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**News and Views from around the Parish**

**July 2020**

**Issue 303**

**Please note that the opinions expressed within this publication are not those of the Parish Church, editors or anyone other than the authors of the articles.**

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Police (Non Urgent Calls)		101
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Dog Watch	Dave Billing	or 0300 1234 212
Morval Parish website		<a href="http://www.morvalwidegates.weebly.com">www.morvalwidegates.weebly.com</a>
Trenode School website		<a href="http://www.trenode.cornwall.sch.uk">www.trenode.cornwall.sch.uk</a>
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# After Covid-19, what then?

A point of view by Mike Willmott

At this time of pandemics, of microscopic viruses and macroscopic carnage, of the sacrifice and brilliance of the NHS and carers, can the past offer inspiration as we contemplate the future?

During the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale found wounded soldiers being cared for in dreadful conditions. War correspondents ensured the public knew about this, forcing a change in government stance; from *'our focus is to win a war, not care for the wounded'* to *'our focus is to win a war, and so we must care for the wounded'*

In 1665, bubonic plague arrived at the village of Eyam, in materials sent from London. Brave villagers isolated themselves, doing what was best long-term for all rather than easiest for them short-term.

But what happens if such visionary ideals are ignored? After the Great Fire in 1666, London could have replaced the old muddle with new open avenues and plazas, but chose the far cheaper option of rebuilding winding streets and dense housing, a perfect recipe for the future misery of cholera epidemics that would ravage its people.

Recovering after a catastrophe is hard but can be made worse if the automatic decision is to rebuild quick rather than rebuild better.

The creation of the National Health Service, after the devastation of the second world war, is a case of rebuilding better; done when it was difficult to do, rather than left for an illusory easier future date.

So, what should we consider doing after the terror of Covid-19?

It's often said that combating climate change and wanting a greener world involves a huge transition of pain, heartache, and economic damage, so it's far easier to leave it to future generations to solve.

Well, Covid19 has, uninvited, caused us to have experienced that pain, heartache, and economic damage. So, now we face the problem of 'What to do next? How should we rebuild?'

Some say we must take the easiest option as times are difficult, but maybe, mindful of Aneurin Bevan and the NHS, we should decide that now, in these difficult times, is precisely the time to opt to do what's right for our grandchildren, rather than what's easier for us.

<b>Copy deadline for August's Outlook is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>
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## **A message from Revd Philip Sharp**

Dear friends, The recent news has been full of highs and lows, on that I am sure that we can all agree, and for me one of the real highs was the change in government policy towards providing continuing free lunch time meals for children over the summer holidays. This decision is one to be applauded, although the more sceptical might suggest that if public pressure had not been so great, with some very high profile people backing the campaign, such provision would not have been quite so forthcoming. As an aside, I personally cannot understand the initial reluctance to do what is so obviously the right thing to do, something that most reasonably minded people would back and that makes such a huge impact on those most in need for comparatively little financial outlay to the taxpayer, but then again I'm not a politician....

Perhaps (and again this is purely supposition on my part) having taken the initial decision not to provide these vouchers, to change ones stance as a politician is to leave yourself open to that most heinous of crimes, which is that of 'making a u turn" (shock, horror, etc, etc.). It would appear (well, again from my perspective) that for some MPs (or MP's special advisors) it doesn't seem to matter if you flout the rules, tell the odd 'white' lie, are economical with the truth, or are just plain inept, just as long as you don't leave yourself open to the accusation that you've made a u turn. I can trace this back as far as former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's famous 1980 speech, still oft quoted, "You turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning" which sort of set the scene for decades to come. To change one's mind, it would appear, had become more reprehensible than stubbornly pushing on with policy that you know now to be wrong. For an opposition party, it became a matter of great joy and point scoring to be able to accuse the then government of making a u turn. I wonder just how far we would get in our own daily lives if we too had also adopted that principle? No very far I imagine. So, along with Sir Keir Starmer, I say well done Boris (but I won't attempt to embarrass you by calling it a u turn!), now just make this permanent policy for all school holidays.

Part of our Christian witness (as a continuation of God's covenant with the Jews) has always been to speak up for those without a voice and to call out where there is injustice. Sometimes this places

us with the majority, but at other times it can lead us in to conflict with those in power and the not so silent majority, and as a recent lectionary reading from Jeremiah 20.7-13 made plain, that is not necessarily a comfortable place to be (if you stand on the moral high ground you can be shot at from all sides!!!!). Please do read it, because even if we have never felt this way ourselves (and if not I pray you never do) there are many struggling with similar feelings and frustrations who need the support of the church so they too can one day say "Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked" and mean it. Yours in Christ.

## **Coronavirus – community support...**

Remember, the Morval and Widegates Covid 19 Facebook support group has information and sources of support. 8. And don't forget that there's the Community Box in the old telephone box in the layby at the top of Hessenford hill.

A number of people in our parish continue to work with community-minded spirit and have offered to help anyone in need of support.

Sara McFadzean .....	07955648018
Dawn James .....	01503 240482
John and Victoria Kitson .....	01503 241111
Mike and Maggie Willmott .....	01503 240218
Gill Bridges (Polraen Hotel) .....	01503 263956
Carolyn Allen .....	07967 635619

## **Widegates Reading Room**

Widegates Reading Room regret to have to announce that they won't be able to open until at least September

## **Nomansland Hall**

Nomansland Hall have decided that they will not be able to open for the foreseeable future

## St Wenna`s now partially open for private prayer

St Wenna's is now open for private prayer from 10am to 4pm every Saturday. Please enter by the main door, follow the arrows to show where to sit, exit by the side aisle door, and remember to observe social distancing guidelines. Unfortunately, despite the PM saying public worship starts from 4<sup>th</sup> July, a lack of government guidelines about the necessary preparatory work means that can't happen yet.

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**Copy deadline for  
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