPal at www.paypal.me/reubenjamespreston and put *St John's/Margaret's* in the message box.

Contact: Rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

Tel: 07971 895897

Worship together as we emerge from the lockdown

As we are once again permitted to use our buildings in a limited way we are mindful of the opportunities we have enjoyed in using our computers, tablet, smartTv and phones to help keep us connected. From the Provincial weekly services to our own recorded services and live Zoom interactive worship we have found that we are church outside our buildings in a fresh way. The use of Children's Chapel has been valued by many of our youngsters and is now a part of the weekly offering from the Province. As we open our doors to Sunday worship we will continue with....



2pm Telephone Church is 20mins on a Wednesday afternoon for a short service hearing the readings for the day and using our Intercessions leaflet to help us in our prayer for the world and our churches. The service starts at 2pm so dial in around 155pm or so to get connected.

7pm Zoom Communion is each Wednesday and we hear the readings for the day and pray with each other for all that is happening in our lives. There is an opportunity to chat afterwards if you want to join in.

On Sundays – We have services in church at 0945am at St Johns and 1130am in St Margarets which will all be recorded and then placed on our YouTube Channel for people to engage in who cannot come to the buildings.

Sunday 6pm Evensong – this service will continue as we meet together and hear the bible readings for the evening and pray for our Charges and the issues for the world. Hymns and musical settings are used from YouTube so that we can all sing at home too. At the end you can go or stay and chat to other people.

In our Church Buildings: - Funerals and Weddings and Baptisms can take place in our church buildings with limited numbers – please contact the Rector as necessary. The Rector is allowed to conduct Funerals at the Crematoriums and Cemeteries.

You can join in the National Scottish Episcopal Church Services at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship/>

Telephone Church is open from 1.45pm to give you plenty of time to connect and type in the details as the **service starts at 2pm.** The service will end by 2.30pm. It is an excellent way for everyone to join in being church in their isolation. Just use your phone.

Tel Number is 0131 460 1196 Meeting ID: 832 4184 0407
Passcode: 076546



Holy Week

Keeping **Holy Week** 2021

As we get ready for our buildings to open again for worship lots of preparation is needed and this will happen during Holy Week as we also prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter this year.

8pm Compline on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will be on zoom & telephone based on the readings for the day and with a reflection. The service will be about 20mins. There will be no chat at the end to help us all go off to prepare to sleep in the peace and presence of Christ.

11am Good Friday – Stations of the Cross – if this newsletter was delivered to you in the post it has been accompanied by a copy of the prayer leaflet “We walk with the Lord on the Way of the Cross” we shall be using this booklet at this service on zoom & the telephone.

2pm Good Friday – Service of the Nails – This is the service enjoyed by St Johns which I made a video of last year. This will be available again on the YouTube Channel and a link will be in the Online Services page of the website.

ADDITIONALLY it will be on Zoom & telephone to allow as many folk as possible to join in.



Preparing the buildings for reopening

As we prepare for the reopening of our buildings it is important that we help maintain the biosecurity by only entering on the following days. Please arrange with others the time when you are going to be turning up to do the cleaning and preparation tasks that are necessary. These days apply to both buildings.

Monday 29 March – Cleaning & putting the Easter hangings up

Tuesday 30 March & Wednesday 31 March - no entry to the buildings

Thursday 1 April – flowers to be put in place for Easter Day

Friday 2 April & Sat 3 April – no entry to the buildings

A Part-time paid Job opportunity – because Reuben is Dean there is a support allowance to help him in maintaining the lives of the Charges he serves. This is equivalent to a £13.5k post per annum and based on 74 hours work per month. A job description is currently being written but I wanted to flag it up in case you know anyone with excellent computer skills who might be looking for a part time role over the coming year. Essential skills will be: use of Zoom, Publisher, Powerpoint, Office 365, general internet use, graphic manipulation and putting together materials for a variety of pdf, online and given sources to produce resources for physical and virtual usage. I want someone who is completely reliable and understands the continuous stream of preparation and planning necessary across our Church year. The post will be advertised soon.



The Lent Appeal 2021

Bishop Kevin’s Lent Appeal 2021 is to support the work of the Aberlour Scotland’s Children’s Charity. If you have been raising money at home you can drop that off at church – in the Font or on the plate and the treasurers will get it sent off. Or you can donate your money online

“This year my Lent Appeal is for the outstanding work undertaken by the Aberlour Child Care Trust, a charity that has longstanding links with our Scottish Episcopal Church, a charity dear to my heart, and a charity that is there for Scotland’s hidden children, whose considerable difficulties have been hugely exacerbated over the last year of pandemic.

The list of work done by Aberlour is extensive and enormous, encompassing early years to young adulthood, and including residential and fostering services, addiction recovery programmes, support for early years children and for families affected by child disability, early intervention programmes, urgent assistance funds, self-directed support and school support.

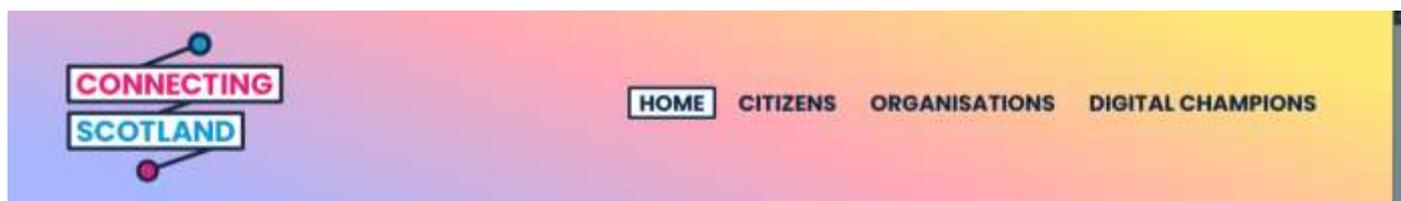
More detail is available on [Aberlour’s website](#), and I would urge all members and friends of our churches in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway to [contribute to our appeal through this JustGiving page](#), whence your contributions will be channelled directly to Aberlour.

Please feel free to share this page far beyond our own churches and members: last year our Bishop’s Lent Appeal raised over £10,000, so we hope to exceed that amount in what has been a very challenging period for everyone. And, in Aberlour’s case, “because every child deserves the chance to thrive...”

If you are contributing from or on behalf of one of our churches, it would be helpful if you add the name and town of your church in the comments section, even if you would prefer your own name to remain anonymous. And, if you are able, please allow Gift Aid to be claimed on your donation. But, more important than anything else, please give generously to this tremendously worthwhile cause.

+Kevin”

The Address for the JustGiving page is www.justgiving.com/fundraising/diocese-of-glasgow-galloway



Connecting Scotland selects St Johns Johnstone

Well Done to Lisa and Reuben on their Connecting Scotland Application for St Johns

Last month we received news that the application submitted by St Johns was selected to be the recipient of 10 iPads and 10 MiFi units with 2 years of unlimited data. The application was crafted by Lisa and is aimed at helping to support the members of St Johns who are housebound or isolated. The project aims to provide internet access to people who are otherwise not engaged digitally with the world. Reuben was able to demonstrate the track record of the Charges at engaging with using digital platforms and that meant that we have a proven track record in using these technologies - so we were awarded these devices to help us reach out in another dimension as “Digital Champions”. Well done Lisa for completing the ‘boring’ digital paper work and helping Reuben to get the submission completed in good time.



The Service rotas for April & May 2021

you are invited to the physical, online & telephone Services

St Johns details in RED St Margarets in BLUE

Date	Celebration	Readings
Sunday 28 March 0945am Service on YouTube & 6pm Zoom Evensong	PALM SUNDAY (red) all services online today	<i>Liturgy of the Palms</i> Mark 11:1-11 <i>Liturgy of the Passion</i> Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1 - 15:47
Monday 29 March 9am Morning Prayer - YouTube 8pm Compline on Zoom/phone	Monday in Holy Week all services online today	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11
Tuesday 30 March 9am Morning Prayer - YouTube 8pm Compline on Zoom/phone	Tuesday in Holy Week all services online today	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36
Wednes 31 March 9am Morning Prayer - YouTube 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Wednesday in Holy Week all services online today	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32
Thursday 1 April 9am Morning Prayer - YouTube 8pm Compline on Zoom/phone	Maundy Thursday all services online today	Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Friday 2 April 9am Morning Prayer - YouTube 11am Stations of the Cross on Zoom 2pm Service of the Nails on Zoom & on YouTube 8pm Compline on Zoom/phone	Good Friday all services online today	Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1 - 19:42
Saturday 3 April - Holy Saturday – everywhere we wait in anticipation of the resurrection in our lives, waiting for God to bring about all things new		
Sunday 4 April 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i> 6pm Zoom Evensong	Easter Day (gold/white) Reader: David R, Allan - Prayers: Jane T, usual	Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8
Easter Week there are no services all week across the Charges		
Sunday 11 April 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i> 6pm Zoom Evensong	Easter 2 (white) Reader: Ann, John - Prayers: Vanessa, usual	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1 - 2:2 John 20:19-31
Wednes 14 April 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	feria (white)	Acts 5:17-26, Psalm 34:1-8 John 3:16-21

<p>Sunday 18 April 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i> 6pm Zoom Evensong</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Easter 3 (white) Reader: <i>Ann, Doreen</i> - Prayers: <i>John, usual</i></p>	<p>Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48</p>
<p>Wednes 21 April 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion</p>	<p>Anselm of Canterbury, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 1109 (white)</p>	<p>Acts 8:1b-8 Psalm 66:1-6 John 6:35-40</p>
<p>Sunday 25 April 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i> 6pm Zoom Evensong</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Easter 4 (white) SEC Vocations Sunday Reader: <i>Agnes, Jane T</i> - Prayers: <i>Pat, usual</i></p>	<p>Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18</p>
<p>Wednes 28 April 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">feria (white)</p>	<p>Acts 12:24 - 13:5a Psalm 67 John 12:44-50</p>
<p>Sunday 2 May 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i> 6pm Zoom Evensong</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Easter 5 (white) Reader: <i>David R, Allan</i> - Prayers: <i>Jane T, usual</i></p>	<p>Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8</p>
<p>Wednes 5 May 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">feria (white)</p>	<p>Acts 15:1-6 Psalm 122 John 15:1-8</p>
<p>Sunday 9 May 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i> 6pm Zoom Evensong</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Easter 6 (white) Reader: <i>Ann, Tosh</i> - Prayers: <i>Lisa, usual</i></p>	<p>Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17</p>
<p>Wednesday 12 May 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thomas Rattray, Bishop, 1743 (white)</p>	<p>Acts 17:15, 22 - 18:8 Psalm 148 John 16:12-20</p>
<p>Thursday 13 May 7pm Zoom Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ascension Day Service followed by a social to see how we are all getting on</p>	<p>Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 or 93 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53</p>
<p>Sunday 16 May 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i> 6pm Zoom Evensong</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Easter 7 (white) Reader: <i>DavidF, John</i> - Prayers: <i>Vanessa, usual</i></p>	<p>Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11</p>
<p>Wednesday 19 May 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">feria (white)</p>	<p>Acts 20:28-38 Psalm 68:28-36 John 17:11b-19</p>
<p>Sunday 23 May 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i> 6pm Zoom Evensong</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pentecost (red) Reader: <i>Agnes, Doreen</i> - Prayers: <i>John, usual</i></p>	<p>Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</p>

Wednesday 26 May 2pm Telephone Church 7pm Zoom Communion	Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop, c.604 (white)	Sirach 36:1-2, 5-6, 13-17 Psalm 79:8-13 Mark 10:32-45
Sunday 30 May 0945am St Johns & 1130am St Margarets <i>Recordings put online for 4pm</i>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Trinity Sunday</h2> (gold/white) Reader: DavidR, Jane T - Prayers: John, usual	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17 <i>NB: This is Lisa's last Sunday with us until she is ordained on Sunday 26 September</i>

Daily Prayer continues online Our YouTube channel is hosting our Live Streamed Offices of the Scottish Episcopal Church <http://bit.ly/SECStJohnStMargaret>
9am Morning Prayer & 5.30pm Evening Prayer - Monday to Friday until Pentecost

St Johns Development works news....



It is proving very difficult to get quotes for the work we can immediately start on: re-lighting the nave, new lighting in chancel and transepts and the seating in the north and south transepts and moving the font. Please hold this in your prayers as we seek to get this work going.

LIGHTING – we have managed to put in three test LED bulbs and we shall be getting another shade of white to try out as

soon as we can.

Good News – the details of the light plans for the Chancel and north and south transepts have been agreed with the Diocesan Property Committee – all we need now is an electrician who can do the work.

St Johns Organ Works

If you would like to think about giving towards the work on the organ please do and send a Cheque to the Rector payable to “St Johns Episcopal Church” and write ‘Organ’ on the back. Or send a donation via BACs using the details earlier in the Newsletter with ORGAN as a reference. We shall keep you updated as to the amounts of funds we are needing to carry out the work as we receive the details.



Renewing St Johns for the Future



– if you have left a bequest in your Will to St Johns, *Thank you very much.* If you are thinking about doing so, please do, as we plan for the next chapter of St John’s ministry in and around Johnstone. If you would like to have a private conversation about it with the Rector please just call him on 07971 895897. Also a very helpful page on the Province’s website is at <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/stewardship-gift-aid-and-legacies/leaving-a-legacy-in-your-will-to-the-church/>

Thinking to the future

Introduction

I have put together these words to start us off in thinking and praying the way ahead for our Charges. Not having access to our buildings has caused us to 'remember' what church is in relational terms. Being a *People*. *So how do we move forward now that the world has been changed by the pandemic? Where might God be calling us?*

Being Social We have had a Quiz night, Coffee Mornings, Chat and catch ups, discussions, study groups, and services using Zoom. It is hard to believe that we might be back to a St Margarets Quiz Night with Fish n Chip supper in September – *we might, but do we want to?*

How can we think about being social with a focus – a real focus which might bring new life to people in the 'post pandemic' world that is before us? What could we think about doing? How might we contact people who might be interested?

Being Holy Certainly making and producing Services has taken a lot of time and energy during the year gone by. *What have we learned about ourselves during this?* Some of us have stuck to the 'normal' church time to join in online. Some have not liked to sing by themselves at home, some have stayed in bed with a coffee and bacon role! While others have joined in at a later time and further people have downloaded the pewsheets, intercessions and reflections and sent them on to friends or sat and read them at home. *What does all of this say to how we grow in Holiness?*

Being Generous – Tick tick tick - As the pandemic struck I was seized by panic that our churches may run out of money and I'd be looking for a job! Fortunately so far, this has not happened. I have been unabashed at putting the need for money in our common life together. Many of you have got into online banking and giving – thank you. Others have delivered envelopes to my house – thank you. We have done well at surviving this year gone by. We are down by many thousands of pounds but we are not out.

Being Virtual & Being Real -I had not heard of Zoom at the beginning of 2020 and now it governs most of my interactions with people: leading worship, taking part in study events, hosting Lent Groups, organizing admin and just having a catch up, to name but a few. *How can we harness the opportunity zoom gives us into our physical church life?* Meetings are easier, quicker, more comfortable and sometimes more fun!

A Charter for the next couple of years

1. Get both of our Charges buildings connected to a fast internet connection
2. Live stream every service that happens in the buildings as a matter of course
3. Live stream the church – all the time – so you can virtually pop in when you fancy
4. Develop an online ministry – prayer events, groups, study events, talks....
5. Get the gear we need installed well: cameras, lights, microphones, computers action!!
6. Help each other engage virtually at home – beyond *'going to the library to use the free internet'*

Let's grasp what is on offer and run with it – WWJD(What Would Jesus Do)? I sometimes wonder!

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