



*Churchatcastle is an ecumenical group of churches
St Augustine's, St Giles', St Luke's (URC & Anglican), Castle St Methodist,
St John the Evangelist (Romanian Orthodox at St Giles')*

ASCENSION NEWS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

2021

The Monthly Magazine from Church at Castle

www.churchatcastle.org

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Philipa writes encouragingly about Hope in a season of sadness.

It always seems a bit discordant to me that we approach the church's season of Lent during the springtime ... and I always feel a little grumpy about it! As we begin the slow journey towards the cross, embracing themes of sacrifice, self denial, betrayal, disloyalty and death, when all around the world seems bursting into new life, it can be difficult to hold repentance and sorrow in one hand and gratitude and delight in the other.

And yet, over these last months, haven't we become accustomed to it? Even the daily reporting of deaths and vaccines given creates a balancing tally of sadness and hope. In our sorrow, we look forward to a time when things will be better. Or, in the words of Captain Tom, we hold on to the hope that 'Tomorrow will be a good day!'

Holding on to hope is never easy, it is often a costly business, it always risks disappointment, and sometimes derision. Far from

being a fanciful wish that things will get better somehow, one day, hope requires working on, resilience and true grit! It also requires trust and faith.

It is inevitable during these times through which we live that each of us will have moments of despair, for our world, for others and for ourselves, but we must resolutely cling on to hope and also carry it for others. St Francis prayed, *'Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.'*

Even during Lent there are many signs of hope all around us; let's go out of our way to look for them ... and then share them with others!

'All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.'

Robert Bridges.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Hope - Love - Peace

Martin Bond is a well-known local photographer who publishes 'A Cambridge Diary', posting beautiful photographs of Cambridge daily on his Facebook page and website <https://www.acambridgediary.co.uk/february-2021/>. On the 1st of February he posted this view of St Giles' new benches, with the question "*Today, upon which would you rest?*" This elicited a lively conversation of responses, but on balance 'Hope' was the most favoured.



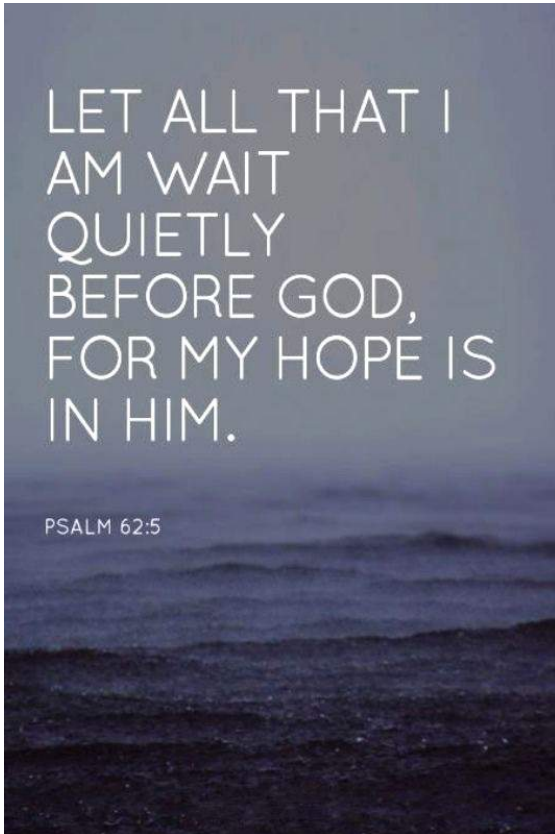
© Martin Bond

Hope and faith

Marie Lucchetta, now studying with The Eastern Region Ministry Course and one of our ordinands, has also come down on the side of 'Hope' in a recent sermon.

In these times of crisis, many of us wonder what it means to hope and to have faith in God.

In his second letter to the Corinthians, St Paul said that faith is about having our eyes fixed not on the things that we can see, but on the things that are unseen; because what we can see with our eyes will come to pass, but what is unseen is eternal. We believe and trust in God not because there is a guaranteed benefit, but because God is, was and always will be.



LET ALL THAT I
AM WAIT
QUIETLY
BEFORE GOD,
FOR MY HOPE IS
IN HIM.

PSALM 62:5

I recently read a book I really love by John Bell, *Living with the Psalms*. In it, he reflects that the world is a place of mystery, each of us is a creature of mystery, the love that binds people to each other even when life goes wrong is a mystery, illness and death are mysteries. But the One who is behind every mystery of life, the One who fully understands us and all of creation is the One we can really trust. He is the source of all hope.

I think we get a wonderful picture of this hope when we read Scripture. In the psalms, we often get a sense of the eternal God, always present, a rock, a fortress, a deliverer, one who directs our eyes towards things unseen, not material things that will disappear, but love and hope: *'You are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence, even from my youth, upon you have I*

leaned from my birth, God, you have taught me since I was young! (Ps 71)

God is the one who inspires psalmists to say:

The Lord is my shepherd; I lack for nothing. (Psalm 23.1)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?

(Psalm 27.1)

They who look to him are radiant with joy. (Psalm 34.5)

I shall walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

(Psalm 116.9)

For God alone I wait silently; my hope comes from him. (Psalm 62.5)

It is God who comes to us, who chooses us, who invites himself into our lives and walks alongside us. He calls all of us according to our various gifts. God knows us, and tells us over again: Do not be afraid; you can do this; you are not just human, you are my children, and I send you into the world to meet others in my name and build my kingdom of peace and hope, because I trust you. And to those who think they have nothing to offer because they are experiencing the ebb tide of life, God says: You are infinitely precious, because your brothers and sisters can serve you, they can be like Christ to you.

God has high hopes for us. Our hope comes from God.

So how do we respond in faith to God, particularly in these difficult times? Our troubles are what they are, difficult and taking a toll, physically, psychologically. And the temptation is great to become obsessed with the misfortune around us. But every crisis is a reminder of our human condition. When everything goes relatively well, we sometimes feel quite invincible, and it is easy to forget that there have always been wars and pandemics in human history. It is easy to forget that we are human, individually, and together, collectively.

But then, if we turn again to Scripture, we discover what we are to God:

This what the psalmist sings in Psalm 8:

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?*

*Yet you have made them a little lower than God [the angels],
and crowned them with glory and honour.*

*You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

So whether we pray and seek refuge in God, or call out to God for help or come to God in trust, we are reminded of the promises of God and we are invited to reaffirm our faith in God, not as a palliative, but as an acknowledgement that the One who is above and beyond all, and who yet cares for each of us will, if asked, carry us through.

Marie Lucchetta

LENT 2021



In view of the uncertainty about the lifting of current lockdown restrictions, all services and events have been planned for being online only.



ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday 17th February

There will be two Zoom services for the whole parish:

10.00 am on St Luke's Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3860946685?pwd=b0tZeGVaM0YxaExSNjgrKytpaGJQUT09>

6.00 pm on St Augustine's Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83083548835?pwd=VUJwZ1gwdTZkb0oxSlppbG1YVld4dz09>

Meeting ID: 830 8354 8835 Passcode: 180828

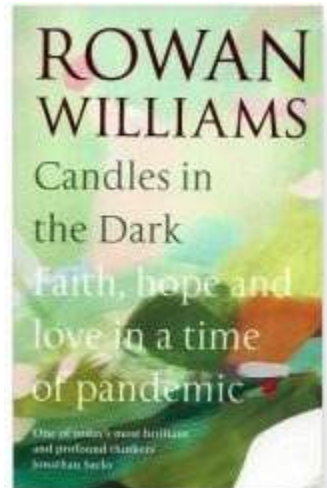
LENT GROUPS

We offer an afternoon and an evening weekly session online

Parish Lent Group on Zoom

Wednesday evenings, 7-8 pm, 24 February to 31 March

A six week series based on Rowan Williams' new book '**Candles in the Dark: Faith, hope and love in a time of pandemic**' (c. £8 a copy, less for Kindle version). If those who want to join the group could buy a copy of the book (paperback or Kindle version) then that would help the discussion. If there are any problems in obtaining a copy, please contact Janet Bunker. The content is very readable and



relevant in the form of 26 meditations. It is suggested that 4-5 of the short chapters are read beforehand.

Schedule of chapters for discussion:

24th Feb 'A change has begun' – All times belong to him'

3rd March 'Fragile trust' – A steady solidarity'

10th March 'At the still centre – online communion'

17th March 'The problem with statues – Power to be free'

24th March 'Behind the mask – To be born again'

31st March 'The rule of the algorithm – Epilogue'

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81619344857?pwd=ZWxydGRGZWNFREdBLzBlby90ZHlY3QT09>

Meeting ID: 816 1934 4857 Passcode: 120838

Readings, Reflections and Prayers for the Lent Season

Thursday afternoons at 3 pm on Zoom, 18 February to 25

March inclusive

Everyone is warmly invited to a weekly online Zoom meeting of readings and quiet reflection for the season of Lent. The readings will be taken from a variety of times, spaces, traditions and styles and there will be an opportunity to respond to them in quiet prayerfulness.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3860946685?pwd=b0tZeGVaM0YxaExSNjgrKytpaGJQUT09>

Meeting ID: 3860946685

Password: Zoompip

NEWS FROM ST AUGUSTINE'S

Foodbank Collections

You can drop off goods in St Augustine's porch which is open 2-5pm Saturday and Sunday, 9-11am on Mondays.

Details on how to donate funds can be found on the Foodbank's



website: <https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/>

The current most needed list:

- Bag for life (or similar strong plastic carrier bags)
- Custard, Jams
- Instant Coffee and tea bags
- Tins of tuna
- Olive oil 500ml
- Long-life juice,
- Large ham (canned)
- Meals in cans (eg. chicken in sauce, chilli)
- Tinned vegetables, Pasta sauces
- Toiletries (shampoo and toothbrushes)
- Sanitary towels
- Hand warmers

They currently have plenty of: Pasta, Baked Beans, Soup, UHT milk, Tomatoes, Pulses, Potatoes.

NEWS FROM ST GILES'



More about those benches

In case you are wondering ... those three benches, placed invitingly along the south wall of St Giles' and overlooking the garden, were made in Milton from reclaimed decking by a social enterprise charity that offers experience of the world of work to young people and adults with a range of learning disabilities and special, additional or complex needs. Phoenix Trust trainees and co-workers have the opportunity to gain a meaningful experience of work and develop their social and life skills. If you are wondering how to get your garden ready for the Spring and Summer, you can find lots of garden products for sale or to order bespoke on their website at:

<https://www.phoenixtrust.org/>, 01223 420669

NEWS FROM ST LUKE'S

St Luke's Old School House refurbishment is likely to be completed by the end of the month. The Rectory dog will miss barking 'Good morning' to her builder friends across the car park! The Montessori Nursery and COPE are continuing their work with young and old respectively from within the church building.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Cambridge Churches Homeless Project

An update from Stephen Barwise, CCHP trustee, on what CCHP has been doing to support homeless people in Cambridge recently:

This month we have been thrilled to commit to giving safety & security to our second Guest at the Guest House until the end of March. We were blessed with the news this week that he has secured employment & will be looking to save for his own flat. This is wonderful news which we hope you will all celebrate with us.

Additionally, we have been working to fund emergency accommodation for those deemed to be at an immediate risk. So far this winter, we have given temporary accommodation to 4 vulnerable women, all of whom were under 25. One of them was only 18 and had recently left social care. In addition, we provided temporary accommodation for 2 vulnerable men.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank our donors and supporters who have made all of this possible.

Stephen Barwise
CCHP trustee

EVENTS, MEETINGS & GROUPS

New Horizons for Piano – Online talk & listening session

Saturday, 6th February, 5.00 pm, online only

Colin Hazel will talk about female composers for the piano, in the next in his series of 'New Horizons for Piano'.

This [Facebook page](#) contains an introduction and gives the Zoom link for the talk. 'In this talk and listening session, C J Hazel presents an overview of historical keyboard music written by female composers from the late 17th to the early 20th century (from Elizabeth Jacquet de La Guerre to Maria Szymanowska, Fanny Hensel and Mel Bonis) with the aim of enriching modern piano concert and educational repertoires'.

A podcast of the talk can be heard at

<https://cjhazel.co.uk/nhfppod.html>

Men's Discussion Group: "Post Pandemic?"

Tuesday 9th February, 8pm, –online only

Robin Turner will talk and lead discussion on "Post pandemic?" – a discussion on the desirable 'new normal' – for the NHS, for life on-line, for the high street, for equality, for anything.

Robin and Richard Catchpole invite you to bring along your ideas. All are welcome to join us by Zoom, just for an hour or so. If you would like to attend please contact Richard: richard@rcatchpole.com or 07736 070907, for further details.

Friends of the Ascension Burial Ground



In the current circumstances the Friends are not able to meet for a monthly working party at the Ascension Burial Ground, although they have set provisional dates for 2021. These are: 20 February, 20 March, 24 April, 22 May, 19 June, 17 July, 25 September, 23 October, 13 November, 11 December. Please check the www.churchatcastle.org website listings from month to month, to know whether these will take place as planned.

If you would like to support the work of the Friends, you can obtain an application form from the Parish Office or online at www.churchatcastle.org/node/12

HOPE OTHERWISE

Hilary and Richard Footitt were invited to select poetry this month on the theme of hope, with a final bonus of love.

History says, *Don't hope*
On this side of the grave...
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed-for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up,
And hope and history rhyme.
So hope for a great sea-change
On the far side of revenge.
Believe that a further shore
Is reachable from here.
Believe in miracles
And cures and healing wells.

Call miracle self-healing:
The utter, self-revealing
Double-take of feeling.
If there's fire on the mountain
Or lightning and storm
And a god speaks from the sky

That means someone is hearing
The outcry and the birth-cry
Of new life at its term.

extract from Seamus Heaney's 'The cure at Troy'

Thy mercy covers earth and sky,
Thy love is everywhere,
Lord thou are rich, and so shall I
If thou my wish wilt hear.

Lord let thy love and mercy grant
Not what the rich pursue,
But just an honest start of want,
And I am wealthy too.

Nor let me heart ungodly be
To slight the little sent,
But feeling blessings come from thee
Be happily content.
And if too covetous I grow
Excuse a greedy prayer,
I crave what wealth can ne'er bestow,
And thou alone canst spare.

I crave the guidance of thy will,
The bliss of human kind,
A harmless heart afraid of ill,
And a contented mind.

John Clare

Atlas

There is a kind of love called maintenance
Which stores the WD40 and knows when to use it;
Which checks the insurance, and doesn't forget
The milkman; which remembers to plant bulbs;
Which answers letters; which knows the way
The money goes; which deals with dentists

And Road Fund Tax and meeting trains,
And postcards to the lonely; which upholds

The permanently rickety elaborate
Structures of living, which is Atlas.

And maintenance is the sensible side of love,
Which knows what time and weather are doing
To my brickwork; insulates my faulty wiring;
Laughs at my dryrotten jokes; remembers
My need for gloss and grouting; which keeps
My suspect edifice upright in air,
As Atlas did the sky.

UA Fanthorpe, from *Safe as Houses* (Peterloo Poets, 1995)



BANKSY 2002 South Bank Mural 'There is always hope'.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER RESOURCES ONLINE

Downloadable service and worship resources are kept up-to-date on the website

<http://www.churchatcastle.org/node/2965>

Bishop of Huntingdon, Dagmar Winter, records her reflections for each Sunday on the Diocese of Ely's Youtube channel :

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTZQ-XuAgoWhTTeeBbK2I0w?view_as=subscriber

Daily Devotions: The United Reformed Church has daily Bible readings, reflections and Prayers for the season at

<https://urc.org.uk/>

Sing a Hymn: The Royal School of Church Music has uploading a whole playlist of hymns on their YouTube channel, for you to sing along with. It does not cover the whole year but there are plenty of cracking hymns to enjoy.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn-vhbQASCJhW_Gz8Fww32Nmy_XuCQmNI

OUR SERVICES ONLINE ON ZOOM

You are welcome to join all and any of these services. Resources are on our website – <http://www.churchatcastle.org/node/2965>

SUNDAYS

- St Giles' Morning service, 9 am

Send an email to ank1@btinternet.com to receive an invitation.

- St Augustine's Morning Service, 9.30 am

Send an email to janet_ascension@yahoo.co.uk to receive an invitation and the order of service.

- St Luke's Morning Service, 10.30 am

Send an email to pipking@btinternet.com to receive an invitation

MONDAYS – Compline, 6 pm

A service of Night Prayer. Common Worship. Send an email to pipking@btinternet.com to receive an invitation.

WEDNESDAYS – Morning Prayer, Book of Common Prayer. 10 am

Send an email to pipking@btinternet.com to receive an invitation.

FOR CHILDREN

Faith at Home is a national campaign by the Church of England, to support the faith development and pastoral care of children and young people.



Why the home? Home is both a place and feeling. It is where we eat, where we sleep, where we find ourselves at the start and end of our day. Home is where we can feel the strongest sense of belonging, where we can feel connected to ‘our people’, where we can feel part of ‘our tribe’. It can also be a place of doubt, questions, loneliness and fear. While talking about being the vine, Jesus invites us to be at home in him, as he is at home in us (John 15:1-4). We are invited to imagine that we are sharing our everyday lives with each other and with God, intertwined by love as a community of growing faith.

There is a series of weekly YouTube videos for children of all ages and for parents and families :

https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos?field_faith_at_home_resources_target_id=2063&sort_bef_combine=created+DESC

IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE INTERNET

FREE HYMNS & PRAYERS ON YOUR TELEPHONE



This is an excellent national initiative for those who are especially isolated:

A free national phoneline **Daily HOPE** will be available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury

before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer during the Day and Night Prayer updated daily from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. An option called **Hymn Line** also offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily.

WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR EVERYONE

We have been sending out liturgical resources each Sunday for people to use at home. If you would like a printed copy of any prayers, hymns or services please ring Philipa (07967 196560)

As a ministry team we are undertaking to telephone those who would like to say the service with someone else and share the liturgy with them. If you would like one of us to share the service with you or know of someone else who doesn't have technology who might appreciate it, then please let Philipa know - ring 07967 196560. Equally, please contact her if you feel able to take the lead role in sharing.

NOTICES



- **Boost parish funds when you shop online**

The Parish of the Ascension has been a registered charity for one year, and has joined the Give as You Live scheme. This means that anyone can now donate to the Ascension Parish funds, at no extra cost to themselves, whenever they are

shopping online. Don't forget to click on the Give as You Live icon on your browser when starting to shop and select the Parish of the Ascension. Our registered charity name is long – *The PCC Of The Ecclesiastical Benefice Of The Ascension, Cambridge (St. Giles with St. Peter, St. Luke And St. Augustine)* – so here is a shortcut to sign up:

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/ascensionparishcambridge>

- It would be good to hear news about people, and of what you are doing for and in your communities practically and creatively. We will try to reflect this in the next magazine.

Send your news via email to: office@churchatcastle.org or post to Janet Bunker, 95 Richmond Road, Cambridge, CB4 3PS

- If you would like to have the Ascension News delivered to someone electronically or as a print copy, please send the details to office@churchatcastle.org or phone 01223 223774

**WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE
MINISTRY TEAM AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS 2020 – 2021
(post APCM 2020)**

Contact details are on our website or may be supplied via the Parish Office.

Ministry Team ex-officio on PCC

Team Rector Philipa King

Team Vicar Janet Bunker

URC Minister Charles Mather

Assistant Priest Ank Rigelsford

Assistant Priest Tom Ambrose

Retired Priest Owen Spencer Thomas

Licensed Lay Ministers Margaret Cooper, Marie Lucchetta-Redmond, Sylvia Pick (Emeritus)

Authorised Lay Minister for children Gill Ambrose

Authorised Lay Pastoral Minister Sue Mudie

Churchwardens ex-officio on PCC (elected annually)

St Augustine's Mark Wills
St Giles' Richard Catchpole
ST Luke's Paul Gibbs

Deanery Synod representatives 2017-2020 ex officio on PCC

St Augustine's vacant
St Giles' vacant
St Luke's Jane Holmes

Parochial Church Council - all members of the PCC are ex-officio members of the appropriate DCC

St Augustine's 2018 - 2021 Patricia McGuire *
2019 - 2022 vacancy
2020 - 2023 Antony Rix
St Giles' 2020 - 2023 vacancy
St Luke's 2018 - 2021 Judith Crowe
2019 - 2022 Frances Klein
2020 - 2023 Gill Ambrose *

District Church Councils

St Augustine's 2018 - 2021 vacancy
2019 - 2022 vacancy
2020 - 2023 vacancy
2020 - 2023 Philip Mead
St Giles' 2018 - 2021 Stella Cross *
2019 - 2022 Helen Kinsey
2020 - 2023 Valerie Anderson
2020 - 2023 Arthur Hibble

* not eligible for re-election when current term ends in the year indicated

**St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council as at Annual
Congregational Meeting on 15th March, 2020:**

Gill Ambrose, May Block, Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Paul Custerson, Isobel Fox, Paul Gibbs, Jane Holmes, Joan Jeans, Heather Richardson, Ken Smith, Marie Thompson, and Frances Klein

**St Luke's Joint Council as at Annual Congregational Meeting
on 15th March, 2020:**

May Block, Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Paul Custerson, Paul Gibbs, Alistair McHarg, Frances Klein, Ken Smith.

ONLINE

ChurchatCastle: www.churchatcastle.org,
Twitter [@churchatcastle](https://twitter.com/churchatcastle)

St. Augustine's: <https://stas.org.uk>,
Twitter [@stascambridge](https://twitter.com/stascambridge)

St. Giles': <https://www.facebook.com/saintgileschurch>

The Friends of St. Giles' Church: <https://www.fosgc.org>

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Ascension Parish Office Parish Administrator: Sheila Rozeik
Email: office@churchatcastle.org, officeatcastle@btinternet.com
Post: St. Giles' Church, Castle Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ
Telephone: 01223 315000, 01223 223774

Please note: Sheila is running the Parish Office from home, but her core working hours are **Mondays to Fridays between 9am and 1pm.**

Please bear this in mind and avoid contacting her unnecessarily outside these times.

St. Luke's Church Centre Centre Supervisor – Heather Taplin,
01223 311136. Email: stlukes_office@yahoo.co.uk

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