On Stream

The Magazine of
the Trent and Derwent Churches

www.trentderwentparishes.org

September 2020

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Prayer Diary

For your prayers in September

This month we pray for:

Aston The residents of Ash Close, Willow Close and The Green. Also the work of the Local History Group and Aston Methodist Church.

Barrow The residents of TwyfordRoad. Also the Tuesday Club.

Elvaston The residents of Castle Court and Barron's Court, Elvaston.

Shardlow The residents of West End Drive. Also the Shardlow Primary School and the Heritage Centre..

Swarkestone The residents of Lowes Lane. Also Swarkestone Garden Centre.

Twyford The residents of Stenson.

Weston The residents of Bridge Lane and Swarkestone Road. Also the Ukrainian Camp.

The Community All of our local farmers and growers.

The Diocese The Duffield and Longford Deanery. Communication and Tourism in the Diocese.

World Church The Provinces of Tanzania, Uganda, the U.S.A. and Wales.

Tony write

Dear friends,

I was recently lent a best-selling book, called "Sapiens – A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Noah Harari. It seeks to trace the evolutionary development of the species Homo Sapiens, namely us, from our origins 200,000 years ago in East Africa up to the present day. In particular, the author describes three world-changing revolutions, which shaped the course of history. The first was the Cognitive Revolution about 70,000 years ago, when human beings began to create cultures and social constructs, reinforcing them by the telling of stories and myths. The second was the Agricultural Revolution about 12,000 years ago, when humans learnt how to selectively cultivate plants and animals and changed from being hunter/gathers to become farmers, who lived in villages and communities. The third revolution was the Scientific Revolution of the last 500 years, during which humans have increased their power and capability by investing in scientific research, making use of mathematics to connect observations into comprehensive theories and using these theories to develop new technologies.

It is a fascinating story. What I found most interesting as a theologian, however, is the beginning and end of this evolutionary process. Why, about 70,000 years ago, did our species make a sudden massive leap forward in the development of our brains, which enabled us to organise ourselves so effectively (presumably through complex language) that we could ensure our pre-eminence, not only over the animal kingdom, but also over other species of human beings, such as Neanderthals, who peopled the earth? The author, interestingly, is unable to explain this massive leap forward:

"The appearance of new ways of thinking and communicating, between 70,000 and 30,000 yeas ago, constitutes the Cognitive Revolution. What caused it? We are not sure. The most commonly believed theory argues that accidental genetic mutations changed the inner wiring of the brains of Sapiens, enabling them to think in unprecedented ways.."

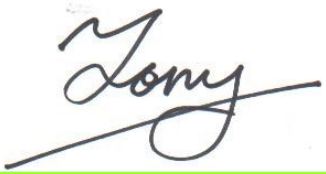
The best that science can come up with is that this massive, sudden development in the human brain, which distinguishes us completely from the rest of the animal kingdom, was a genetic accident. As a theologian and a person of faith, I would want to argue that, leaving God out of the picture and any sense of divine purpose to the evolutionary process, leads us to the brick-wall of accident. In my view, the Cognitive Revolution is better explained by divine purpose than by genetic accident, but that is a matter of faith rather than science!

The conclusion of the book is also interesting, as the author analyses the current impact that our species is having on the planet:

"We are more powerful than ever before, but have very little idea what to do with all that power…Self-made gods with only the laws of physics to keep us company, we are accountable to no-one. We are consequently wreaking havoc on our fellow animals and on the surrounding ecosystem, seeking little more than our own comfort and amusement, yet never finding satisfaction. Is there anything more dangerous than dissatisfied and irresponsible gods who don't know what they want?"

It strikes me that he has unwittingly hit the theological nail on the head. What we have lost with the rise of secularism, which leaves God completely out of the equation, is any sense of accountability to anything or anyone beyond ourselves. This denial of accountability is what we mean by the Christian doctrine of human sinfulness and is the cause of the havoc we wreak on the world, on one another and on ourselves. We need to be accountable. We need God in our lives.

God bless,



On Line Services We are continuing to record and post on-line services on both the Aston and the Benefice websites. You just need to go to the page entitled "On Stream worship." If you have missed any services and want to catch up, there is also a link to the YouTube channel, where you will find the videos of all the

Benefice News

If you would like to receive a copy of the magazine by email rather than in a hard copy please contact me on the email address below and I will send you one. (There is no charge for this, but a donation to your local church would be appreciated)

Please inform me of any detail changes for contacts that are listed on pages 16 and 17

All material for the October 2020 edition of the magazine to be sent to Joe Nutman at jnutman@btinternet.com by September 20th please.

On Stream

The plan is that 'On Stream' will return to a printed magazine format for the October issue onwards! As all the churches now have services and things are very slowly returning to a new normal all the parishes may have something to report on and be able to inform the readers of forthcoming events. For this to happen we need to have sufficient content for the usual 20 pages . . . . . So sharpen the quills and get writing!

Thanks, Joe

Services Church services are gradually resuming after the lockdown. See the back of the magazine for details. Face coverings are now mandatory for public worship and you are asked to sanitise your hands at the door and sit on the seats where there are books.

Historical Tours I have now recorded visual historical tours of All Saints', Aston on Trent, St. Bartholomew's, Elvaston and St.Mary's, Weston on Trent, based on the tours I led for the Aston Local History Group. I hope to be able to record something similar in due course for the other churches. They are available on the websites

We have started a weekly **Bible Study** at 7.00 pm on a Wednesday. This is via a conferencing program called Zoom. Zoom is easy to download onto your computer, smartphone or tablet. Once you have the app, you can join in the Bible Study by means of a link, which we will publish each week. Why not join us on Wednesday? If you have any trouble accessing or operating Zoom, please contact Ed or me for advice. We will do our best, as we are all learning new IT skills!

Facebook Groups. There are now Public Groups on Facebook for All Saints' and for the Trent and Derwent Benefice. Swarkestone and Barrow also have their own Facebook pages. They are a very convenient way of keeping in touch and will be even more useful once our services and activities start again. If you are not on Facebook or are unfamiliar with or are not used to social media, do contact Tony for advice, if you would like to be able to access the church groups.

Giving These are financially challenging times for all our churches, as we have been missing weekly collections, fees for weddings/funerals and fundraising events. At the same time, a lot of our regular expenditure continues. If you give regularly by envelope scheme, please let your church treasurer have envelopes through their letter-box, if you can manage this. If you do not belong to one of our free-will offering schemes, please consider setting aside your normal giving and making a gift to your church whenever convenient. You may wish to consider making donations by standing order (have a word with your treasurer) or, if you are in Aston or Elvaston parishes, by joining the Parish Giving Scheme.

Thank you for all your support!

BENEFICE 200 CLUB

All Saints' PCC 200 club benefice payments for the year 2019/20 are as follows:

Aston	£5383
Weston	£1053
Twyford	£858
Swarkestone	£390
Elvaston	£273
Shardlow	£39

Thank you to all members of all the churches who have contributed. Your support has been especially important this year with the closure of the churches and the cancellation of all fund raising activities. We all hope that you will continue your membership and please remember that new members are always welcome.

The draw for August took place after one of the first church services

The winning numbers were : 1st -118, 2nd – 44, 3rd – 19. All From Aston this time.

From the Registers

Aston

Funerals:

14th August – Jim Ballington (86 yrs)

Elvaston

Funeral:

5th August – Stephen Robbins (84 yrs)

A brisk walk through "A pageant of English Verse' to refresh you in these times

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree
I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all,
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow
And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold.
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends
Nor come within a mile of you, until this s*** show ends.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

JESUS says:

"IF YOU QUARREL ... ALWAYS TRY TO MAKE FRIENDS AGAIN."

Draw a picture of something you quarrel about with someone else.

Draw a picture of what you do to make friends again.

We are very happy to be continuing to offer a **Sunday service at 10.30 am.** From September onwards, we are planning to hold some Wednesday morning services in the other churches of the Benefice. So there will be a service of **Holy Communion at 9.30 am** on Wednesday 2nd, 16th and 30th September. This will enable us to have evening services of **Compline** on the 9th and 23rd September at 6.45 pm.

The **Annual Church Meeting**, which should have been held in the Spring, will be held on Monday 14th September at 7.30 pm in Church. All are welcome.

We shall be opening the Heritage Centre to small groups (max. 10 people) from September onwards. This should enable us to resume our Wednesday morning Bible Exploration and Open Discussion groups, though sadly not the Open Café for the time being. Face coverings should be worn.
Our groups will meet in September as follows:

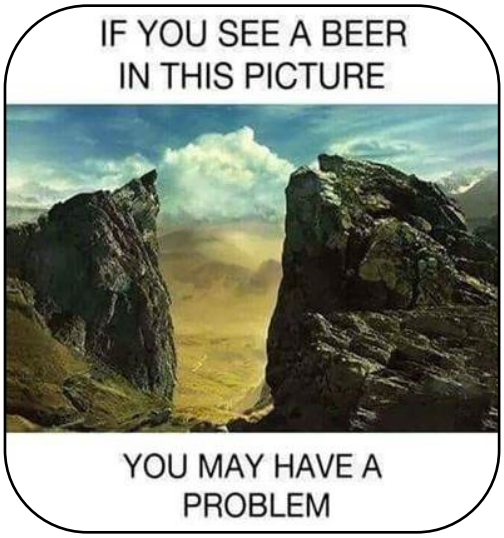
Wednesday 9th September at 10.30 am – Open Book – Bible Exploration

Wednesday 16th September at 10.30 am- Open before God – Meditation.

Wednesday 23rd September at 10.30 am – Open-ended – Discussion

Aston on Trent WI

Despite Covid, it's the usual story with the great British weather! - one day we're in the midst of a record breaking heatwave and the next we are experiencing floods.
Have you ventured out to take advantage of the eat out scheme in August? Gradually most parts of the country are able to enjoy more social activities, still keeping in mind all the current guidelines of course. It's good to see local restaurants getting a well deserved boost and hopefully it translates into good news for the economy too.
Locally we don't foresee holding a full WI meeting before December, but committee meetings will be held on an ad hoc basis. Smaller groups such as walking and craft may be able to meet up in the meantime, dependent on the venues used. So we are making some progress and hopefully this will continue.
Keep Zooming everyone, wear your masks and keep washing your hands!



Mothers' Union News

It is good to keep in touch and we hope it will not be too long now before we can meet together again (socially distanced of course).
If you are able to use the computer, the MU website is always interesting. Mid-day prayers are on Face book every day. Please visit www.mothersunion midday prayers - follow the link using <midday prayers and wave of prayer>

Meanwhile can we all try to put a small amount aside regularly towards the work of the Mothers' Union which we have in the past supported at all our meetings.
These are some of the projects our Aston and Weston branch has supported

AFIA (Away From It All) – helping stressed and dysfunctional families to have a short break)

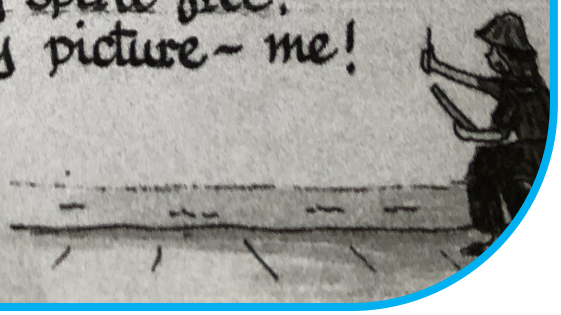
Britain and All-Ireland – helping the needy, the elderly, prisoners and their families and all types of vulnerable people. Also, importantly raising awareness of gender-based violence.

Mary Sumner Relief Fund has always tried to have money available for rapid help in emergencies all over the world.

Overseas – supports Mothers' Union projects in branches world-wide, helping members and families with ethical training for facilitators in workshops and small home industries, setting up micro savings groups and parenting training programmes.

The Painter.

Let others rush and hurry by
But let me stand and watch the sky
And paint each shade and varied hue
While they walk by and out of view.
A painters gift is to observe
With perfect eye each hidden curve,
Each dip and dive, each broken wall,
Each slated roof and column tall.
The very life within the scene
Fills eyes and heart and hands so keen.
And then I turn to virgin page
An actor on an empty stage.
First mark, first stroke, first pencil line
The arch and alley to define.
Fast hours pass, each shadow falls
And crawls, unseeing over walls.
The children pass close by, from school
And watch the painter on her stool.
Their greeting called and then alone.
At last I add each final tone
And rise at length to criticize
The picture painted from my eyes;
For never could I get quite right
The feel of life, the subtle light.
I tried with paint to understand
The master's work with unseen hand.
First disillusioned, weary, tired
I hold my work this scene's inspired;
But then of course I realise
I've painted not just from my eyes,
I've added to my work, in part
The stroke of love within my heart,
A colour from my spirit free,
I've added to my picture - me!



St Wilfrid's transformation

Work continues apace on the church transformation.

The drains are now completed; these required significant input from our archaeology consultants – not surprising since we were digging soakaways for the roof rainwater in four separate areas of the churchyard. Although no "mediaeval treasures" were found, many bones were excavated, recorded, and returned, with all due reverence and respect, to the place where they were found. This will mean that we have now eliminated the problem of flooding around the church during periods of heavy rainfall.

Internally, the new joists for the floor have been laid and the electrical work for the underfloor heating and power / sound is underway.

Our early 14th century effigy has been completely cleaned and conserved (including the restoration of his dog's head to its correct alignment) and replaced back into the niche from which it came. We believe we know the identity of the man whom the effigy represents, and analyses of the fragments of paint that remain on the statue indicate that they are of very high quality – indication of a man of great importance.

Externally, the bollard lights that will illuminate the pathways to the church are being installed. Having had a very dark churchyard in the past, we shall now be able to safely light the way for people visiting the building after dark.

Our new ringing floor has been constructed – this will serve a dual purpose; both as our bell-ringing area, and also as the new site for the vestry.

We hope and expect that our church will be open and welcoming to everyone by Christmas – Covid-19 permitting. More updates on our transformation project next month, but please follow the progress on our Facebook or Instagram pages – www.facebook.com/st.wilfridschurch or www.instagram.com/stwilfridsbarrow

On another note, the Brookfield has now been able to open for booked meals – a welcome return for a popular venue for many in the parish.

The Parish Council continues to operate virtually via Zoom meetings – we have all become very accustomed to linking up with others via this medium.

"Have you heard of Murphy's Law?"
"Yes."
"What is it?"
"If something can go wrong, it will."
"Have you heard of Cole's Law?"
"No. What is it?"
"Thinly slice cabbage."

Honest politicians

A politician visited a village and asked what their needs were.
"We have two basic needs" replied the village leader. "Firstly we have a hospital, but there's no doctor."
On hearing this, the politician whipped out his mobile phone and, after speaking for a while, he reassured the village leader that the doctor would be there the next day. The politician then asked about the second problem.
"Secondly sir, there is no mobile phone coverage anywhere in this village."

Elvaston

Shardlow

Swarkestone

Twyford

The one service at St Andrews at 10.30 on 27th September will be our Harvest Festival, however because of the present restrictions, there will be no produce displayed nor on sale.

The church continues to be open for private prayer during the daytime, please follow the guidelines about hand sanitising and other guidance.

St Mary the Virgin.

Weston on Trent

Sunday Services

1st Sunday 10.30 Family Morning Prayer.

4th Sunday 10.30 Family Communion,

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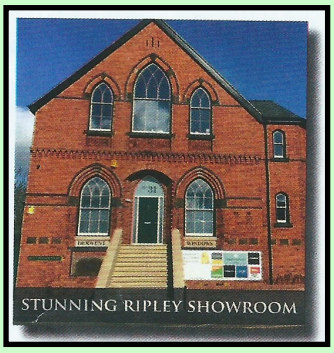

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SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

		Aston	Elvaston	Shardlow	Swarkestone	Twyford	Weston
Wed. 2nd Sept.		9.30 HC Paul					
6th September **Trinity 13**	Ezekiel 33. 7-11 Matt. 18. 21-35	10.30 FC Tony					10.30 FW Bruce
Wed. 9th Sept.		6.45 Compline				9.30 HC Tony	
13th September **Trinity 14**	Genesis 50. 15-21 Matt. 18. 21-35	10.30 FW Bruce	10.30 HC Paul		10.30 HC Tony		
Wed. 16th Sept.		9.30 HC Paul					
20th September **Trinity 15**	Jonah 3. 10 -4. 11 Matt. 20. 1-16	10.30 FC Tony		10.30 HC Paul			
Wed. 23rd Sept.		6.45 Compline					9.30 HC Tony
27th September **Trinity 16**	Ezekiel 18. 1-4, 25-32 Matt. 21. 23-32	10.30 FW Tony				10.30 HC Paul	
Wed. 30th Sept.		9.30 HC Paul					
4th October **Trinity 17**	Isaiah 5. 1-7 Matt. 21. 33-46	10.30 FC Paul		10.30 HC Ed			10.30 HC Tony
Wed. 7th Oct.		9.30 HC Ed					
11th October **Trinity 18**	Isaiah 25. 1-9 Matt. 22. 1-14	10.30 FW Tony	10.30 MP Bruce		10.30 HC Paul	3.00 ES Ed	
Wed. 14th Oct.		6.45 Compline	9.30 HC Tony				
18th October **St.Luke**	2 Timothy 4. 5-17 Luke 10. 1-9	10.30 FC Ed		10.30 MP Bruce			
Wed. 21st Oct.		9.30 HC Paul					
25th October **Trinity 20**	Lev. 19. 1-2, 15-18 Matt. 22. 15-22	10.30 FW Bruce	10.30 HC Ed			3.00 HC Paul	10.30 HC Paul
Wed. 28th Oct.		6.45 Compline		9.30 HC Ed			

Key: HC = Holy Communion, FC = Family Communion, FW=Family Worship