



@stmikesmacclesfield



www.stmichaels-macclesfield.org.uk



Follow us on
Instagram



By focusing on God, and on our individual (and corporate) relationship with the ONE who made, saved and sustains us, we CAN have confidence to face the future. Our eternal confidence is to be found in Jesus Christ.

Through Jesus' ministry – His teaching, healings, miracles and prayers – we see the love and compassion of God reaching out to everyone. Through His death and resurrection we see the extent to which God will go to win our hearts.

For those of us who pay attention to detail, have you noticed that this issue of St Mike's News marks over six months' worth of such wonderful newsletters?

Over six months! (It never was, but ..) this is DEFINITELY NOT FUN anymore. When I think back to the early days of lockdown .. the hours of daylight were increasing, the days were getting warmer, the enforced change of lifestyle was a challenge to rise to ..

Now, mid-September, having experienced some respite from isolation and the opportunity to travel or meet up with others, infection rates are once again on the rise, there's the prospect of a second wave/spike, and who knows if/when we'll have to close our church buildings once more? Not to mention thinking about Christmas!

Anxiety. Fear. Depression. All very real; all very damaging – I wonder to what extent you experience these? If you do, PLEASE tell someone how you're feeling.

Generally people are feeling less confident about the future, less certain over what they can and cannot do, less comfortable about being near others.

Today I was reminded that however new and unwelcome, however debilitating and destructive Covid 19 is, actually this is nothing Christians haven't faced before (Eccl.1:10). Plagues and pandemics have occurred before – just not in our lifetime.

When you can't look forward with confidence, look up with certainty.

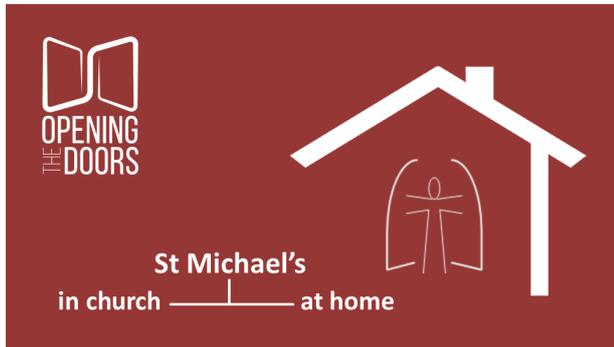
By acknowledging Jesus as God, by recognising His death and resurrection as the means for us to receive eternal life, we may know the peace and assurance of God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom.15:13)

Mark

Donations to AV Project Don't forget if you'd like to donate towards the AV project as described by Rachel in last week's newsletter, you can do so by sending a cheque to the Church Office (please just ensure you include a note to say it's for the AV project) or ask our Treasurer, Mike, for the Bacs details. We will shortly be setting up a way to do this through our online giving and will make those details available to you as soon as possible.

St Michael's Merged Worship 20th Sept 2020
at 10.00am Join in person in church or by
clicking on the image below from 9.45am



Meeting ID: 939 7279 7379 Password: 01625

Service Leader: Paul Simms
Preaching: Lynne Spedding
Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

You will have the opportunity to talk to a smaller group in
a break out room at the end of the service.

Can't join us live either in church or on Zoom?

Watch the recording at a time to suit you after Sunday
lunchtime [here](#)

No Computer? No problem!

You can still join any of these Zoom meetings and
services with your landline phone

If phoning:



Dial **0330 088 5830**.

When prompted, enter the **Meeting ID**
from any of these boxes **followed by #**

[For Sunday's service: 939 7279 7379]

When prompted, enter #



Email any [prayer requests](#) here:

Based on this week's lectionary readings:

Resources for adults and families: click [here](#)

Resources for children: click [here](#)

© ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020.
Reproduced with permission.

JOIN US ON *Zoom*

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Wednesday Morning Discussion

11.00am to 12 noon

Join Zoom meeting [here](#)



Meeting ID: 982 3541
9798

Password: 382502

Hosted by Tricia & Martin

Coffee & Chat



Men's Meet-up Meeting:

When? 8pm for 75 minutes on alternate
Wednesday evenings

Dates: 30th Sept & 14th October

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 912 6715 2374

Password: 980944



*Particularly aimed at those of working age
(whether on furlough, unemployed or working flat-
out). Nothing heavy – at least not at this stage –
but just the opportunity to share life and faith with
others in a similar situation.*

Thursday Homegroup

We meet via Zoom at 7.30pm. We have
completed our study of Luke's Gospel and are
holding discussions of our respective faith
journeys. All are welcome to join for Bible Study,
prayer and fellowship, including by phone. Please
contact David Mayers [by email](#) or phone 01625
420716 or 07963 802659

Contemplative Prayer

9.10am to 9.40am Savage Chapel every Friday.

Giving to the work and worship of St Michael's

Click here to donate towards our church's
ministry

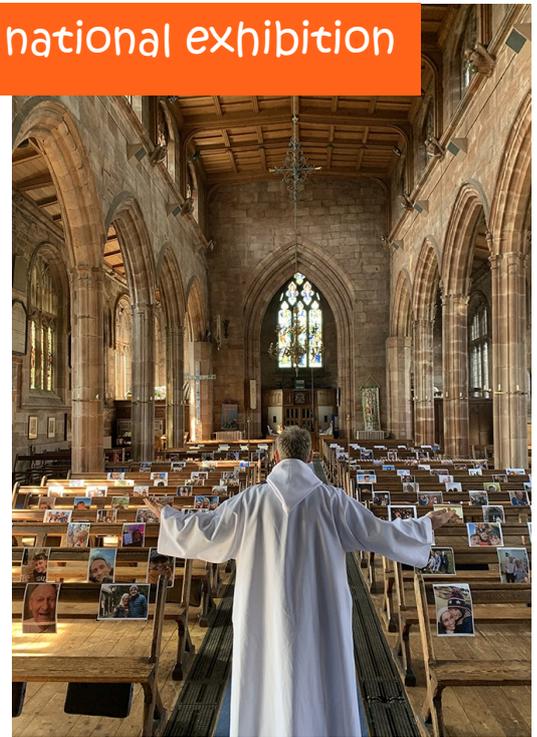


Duchess chooses picture of church for national exhibition

On the morning of 24 March, Beth Hayward, took out her iPhone and snapped her husband right at the start of lockdown. She didn't begin to imagine that the photo would one day form part of an exhibition by the National Portrait Gallery.

Revd Tim Hayward is the vicar at St Boniface Bunbury. "I remember it was just after Boris had announced lockdown. We went to church, put photos of people from the parish on the pews - 350 smiling faces in all. The next day my wife and I went back to the church and she took a photo."

Tim and Beth, had no great aspirations for the picture and simply used it on the church website and Facebook page. Then they heard from Lynn Hedgecoe, a new "virtual" parishioner who had only recently engaged with St Boniface as a result of the online services that were being produced due to the coronavirus restrictions. Lynn had seen the photo on Facebook and said she'd heard that the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton was organising a "Hold Still" lockdown photography project, in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery - to capture "the spirit of the nation" during the coronavirus pandemic.



Our Parish Scout and Guide Groups Fundraising Events



Whisky Tasting @ Home
26th Sept 7.30pm

Enjoy a guided tasting through 8 whiskys from the comfort of your own home. Expert descriptions from Neil Raval delivered over Zoom, chat and share your thoughts with others. A whisky glass is also included.

Open to people in SK10/SK11 postcodes if delivery required, or must be able to collect equipment from Station Street hut on 26th September.

Secure your ticket by bank transfer of £30 (including optional donation of £5).

Once paid, email fundraisers@mpcsg.co.uk to advise if you require delivery or wish to collect on the day.

Zoom details will be shared in advance.

EVENT PAYMENTS

Account Name: MPCSG &GG

(Please note: In 'MPCS &GG' there is a space between 'MPCS' and '&GG')

Account number: 65972636
Sort Code: 08-92-99

Please add a reference e.g. JbloggsWhisky or JbloggsPIE

You're invited...

Pie & Peas @ Home
26th Sept 5.30pm



Now includes FAMILY QUIZ!

£5 per pie, supplied ready to warm through along with a portion of mushy peas. Choice of:

- (a) meat and potato
- (b) spring vegetable (peas, asparagus, beans in garlic and tarragon)
- (c) butternut squash, spinach and wild mushroom

Collect from Station Street hut on 26th September or delivery available in SK10/SK11 postcodes (please add additional £5 delivery charge per address)

Zoom details will be provided so you can connect in and chat while you munch!

Secure your pie by bank transfer of £5 per pie (plus optional donation of £5 for delivery).

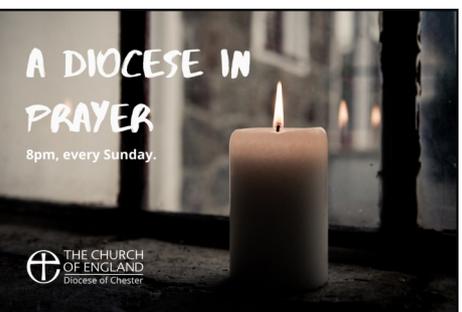
Once paid, email fundraisers@mpcsg.co.uk to advise of your choice of pies and if you require delivery or wish to collect on the day.

PLEASE SUPPORT US!

 Cheshire Streetwise
16 h · 🌐

WE NEED YOU!

Our food bank is still operating, and we are in need of tins and dried foods. Please bring any donations to 72 Mill Street during the times stated in the image below. Thank you!



A DIOCESE IN PRAYER

8pm, every Sunday.

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

Lord, when we are sad and lonely, when everything seems to be going wrong, and it's hard to see a way out, stay beside us. Give us hope and faith to see it through with you.

Amen.

God only gives us what we can endure?

A reflection by our church member, Sarah, and her honest account and experience of recent bereavement and loss in this pandemic. A message of hope...

I've been sitting here thinking, shall I write this or not? Anyway, after a chat with God I decided to do it anyway!

Like many other people around the world I have now gone through a funeral during the Covid pandemic. What a weird time this is? My Aunt died on her son's wedding day, my grandmother tested positive for Covid, moved into a home and we could not see her. I was also ill with a temperature. I sent off for a test which got to Scotland, then my test disappeared with no result. My mother and I could not attend the funeral. I began to think, "how much drama and chaos can a family endure?"

I could hear my nana's voice in my head "God only gives you what you can endure". I felt I was not enduring very well and to be honest I was annoyed and asking God a lot of questions.

I have not been a Christian long and this felt like a real test of my new faith. I had asked the vicars to pray with me for my aunt. I wanted a miracle; I believed she would be healed. I really believed it.

It did not happen, and I was devastated. I felt I must have done something wrong for my prayer not to be answered. I thought of how many others feel like me around the earth at this time. I had a lot of "why?" questions.

I went alone to St Michael's church and asked for help. The lady on the door was so kind to me. I asked her all the "why questions".

On my way there as I waited at the zebra crossing I saw a tiny beautiful flower growing from the concrete by the polluted road. It caught my attention for a moment and felt like a symbolic sign of hope in a dark place. I wanted to keep my hope after all this.

The funeral was in another part of the country and the vicar from St Michael's emailed me a funeral service for those who cannot attend funerals due to Covid. So mum and I

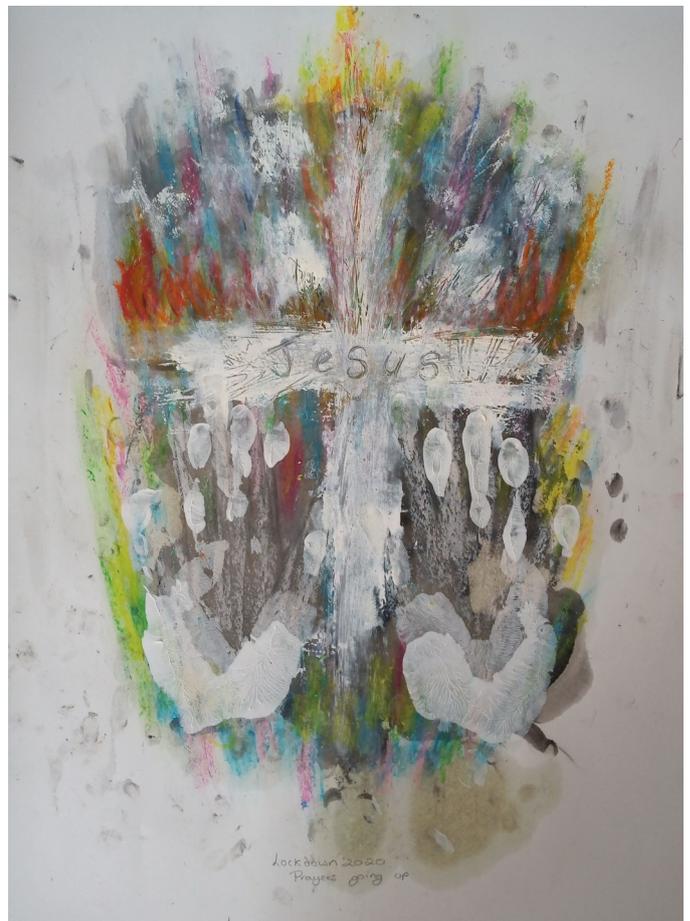
went to the 12th century Savage Chapel alone with my laptop and I did our own service from my laptop. We followed the instructions and lit a candle, it was very weird and surreal. We sat there in silence for a while and that little flower came back to my mind. And I heard in my mind the words, 'little flower grow'. I felt God was helping me to keep my faith and to grow it.

We talked about how many people in history have prayed the same prayers as us and asked that "why?" through plagues, smallpox and various diseases; I realised we are no different to those in the past. I thought about how many people had to battle to keep their faith and are they all waiting in heaven alive in some other way, somewhere in a place we can't see.

I noticed all the red glass in the stained window like beautiful fire, living fire, burning away all our despair. I'm not sure what happens and how this all ends but I do feel that God really does have a good plan for us even when we don't get the answers we want and I am still going to pray for more miracles for others. I'm sure I am not alone in this but I had to fight through feelings of there being no point in praying for miracles. What this has taught me is how my prayers before lockdown really lacked the great passion and belief they have now.

I did a painting (captioned Lockdown 2020: prayers going up; it represented all the prayers of people around the world asking for miracles and going up to heaven to be answered.

Sarah Hewitt



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

OPEN

Monday to
Saturday
11 to 1

for private prayer

Ivor's Funeral

Ivor's funeral takes place on Monday 21st at 2.15pm in St Michael's Church. Numbers inside church are restricted to 30. You may, if you wish, stand in the churchyard to pay your respects to Ivor as he arrives at church and leaves church for the Crematorium.



Alternatively, you may wish to use the Church of England's reflection, which was produced back in March to enable those who can't attend someone's funeral to reflect and join in an act of remembrance with Ivor and his son and nephew from home. We have previously sent this out in hard copy via the newsletter and shared the link, but I share the link again [here](#) or click image below. We will make hard copies available in the Church Welcome Area ahead of Monday if you are able to call in and collect. And don't forget if you have online access you can light a virtual candle online in memory of someone [here](#).

FUNERALS

A simple reflection at home on the day of a funeral you can't attend

It's so difficult when you can't go to a funeral, whether for family, friend or neighbour. Many are facing this in the current crisis, so this short reflection has been specially written by a vicar for you to do at home, alone or with those who share your home. You might ask others to take part of the same time from their home.

When the time of social distancing is over, there may well be an opportunity to meet together at a special time of remembering and thankfulness. Your memories now can be part of that experience when the time comes.

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

<p>Before you find a place to sit quietly, you might like to find a photograph of the person who has died, write down some special memories, or play a special piece of music that connects you with the person you are remembering today. Think about those who are at the funeral and pray for them.</p> <p><i>(Where you say 'N' is a prayer, just say the name of your person)</i></p> <p>You might like to light a candle. Then pray:</p> <p>Be with us, loving God. Hear our prayers and comfort us in our loss, and help us to trust in your Son Jesus, whom you raised from the dead. Strengthen our faith and renew our hope that N and all those we love will share in his resurrection. Amen.</p> <p><small>Read Psalm 23</small></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for the name of the Lord. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; and my cup shall be full. Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. <p><small>Reflect on your memories.</small></p> <p><small>What music was in your memory about N?</small> <small>What will you always remember about them?</small> <small>What things did you learn through their life and death, including about God?</small></p>
---	--

Music @ Mike's Autumn Lunchtime Concerts

Thursday 8th October
1.15pm



Pianist Ivan Hovorun
Making a much anticipated return visit to St Mike's

Thursday 15th October
1.15pm



Pianist Adam Parrish

The family of the late Mrs Joan Wright (Marion Porter's Mum) wish to express their sincere thanks for the love, kindness, sympathy and support extended to them from the St Michael's family in their bereavement.

Floral Tribute In Memorium

Sunday 13th September, Michael Wootton was remembering with great affection his dear parents Connie and Harry and his beloved Muriel. All sadly missed.




East Cheshire Hospice
Where people come to live

WILL WEEK
5 - 9 OCT

Sign up for Will Week, run by East Cheshire Hospice from October 5-9, when solicitors waive fees in return for a donation to the charity. Participating solicitors can write a single or mirror Will, or update an existing Will, in return for a donation to the Hospice. Any other services are chargeable at the solicitor's usual cost. Solicitors will outline their usual fees and encourage supporters to donate a similar amount to the Hospice via a donation envelope for cash or cheques. For more details contact the fundraising team on 01625 433477. Home visits by solicitors during Will Week are still available, even though office appointments are now fully booked up in Macclesfield.

Professional Telephone Listening Service

The Hope Centre
Registered Charity 1140845
0300 3034 566
Open Every day



READY TO LISTEN!







The rich industrialist was horrified to find the fisherman lying beside his boat, smoking a pipe.

'Why aren't you out fishing?' asked the industrialist.

'Because I have caught enough fish for the day.'

'Why don't you catch some more?'

'What would I do with them?'

'You could earn more money. Then you could have a motor fitted to your boat to go into deeper waters and catch more fish. Then you would have enough money to buy nylon nets. These would bring you more fish and more money. Soon you would have enough money to own two boats . . . maybe even a fleet of boats. Then you would be a rich man like me.'

'What would I do then?'

'Then you could sit back and enjoy life.'

'What do you think I'm doing right now?'

From *Timeless Simplicity* by John Lane



SENIOR TRYING TO RESET PASSWORD

WINDOWS: Please enter your new password

USER: cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

USER: boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.

USER: 1 boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: 50damnboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character

USER: 50DAMNboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

USER: 50damnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

USER:

Really! Peed Off50DamnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow

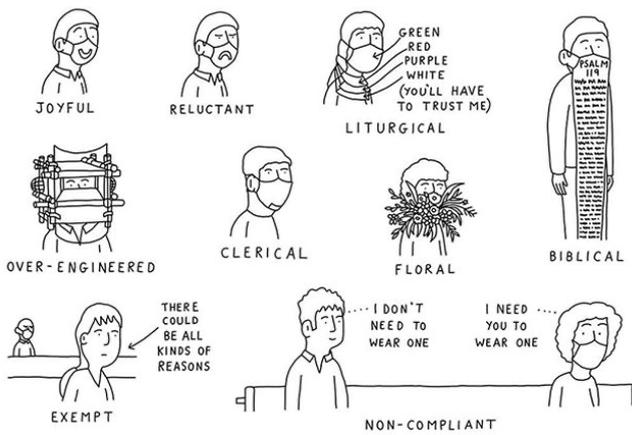
WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use.

REJOICE
IN HOPE,
BE PATIENT
IN TRIBULATION,
BE CONSTANT
IN PRAYER.

ROMANS 12:12



FACE MASKS



Meanwhile at the bank



Charity Football Match

A charity football match in memory of Macclesfield Parish FC Assistant Manager and player, Col Smith, was played at Windmill St on 5th September. Col was a member of Bollington Life Church, but had been a member of our football club here at St Michael's and St Peter's for 13 years. He died of cancer in March, and for the last few months of his life received amazing care and comfort at East Cheshire Hospice; as a result of the match £750 was raised for the hospice.

During his career Col played for and managed both the teams which we organise - Macclesfield Parish and St Peter's – and, appropriately, the inaugural match for the Col Smith Memorial Trophy between the two teams ended in a 3-3 draw. Tom Shirley scored a hat-trick for St Peter's with Drewe Rowley-Weaver, Josh Harrison and Danny Madden replying for Parish.

Col, of Higher Hurdsfield, stayed involved at the South Manchester and Cheshire Christian Football League club despite battling his illness for 10 years. His deep Christian faith helped him to carry on despite many setbacks, and many of his friends and fellow players were unaware of his illness until recently. Macclesfield Parish manager David Mayers said: "Col was a real Christian gentleman and a passionate football man. He inspired so many through his friendship, love for the game and deep Christian faith. We will all miss him and today's game was a fitting tribute". If you are interested in supporting our teams we play our games on Saturday mornings at 10.30am at Windmill St. Our next home games will be: Saturday 26th September, 3rd October, 10th October. You will be very welcome. Contact David Mayers (07963802659) or Jonny Porter for more information.



Two captains and league president Pete Riley



Macclesfield Parish FC squad plus ECH volunteers

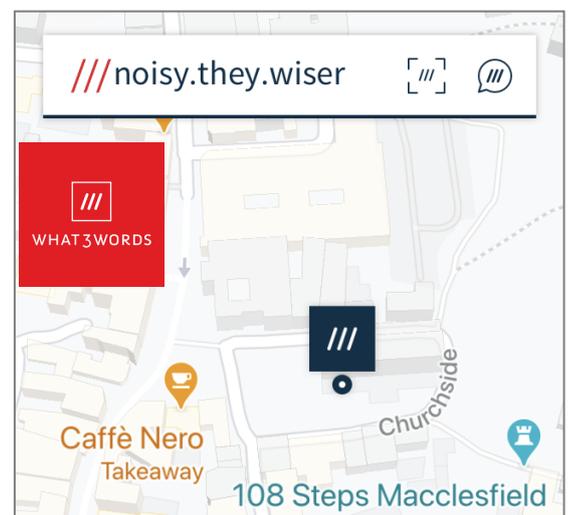
Cricket

After a late start due to Covid-19 restrictions we have had a very enjoyable season – albeit unsuccessful in terms of games won (zero!). Our final game of the summer is being played on Sunday 20th September 1.30pm at Prestbury Cricket Club and brings the excitement of international cricket to Macclesfield:

Macclesfield Parish XI v An Indian XI

This is one game we can't lose as members of our congregation will be appearing for both sides! Prestbury CC is a delightful ground so please come and watch what will be a great occasion.

Have you got this App on your phone?



Why are all the humans wearing muzzles?

Because they didn't learn to sit and stay

Show you know exactly where you are! 999 services across the country have been encouraging the public to give a what3words address in an emergency, so they know exactly where to send help. Show you support 999 and help others to be prepared next time you're out and about by downloading this free app. I used it for the church we got **noisy.they.wiser** Make of that what you will!

A Lesson Learnt?

Although God is in heaven
 there's much wrong with the world,
 but we are being taught to pray.
 Please give us that extra hope and
 strength to find a better way,
 To combat this mysterious plague,
 which refuses annihilation.
 Please give us the patience and also control
 to overcome our deep frustrations.
 And as we look back in years to come,
 to this very trying time,
 Please let us remember it was not God's will
 that created this terrible crime.
 It was Nature, our Mother, that had made up her mind
 to teach all of us a lesson,
 So let us just hope that we are learning it well,
 and admit to our blame in confession.
 We were given a jewel; we were given the world,
 but what have we all done with it?
 We were given a guide so simple to learn,
 that was well within our limits.
 God gave us time, and plenty of it,
 to sort out our work and our play,
 But we disobeyed those important rules,
 and turned ourselves away.
 Now we've had time to gather our thoughts,
 will we go back to doing the same?
 I pray and I pray we'll be given a chance
 to find sunshine again - not rain!

by church member, Dorothy Bentley-Smith



**THEY SAID A MASK
 AND GLOVES WERE
 ENOUGH TO GO TO THE
 GROCERY STORE.**

**THEY LIED,
 EVERYBODY ELSE
 HAD CLOTHES ON.**

Pronunciation Poem

I take it you already know
 of tough and bough and cough and dough?
 Others may stumble, but not you,
 on hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.
 Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,
 to learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word,
 that looks like beard and sounds like bird.
 And dead -- it's said like bed not bead --
 and for goodness' sake don't call it deed!
 Watch out for meat and great and threat
 (They rhyme with suite and straight and debt)

A moth is not the moth in mother,
 nor both in bother, broth in brother.
 And here is not a match for there,
 nor dear and fear for bear and pear.
 And then there's dose and rose and lose --
 just look them up -- and goose and choose,
 and cork and work and card and ward,
 and font and front and word and sword,
 and do and go and thwart and cart --
 come, come I've hardly made a start.
 A dreadful language? Man alive.
 I'd mastered it when I was five.

Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great-grandparents
- 16 second great-grandparents
- 32 third great-grandparents
- 64 fourth great-grandparents
- 128 fifth great-grandparents
- 256 sixth great-grandparents
- 512 seventh great-grandparents
- 1,024 eighth great-grandparents
- 2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations,
 you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400
 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many
 battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness?
 How much happiness? How many love stories?
 How many expressions of hope for the future? – did
 your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this
 present moment...