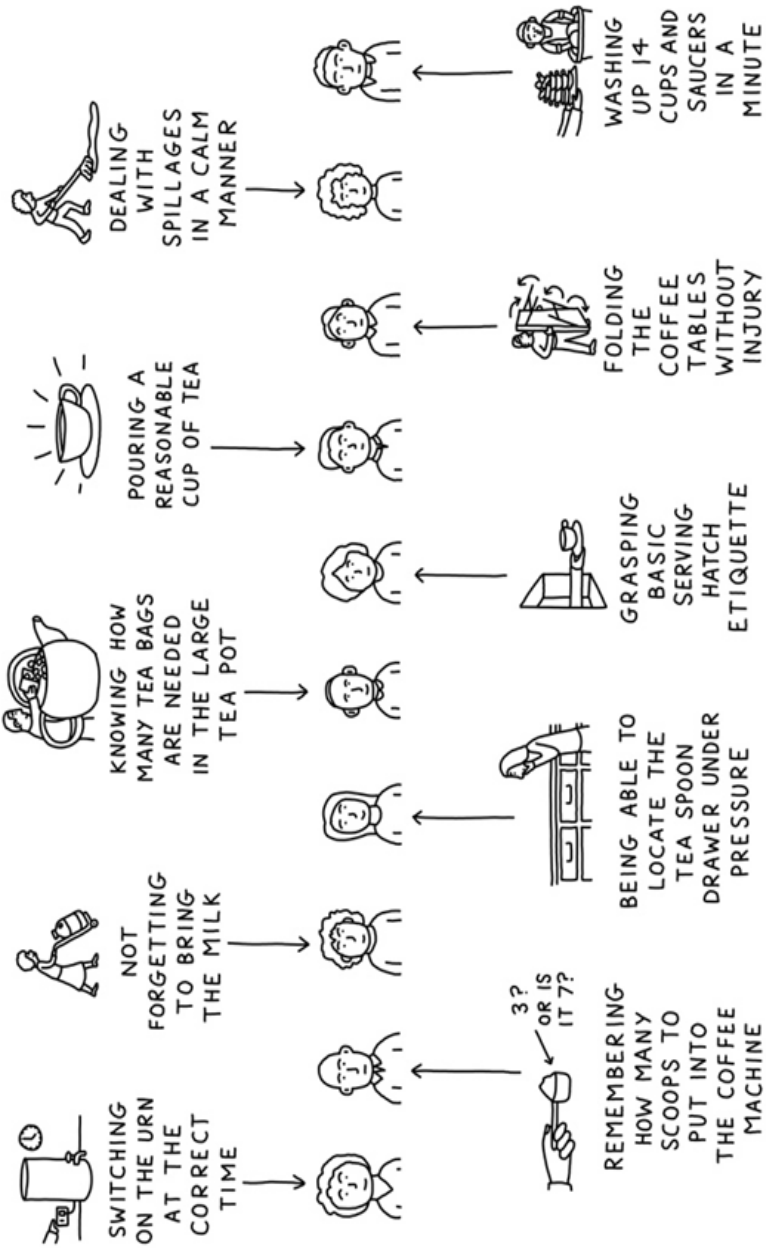


SKILLS

GAINED OVER A LIFETIME OF CHURCHGOING



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St Cross Newsletter June 2021

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The Vicar writes...

When you receive this newsletter, we will have entered that time of the year known in the church as 'Ordinary Time'. There is a short spell of Ordinary Time between Epiphany and Lent but the sustained spell is between Eastertide / Pentecost and Eastertide to Advent. The word 'ordinary' does conjure up images of something being everyday, mundane or regular, when as Christians we should strive to follow Christ and know the joy of the Holy Spirit all year round. Indeed, the Apostle Paul felt that was his desire as he wrote to the Philippians 'I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection' (Philippians 3.10).

The life of the early Church was certainly a time of great change, a decisive time in human history, following on from the resurrection as the transformative power of the Holy Spirit brought the Church into being, and lives were changed as people came together to live shared lives as Christians. The Holy Spirit has always been active, and is active in God's Church now, and we are invited to join in and respond to where the Spirit wants to lead us.

As we enjoy the benefits of the vaccination programme, we certainly find ourselves in times that are not ordinary, and churches have responded in different ways to allow communities to connect with God even when the buildings were closed for public worship. Now we are open again we should seek to take the better aspects of what has been learnt during the past year. Many churches have continued to operate a mixed

economy of 'online' and 'services in person'. Here at St Cross, the balance has shifted more to the attendance in person but undoubtedly our Audio provision will continue to be required.

And at a practical level I can see some aspects of the measures implemented staying with us for longer, if not indefinitely. We are told that admissions to hospital and visits to the doctor's surgery for common colds, flu, stomach bugs etc. have reduced significantly, presumably because of hygiene measures including sanitising hands.

Life, it seems, never stands still, but things are changing all the time. The system for registering marriages has changed too, and when I returned our church marriage registers to the registry office at Crewe, I saw changes in the town since I last worked there, at Bentley Motors, ten years ago. I wonder if someone came back to St Cross now, having last been ten years ago, what they would notice, apart from the obvious fact that we all grow older.

The Holy Spirit is at work in St Cross, and the next few months, I sincerely hope and pray, will not be 'Ordinary Time'.

Yours, in Christ

Paul



Occasional Offices



Wedding:
May 16th Sophie Louise Brown and Nathan Lee Jones

Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays		
	MP = Morning Prayer SE = Said Eucharist <i>(in church 10am)</i>	6.30pm
2 June Wednesday	SE Tobit 3.1-11,16-end (Apocrypha) 1 Peter 1.18-25 Mark 12.18-27	
Sunday 6 June Trinity 1	MP/SE Genesis 3.8-15 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1 Mark 3.20-end	Psalm 37.1-17 Luke 7.11-17
9 June Wednesday (Columba)	SE Isaiah 61.1-3 1 Thessalonians 2.2-12 Matthew 5.17-19	
Sunday 13 June Trinity 2	MP/SE Ezekiel 17.22-end 2 Corinthians 5.6-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark 4.26-34	
16 June Wednesday Richard, Bishop of Chichester	SE Job 23.8-14 Philippians 4.10-13 John 21.15-19	
Sunday 20 June Trinity 3	MP/SE Job 38.1-11 2 Corinthians 6.1-13 Mark 4.35-end	
23 June Wednesday (Etheldreda)	SE Song of Songs 8.6-7 Acts 4.32-35 Matthew 25.1-13	
Sunday 27 June Trinity 4	MP/SE Wisdom 1.13-15, 2.23-24 (Apocrypha) 2 Corinthians 8.7-end Mark 5.21-end	
30 June Wednesday	SE Genesis 21.5,8-20 or Psalm 34.1-12 Matthew 8.28-end	

To access the Audio Online Services from St Cross
<http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/media/>