The flag of hope flies proud over St Faith’s!

The cross of St George symbolises the sacrifice and courage of that mythical martyr, as well as pointing to the documented sacrifice and courage of our Risen Lord. As we bear our sacrifice together, with courage, may the God of sacrifice inspire and strengthen us!
St Faith’s - still at the heart of the Community

Who recognises from where this picture was taken?

St Faith's has often been at the forefront of its community, in times of crisis (such as when the Church Hall - now the Pallant Centre - was converted into a first aid station during the Second World War.)

With our buildings shut in this particular crisis, our contribution to the community is rather less visible. But...

- our members include a number of doctors, nurses and carers who are tirelessly bringing hope to thousands
- our clergy, lay pastor and pastoral team are actively making connections and combating isolation, through phone calls and social media
- our volunteers are continuing the essential maintenance of our community buildings, so they are ready for normality
- our members and friends are contributing what they can to Foodbanks and other charities
- opportunities for worship and connection are being actively offered by our clergy, via online services, and the publication of the Corona Chronicle
- 32 of our members and friends are writing penpal letters to children from a local school

Our buildings may be shut, but the church's essential work of worshipping God and loving our neighbours continues, day in and day out!

Canon Tom.
Pandemic Pen Pals Project

A huge THANK YOU! goes out to the 32 people who responded to our appeal to become ‘Pandemic Pen Pals’ with children from Bosmere School, last week. Between you, 56 children have been sent letters from you - and they will be responding soon to you all.

Thank you SO much for being prepared to be important in the life of one of our community’s children!

Have you ever noticed this window at St Faith’s? I suspect many have not, since it is situated on the right-hand side of the choir stalls - and most people are negotiating their way to the communion rail when walking past! It depicts the three great virtues, espoused by St Paul, of Faith, Hope and Charity (that is, ‘sacrificial love). The three virtues are depicted as three women: ‘Faith’ (on the left) clutches and leans upon a cross. ‘Hope’ (on the right) gazes towards heaven. ‘Charity’ holds a child in her arms, with another at her side.

May we all cling to Faith, keep alive the lights of Hope, and continue in Charity towards our neighbours and our community.

Canon Tom
Continuing our review of 2019....

ST FAITH’S HAVANT – PHOTOGRAPHIC REVIEW 2019

Over 900 for Xmas!

The Mayor and Consort of Havant
Councillor Diana Patrick and Mr James Spencer
Invite you to join them for the
Annual Civic Service
on Sunday 19th May 2019 at 11.30 am
at St Faiths Church,
West Street, Havant
(Refreshments will be available following the service)

A visit from
Fr Dennis
Odigwu:
Chaplain to
the Bishop in
Europe

The Bells
are being rung today
in commemoration of the
sailors of HMS HAVANT
lost at DUNKIRK
on 1st June 1940
We give thanks for lives
given in sacrifice.
They died so that we live

Our magnificent bell
ringers at work

The first
Episcopal
Mass of the
new Bishop
of Stepney
(our former
Archdeacon,
Joanne
Grenfell)

New altar frontal by
Caroline Davis
The Pallant Centre – Home of ‘Little Seeds’

And ‘TAT’ – Thursdays at Two
ST FAITH’S HAVANT – PHOTOGRAPHIC REVIEW 2019

The Pallant Centre – at the heart of the Community

Safe Haven

Open to all young people 11 – 17 years old living within Havant Borough

- Everyone is welcome
- It’s a safe, supportive and confidential space
- Immediate access to 11 emotional support for anyone struggling with their mental health or wellbeing
- Art & Craft, Games, Cooking and Mindfulness Activities
- Tuesdays and Thursdays 5pm – 8:15pm
- Saturdays 18:15pm – 1:45pm
- 11 – 13 year olds are encouraged to come to the earlier half of evening sessions (5-7pm)

Patient House Play Cafe (Walk down the road next to Waitrose), The Pallant, Havant, PO9 1BE

NHS

St Faiths

FOREVER QUEEN

Tickets are available ONLY at £30.00
via www.stephentertainment.com
or in advance The Pallant Centre, The Pallant, Havant PO9 1BE
Licenced bar. Doors open 17:30 12th April 2019
St Faith’s Shop – Recycling & Upcycling

St Faith’s Charity shop are holding a VINTAGE AND UPCYCLE SALE
Clothing, Bags, Accessories
Bric-Brac,
Saturday 7 September
10am-12noon
St Faith’s Church,
West Street, Havant
PO9 1PR
Refreshments will be available from the coffee morning

St Faith’s Charity Shop
SPRING FASHION SHOW
The Pallant Centre PO9 1BE
1 June 2019
7pm-9pm
Tickets £6 (which will include a glass of Prosecco)
Tickets available from St Faith’s Charity Shop
Clothes from the shop will be on show and available to purchase on the night.

St Faith’s Charity Shop
Craft Workshops

Workshop No 1
Tuesday 6 August
No sew T-shirt bag, pillow and bracelet

Workshop No 2
Tuesday 13 August
Hand sewn shirt cushion

Workshop No 3
Tuesday 20 August
Decoupage heart, driftwood mobile

10.30am-11.30am
Booking essential (first come first served)
All materials will be provided and there will a small charge of £3.50 to cover cost of materials. Please book in the shop

More pictures next week!
Hymns to sing in a Crisis...

St Faith’s good friend (and lunchtime concert performer) Deb Henning-Vears is musical director of All Saint’s Catherington and a Church of England Reader. She recently challenged friends on Facebook to come up with alternative hymns titles for singing in a crisis. Here’s a selection of responses she got (with the originals alongside in case you struggle!)

Skype Jesus Skype... (Shine, Jesus Shine)
There is a toilet roll far away... (There is a green hill far away)
Toilet roll, worship the toilet roll (Majesty, worship his majesty)
All Skype the power of Jesu’s name (All hail the power of Jesu’s name)
When I survey the empty shelves (When I survey the wondrous cross)
WhatsApp friend we have in Jesus (What a friend we have in Jesus)
Will the virus hold in the storms of life (Will your anchor hold....)
Jesus wants me for a hermit (Jesus wants me for a sunbeam)
Lord of the online dance class (Lord of the dance)
Oh Lord, the panic buyers are gathering (O Lord, the clouds are gathering)
Where you there when they quarantined my Lord? (Where you there...)
I the Lord of sea and Skype (I the Lord of sea and sky)
Zoom for Jesus, Zoom for Jesus (All for Jesus, All for Jesus)

Questions to ponder...

“What if my dog only brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?”

“Do twins ever realise that one of them was unplanned?”

“Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty”

“The word ‘swims’ upside-down is still ‘swims’” (Go on, try it!)
Forthcoming Main SERVICES

All public services are suspended until further notice. However, livestreams of our two main weekly services will be available on our Facebook site:

www.facebook.com/stfaithschurchhavant/

As soon as practicable after the end of each service, the stream will be available to view on YouTube, via the parish website at this link:

www.stfaith.com/livestreamed-services/

(You do not have to be a Facebook user to view the recorded services.) Each service will follow the Lectionary pattern of readings, and will include prayers and a sermon for the day. The Eucharist will be celebrated (in obedience to Christ’s command) on behalf of the whole community. Hard copies of the service sheet can be requested from Tom or Sandra (who will post them to you, gladly). Those observing the service via the livestream (or subsequently) are invited to pray a special Prayer of Reception, during the distribution of the bread and wine.

Livestreamed Services

Thursday at 10.30am (Traditional spoken BCP Communion)

Sunday 9.30 Sung Communion Service (with hymns and a sung Mass). Canon Tom will email the words of hymns to be sung prior to the service.

(If you want to receive Tom’s occasional emails of news and information, just let him know you’d like to be added to his list, by emailing rector@stfaith.com)
How the Virus Stole Easter
– by Kristi Bothur (with a nod to Dr. Seuss)

Twas late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear
to all people, each land.
People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on,
touching peasant and king.
People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed.
“There won’t be an Easter,”
the world supposed.
“There won’t be church services,
and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses
when we can’t go about.”

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused
on masks and on tests.
“Easter can’t happen this year,”
it proclaimed.
“Online and at home,
it just won’t be the same.”

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.
The world woke Sunday
and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

“Pooh pooh to the saints,”
the world was grumbling.
“They’re finding out now
that no Easter is coming.
“They’re just waking up!
We know just what they’ll do!
Their mouths will hang open
a minute or two,
And then all the saints
will all cry boo-hoo.

“That noise,” said the world,
“will be something to hear.”
So it paused and the world
put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound
coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.
But the sound wasn’t depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn’t be so!
But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around,
popping its eyes.
Then it shook!
What it saw was a shocking surprise!
Every saint in every nation,
the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn’t stopped Easter from coming!
It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!
And the world with its life
quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
“Just how can it be?”
“It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies, it came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money.”

Then the world thought of something it hadn’t before. “Maybe Easter,” it thought, “doesn’t come from a store. Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more.”

And what happened then? Well....the story’s not done. What will YOU do? Will you share with that one Or two or more people needing hope in this night? Will you share the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb, And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer, As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God’s people. May the world see the church is not a building or steeple. May the world find Faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection, May the world find Joy in a time of dejection. May 2020 be known as the year of survival, But not only that - Let it start a revival!
BEATITUDES
FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS
FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED
FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS
FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS
FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS
FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRustrATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS
FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS
FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS
FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.
FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.
FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.
FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS
FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY

MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN
Easter 2020 - A new poem by Malcolm Guite

*(used with kind permission of the author)*

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day? Not lost in our locked churches, anymore Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre. The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away, And he is up and risen, long before, Alive, at large, and making his strong way Into the world he gave his life to save, No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands Of priests this day, or music from the lips Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips Away from church, shakes off our linen bands To don his apron with a nurse: he grips And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope, Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came And served us in a thousand names and faces Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces Of that virus which was death to him: Good Friday happened in a thousand places Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them That they might share his Easter in their need, Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

*Malcolm Guite is a writer, composer and poet. See more of his inspirational work at https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/*
This irreverent, but highly topical cartoon made your Rector titter. He apologises for his sometimes slightly warped sense of humour!

Giving by Phone...

We’ve received exciting news from ‘Parish Giving’, our provider of monthly giving and gift aid services to the parish. From next week (Monday 20 April) they will be offering the facility to give by phone! If you would be interested in giving a donation to the parish by this route, please register your interest at https://register.parishgiving.org.uk/. You will need our ‘Parish Giving Code: 290629058

‘Parish Giving’ will then call you, as soon as they have staff available, to take your phone donation (via your credit or debit card).

THANK YOU in advance for your generosity!
From Canon Tom, Shelley, Clive and Colin.
SUPPORTING THE PARISH THROUGH THE CORONA CRISIS

Cheques
(payable to St Faith’s PCC) can be posted or dropped at the Rectory
(5 Meadowlands, Havant, PO9 2RP)

Online:
Please use the following link if you have a PayPal account:
https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/112574636177901026/charity/2765291
OR
You can give with a Visa/Mastercard or CAF Account via:
https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/4908#!/DonationDetails
Gift aid can be applied to such gifts with the click of a mouse.

Monthly Stewardship through ‘Parish Giving Scheme’
If you wish to modify (preferably upwards!) your monthly giving through the parish giving scheme, then simply contact them using the following details:
Parish Giving Scheme
76 Kingsholm Road
GLOUCESTER
GL1 3BD
Email: info@parishgiving.org.uk
Phone: 0333 002 1260
Preferably you need to have your unique number to hand, but they can usually trace your payment account with your name and the parish name.

St Faith’s Parish Giving Code is 290629058

Weekly Envelopes
If you give through our weekly envelope scheme, we encourage you to continue filling your envelope each week, and then (when the ‘all-clear’ is given), bring the bundle of (hopefully) bulging envelopes to church with you. However, if you prefer, you may by all means leave envelopes at the Rectory (in the porch mailbox) during one of your daily exercises!
Many people, in recent days, have been asking this question. Our present challenges have brought the question to the forefront of minds - even though we are, of course, surrounded by suffering and death all the time. What follows is an attempt to offer a few thoughts in response to this important question - expressed in what I hope is accessible language.

The central question is ‘where is God in human suffering?’. Or, perhaps more urgently, the question is ‘why doesn't God stop the virus?’ The same question has, of course, been asked for centuries. This current plague is no different, in essence, to other crises that humanity has experienced before. Our ancestors tended either to see such events as either ‘punishments’ from an angry God, or, like us, they cried out ‘where is God?’, or more painfully still, cried with Jesus and the Psalmist, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (See Psalm 22).

The answer to the question rather depends on what the questioner means by the word ‘God’, itself. If the questioner's view of God is of a kindly, slightly deaf old man in the sky, who will only interfere in the world if the right number of people ask him loudly enough - then the answer to the question is quite simple: 'because you're not praying hard enough' or, worse still, ‘you don’t have enough...
faith!’. But that doesn’t seem to me an adequate way of thinking of either God, or the important questions people are asking of God right now.

My picture of God is rather more complex than ‘an old deaf guy’, and with Good Friday in mind, it certainly includes the picture of a God who suffers and dies for us on a cross. The answer to the question ‘where is God?’ must therefore be rather more complex too.

**The Vale of Soul-making**

My general position is this: God has created a universe of infinite possibilities, in which we, his loved children, can grow to their full potential. That world has challenge built in - whether in the form of natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes - as well as viruses). How we respond to those challenges is the question. For it is through challenge that we grow, and develop. There are very few, if any, human accomplishments which have been achieved without the crucible of a ‘problem to solve’, or a challenge to overcome.

To use a simple example, imagine an aircraft about to crash due to engine failure. Imagine, then, a giant 'hand of God' reaching out of the clouds and putting the aircraft safely on the ground. What would be the effect? All aircraft engineers would be made redundant. No longer would we have to worry about health and safety. The aircraft manufacturers would realise that they are not needed. Nor would pilots need to be trained. People wishing to get to America would just step off Lands End, and expect the hand of God to pick them up and take them to New York!

In such a world of divine intervention, we would be like toddlers, who expect mummy or daddy to catch us when we fall....never learning to stand on our own two feet. To extend the metaphor - how many parents have agonised over the pain they must cause their child to enable them to grow? (My Dad always said that you'll never learn to ride a bike until you've fallen off it half a dozen times). I suggest that God loves us *too much* to interfere with the natural course of this,
or any other virus. God's passion is for our eternal salvation not for the saving of our short lives on earth. Viewed from the Divine perspective, all life is temporary, anyway. God wants to save our souls. The healing of our bodies may not be the best way of achieving that ultimate end. This is, one might say, a ‘vale of soul-making’ (to quote John Keats).

You see, God wants us to grow in maturity of spirit...not just to have safety and good health. In fact, it is quite often in the midst of our suffering that God is able to do his greatest work. How many people don't even think about their eternal souls until they are confronted with the stark reality of their impending death? If the Cross means anything, it surely means that suffering (how ever much we might resist it!) has a place in God's plan for the world.

**The Silent Watch-maker?**

But this does not mean that God is silent - sitting back while we 'learn our lessons' and grow, watching us struggle and grow. No! I believe he is active and participating in all human suffering. God does not *create* our suffering; it arises out of the world, and out of human actions. Upon the cross, God suffers *with us*. God takes on human-caused suffering, and transforms it through resurrection.

**Pushing God to the margins**

We might also consider whether some of our suffering is in fact caused by the way we have systematically pushed God *out* of our lives. Almost every sphere of human life now carries on without God - he is largely absent from our schools, our workplaces, the way we spend our leisure-time, and even from our families. What this means is that when crises come (as they inevitably will) we humans have lost the language and the wisdom of faith. Like children, we cry out ‘save us’ to the God we have systematically ignored, but who we hope will hear us now - not realising that God is already with us, in the pit of our despair.

As I said in my sermon on Palm Sunday, the Kingdom of Heaven is at work every time a neighbour helps a neighbour, or a doctor or nurse cares for a patient.
So, is it worth even praying?

Does my thesis mean that we don’t need to bother to pray? Absolutely not! But, I suggest, our prayers need to be focused rather less on asking God to ‘please solve our problem’, and rather more on asking God to ‘grant us the wisdom and the serenity to be part of the solution’.

C.S. Lewis (the writer of the Narnia books) once said that prayer “doesn’t change God. It changes me”. I think he meant that we are not to imagine God as reluctant to act, or deaf to our pain. But rather that the task of prayer is to attune our spirits to the Holy Spirit. We should expect to spend far more time listening to God in prayer than speaking. Perhaps then God will be able to teach our deaf ears what we need to learn - how our society needs to be re-structured and re-formed, so that his Kingdom may truly be experienced ‘on earth as it is in heaven’.

Listening to God in the Crisis

In respect of our current predicament, I don’t think we have yet heard God speaking clearly - but perhaps we have heard some whispers. For example, in the face of a world economy which has so quickly collapsed, perhaps we are being asked to think about how we structure the economy in the future? In the face of a collapsing health service, (with thousands of vacant posts before the Crisis even started) what might God be saying about the political choices we have made (as a nation) in recent years?

The church is also listening to the whisper of God...what might be God saying to the church about what it means to BE the church? What role might the internet play in the future of the church - given the number of people who have re-connected to the church in recent days through that medium? What might it mean to be a ‘people of God’ who are liberated from bricks, stone and stained glass into being life-givers to their community?

Canon Tom Kennar
‘Ello, ‘ello, ‘ello, what’s going on here then?

Contact Details:
Canon Tom: rector@stfaith,com or 07881 025592
Lay Pastor Sandra: sandrahaggan54@gmail.com or 07452 982287