

As we are unable to deliver Revelations at this very difficult time, we are very grateful to Kerry Burn for kindly including our monthly publication on the village website. Items for the June edition to Carole by 20<sup>th</sup> May please. (01449)736631 or e-mail: carolegooderham@uwclub.net

# RATTLESDEN'S REVELATIONS

## Church & Village News



**MAY 2020**

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.**

*(Joshua, chapter 1, verse 9)*

## **Rector of Rattlesden, Hitcham, Brettenham and Thorpe Morieux**

The Reverend Christopher Robinson

**Churchwardens:-**

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### **Alpha Course**

Have you ever wondered why people believe in God? Have you been feeling recently that there might be more to life than this? We are hosting a special lockdown Alpha Course over Zoom (an easy to use videoconferencing app) at a time which can suit everyone, starting in mid-May. It's a simple course looking at the Christian faith, open to anyone, no previous experience of church or faith required. Please send Tiffer a message if you'd like to be involved: [tifferrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:tifferrobinson@gmail.com) or **01449737197**.

Please bring own refreshments!

### **Newsletter piece**

Last month I said I wouldn't attempt to predict the future, but perhaps I should have, as my letter was (predictably) out of date before it went to print. Full lockdown is upon us, and as a result all places of worship have been ordered closed, weddings and baptisms postponed and immediate family only at funerals, which can be by the graveside or at a crematorium. The police have told us that even cutting the church grass is no longer allowed! It's a strange time for all of us, and I confess I am not finding being a virtual vicar as much fun as I thought I might (I already spent too much time on my phone, now that's my job!).

As well as being a challenging time, I think it's also been a surprising time. One of the things I have been surprised by is how resilient and resourceful people in our villages have been. I have had significantly more people asking if I know if there is anyone who needs help than I have had requests for support, and from talking to some of our churches' "indoor members" it seems neighbours have been looking out for them where family aren't able to. Both shops in Rattlesden and Hitcham have also been superb, and I'm really pleased that the churches have been supporting them with volunteers from all four villages.

In the panic of the first week, when I was emailing and ringing round all of our non-email members letting them know that services had been suspended, I allowed my mind to wonder about whether people would miss church. This says far more about my lack of faith in my own abilities than in my congregations, as we've had increasing numbers of people connecting in to our online services using Zoom (other videoconferencing programmes are available...), about the same number as we normally get on a Sunday, including some friends who have moved abroad and relatives and friends of

our congregation. We range from very small children at our family service to at least one Nonagenarian who phones in!

One person commented that I'd only just had a sabbatical, and now I was getting another one! I was glad he was at the end of a phonenumber so could only hear my scowl! And yet I've been busier than I have ever been, but almost all at home, which means I end most days not feeling like I have achieved very much at all. But the kind words, gratitude, and support of people has been amazing, and I really appreciate it. Thank you all.

I wonder how you have been coping with the lockdown? For some, it's been a welcome chance to stop the busyness of normal life, and focus on what really matters. For some it's been a living nightmare, with no work, mounting debt and a daily struggle to find enough to eat. For most of us, I suspect it's in between, and the lack of ability to see friends and family or to do the things we usually do is a real deprivation or challenge to our mental health. It helps to remember that we are doing this for a purpose, a joint effort that can bring people together even as it keeps us apart.

What comfort can Jesus offer us at this time? Well we know that He too suffered isolation and loneliness, chiefly as He was put to death, abandoned by His followers. We know He rose again at Easter, and promised to be with His followers for all time. We know that He promises us Hope, that can help us get through even the most challenging of times.

For something to read online about faith and the coronavirus, please have a look here: [www.lookforhope.org](http://www.lookforhope.org)

## **Zoom Online Services**

During the lockdown we are continuing to meet, but online! We are using Zoom for our services, which are on Sundays at 10am for Online Zoom Worship. These are also livestreamed on our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/rattlesdenbenefice](https://www.facebook.com/rattlesdenbenefice)

For those who would rather listen later, you can phone **01992351223** to listen to the audio of the previous service: please do let people who aren't on email know about this if you think they would appreciate it.

## **Zoom Instructions**

If it is the first time you are connecting, you need to click the link once to download the app/program, and then go back to this email and click it again when you want to connect. Please save the link or this email somewhere so you always have the link: it will always be the same for these services (Family Services have a different link). The Zoom "room" will always be open half an hour before the start of a service for you to join, and I will be available to phone if you would like assistance with getting in

<https://zoom.us/j/2648897338>      **The password is "0000"**

It may ask you to join "internet audio". Please click this. If you cannot hear anything you may have to click a button that says "Join Audio"

If you are using a landline please phone **0208 080 6591** in the half hour before a service begins. When it asks you for your meeting ID, please type in **264 889 7338** and then the hash key. It will then ask you another question about caller ID, just press hash again. It may then ask you for the password. Type **0000** and press hash. You will then be able to hear the service.

If this number doesn't work then here are some others: **0203 481 5237 0131 460 1196, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240,, 0208 080 6592**

### **Zoom Family Service**

We also have a 10.30am Family Zoom Service. This is more interactive and lasts about 45 minutes, led by Tiffer and Amy and Archdeacon Sally Gaze and the Lightwave team, with songs and crafts and stories.

For safeguarding reasons the joining details aren't public: please get in touch with Amy for details about how to connect with us for this.

**aemrobinson@gmail.com**

### **Zoom Coffee Morning**

Every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. – 12 noon we are having a Zoom Coffee Morning: login details are exactly the same as for our Zoom services. Bring your own tea and coffee!

### **A NOTE FROM STEVE THE READER**

One of the (few) good things to come out of this lockdown is that my daily walk through the fields (with dog) has become more contemplative. Hassell knows the way, only looking back occasionally for directions, leaving me free to look about: up, down and around, while being pulled along.

Down by the little wood, the pond is graced by a couple of swans; afraid of nothing, they even see off the visiting geese. On the water, ducks bustle about and a few days ago were blessed with 17 tiny feathery atoms ignoring parental entreaties to come away from danger. The heron and the barn owl are occasionally seen; hares box in the field and there are deer sometimes, in the distance. Skylarks trill high above but are hard to spot against the sky.

Yesterday only 3 of the 17 little atoms were there; today none. Fox, maybe; perhaps crows or maybe those two huge gulls that have been lurking about looking guilty. That's nature. Life turned upside down for the parents, but life goes on; they will try again. It struck me that here is a parallel with our lives. Things were going along as usual, normal ups and downs but with a familiar rhythm. Then Covid 19 turned *our* world upside down.

Where is God in all this? Well, God is suffering alongside us. He is in the next bed in the ICU, fighting for breath. Some say God caused Covid 19 to punish us for our sins, but I don't hold with that. We have free will, to make or

to mar this beautiful world. Covid 19 is our mess. We (mankind) caused it. As stewards, we have a duty to look after our earth better. We have the means, we have the resources. But we lack the foresight and the will.

One of the true rays of hope in this darkness has been the kindness, the generosity, courage and goodwill that seem to have been unlocked. This is love in action; love can overcome evil. And God is love.

So when we come out of this (those of us who do!) let's keep that love going. Change will be needed. With love for one another and this beautiful world, let's embrace that change with courage. In the old, hackneyed words:- *May God grant us the courage to change what needs changing, the serenity to accept what can't be changed and the wisdom to know the difference.*



RATTLEDEN  
COMMUNITY SHOP

### **RATTLEDEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY SHOP**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for helping us to keep the shop open and to thank our customers for their patience at this difficult time. We are now open 6 days a week from 9am to 1pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 11am on Sundays. We are managing to obtain supplies of all the basics and are delighted to have daily deliveries of fresh fruit and vegetables. Daily newspapers are available and you can

order regular copies of all newspapers and magazines.

Our cooked and frozen meat from Thurston Butchers are regularly topped up and look out for new selections in the freezer including chicken fillets and lamb chops.

We are also able to offer deliveries of up to 8 items for customers who are required to isolate themselves; please call Camilla Keeling on **01449 737118** if you need a delivery,

During the coming month we will be taking delivery of lots of lovely plants, thanks to Arthur and Mo Harden, and these will help to brighten up our pots and gardens.

Wishing you all the best and we all hope for brighter days ahead.

### **RATTLEDEN PRESCHOOL**

Whilst the Preschool is closed until restrictions are lifted, we are still taking enquiries and booking places for this Summer Term and the next academic year. Please do visit our website to get in touch:

**[www.rattlesdenpreschool.co.uk](http://www.rattlesdenpreschool.co.uk)**

## FROM THE POST OFFICE

We are all still in need of cheering up so please pop in with any poems or pictures for our screen....and thank you so much for those who did during April...much appreciated.

Our opening hours remain the same at present...9am till 1pm Monday to Friday...9am till 12.30pm on Saturday. Ring us on 736197 if you have any queries.

New stamps out on 28th May...to celebrate 60 years since Coronation Street was first broadcast...remember Ena and Elsie??!! There will be a special Presentation Pack in the form of the Weatherfield Gazette!

All banking available as usual.....so you do not need to venture out of the village.....

## RATTLEDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **Lucky Numbers. Congratulations to our April winners.**

First, number 292, Bryn Hart (£30). Second, number 55, Joe Kirton (£20). Third, number 280, Tricia Morley (£10).

We were to welcome Eastern Angles to the Pavilion in May but due to the current pandemic this event will not go ahead. There is some uncertainty about when performances will resume but we'll keep in touch with the theatre group and advise further, when we can

## RATTLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL

<http://rattlesden.suffolk.cloud/>

### **Parish Council, Meetings and COVID-19**

Further to the March meeting of the Parish Council being cancelled, the April meeting followed suit. Necessarily the Annual Parish Meeting was also called off although this will need to be rescheduled as it is a legal requirement that such a meeting is held. Obviously, given the pandemic lockdown, this will not be any time soon.

Continuing the theme, the May meeting of the Parish Council has been postponed. This would have been its Annual Meeting (in effect, its AGM). This, too, must be held each year as it is the meeting when officers are elected (or re-elected) and other annual requirements (usually audit and governance-based) are carried out. For simplicity, it has been rescheduled for Tuesday 30 June (which would otherwise have been an ordinary meeting of the Council). Time will tell whether or not it can go ahead on that date.

Despite the lack of public meetings, the Council still functions (even if on a limited basis) and councillors are still busy. Financial activities, for example, have not stopped and neither has planning matters. Technology has proved its worth as issues get addressed by e-mail. What would we have done without it?

## Roads and Footpaths

While the current situation persists, Suffolk Highways has asked, very reasonably, that only genuinely urgent or dangerous problems be reported. So even if you spot, say, a pothole or footpath issue, then it will need to be put 'on hold' until better times return.

A promotional banner for the 'Home, But Not Alone' service. The banner has an orange background with a white border. At the top, it says 'HOME, BUT NOT ALONE' in large blue letters, with the subtitle 'Connecting volunteers and vulnerable people in Suffolk' below it. In the center, there is a white smartphone icon with the 'tribe' logo on it. To the left of the icon, it says 'DOWNLOAD Tribe - Volunteer APP TO VOLUNTEER'. At the bottom, there is a green bar with white text that says 'Need a volunteer's help? Call: 0800 876 6926'. In the bottom right corner, there is a hashtag '#COVID19SUFFOLK'.

**Do You Need Help? Try "Home, but Not Alone"**

**(<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/home-but-not-alone>)**

You never know when you might need help, but those who are alone and/or vulnerable, more than most. You may have come across the "Home, but Not Alone" service already but, if not, please take note. It's a Suffolk-focused service to support people who need help during the pandemic. It connects community volunteers with those who are most in need. So if *you* need any help - with, for example, groceries, medication or general household goods - then don't hesitate to telephone **0800 876 6926 (freephone - 9.00am - 5.00pm seven days a week)**.

You could also download the free app, called Tribe Volunteer, from **Apple App Store** or **Google Play Store**.

## **Contact the Parish Council?**

Councillors are always happy to deal with any Council queries or concerns - their contact details are on the website (above). Alternatively, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk: Doug Reed - **01359 241009; 07843**



**SMILE:-** While helping deliver meals to the elderly with her mother, a little girl was intrigued by all the paraphernalia, such as walking frames, sticks, etc., but when she saw a set of false teeth soaking in a glass, she whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

On seeing his father donning a dinner jacket for a party, his little son exclaimed, "You can't wear that, Daddy because you know it always gives you a headache in the morning!"

***As we meet with adversity, we praise God that He gives us strength and peace of mind to move forward with courage. We give thanks that no situation is too difficult for Him to see us through.***

## RATTLESDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

In the current emergency caused by the COVID 19 virus, Rattlesden Baptist Church is following the Government recommended guidelines for public gatherings, which include church services. All church services and weekday or evening meetings and clubs are postponed until further notice. If anyone needs to contact us during this period, please follow the links on our website [www.rattlesdenbaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.rattlesdenbaptistchurch.co.uk) or contact us via our Facebook page.

We continue to pray for God's guidance and blessing in these difficult times. If you would like us to pray for you in your individual circumstance, please contact us and we will include you in our prayer list. Stay safe and stay well until we can all gather together once more.

## RATTITUDE 2020

As it stands, plans are still afoot for Rattitude 2020 on **29 August** this year. This will only be cancelled if government restrictions do not permit it for our own public safety. Fingers crossed it will be a light at the end of the tunnel.

Tickets are still for sale online and at the Post Office, with early bird prices ending on **31 May**. If Rattitude does get cancelled, ticket holders will get a refund of their ticket price, so you can book with confidence.

Any questions please email [rattitudefestival@hotmail.com](mailto:rattitudefestival@hotmail.com)



## COLOURS OF HOPE

God sends a rainbow after the rain  
Colours of hope, gleaming through pain;  
Bright arcs of red and indigo light,  
Making creation hopeful and bright.

*Colours of hope, dance in the sun, while it yet rains, the hope has begun;  
Colours of hope shine through the rain, colours of love, nothing is vain.*

When we are lonely, when we're afraid, though it seems dark, rainbows are made;  
Even when life itself nears its end, God is our rainbow, God is our Friend.

Where people suffer pain or despair, God can be seen in those who show care  
Even where war and hatred abound, rainbows of hope are still to be found.

People themselves like rainbows are made, colours of hope in us displayed;  
Old ones and young ones, women and men, all can be part of love's great

**'AMEN' !**