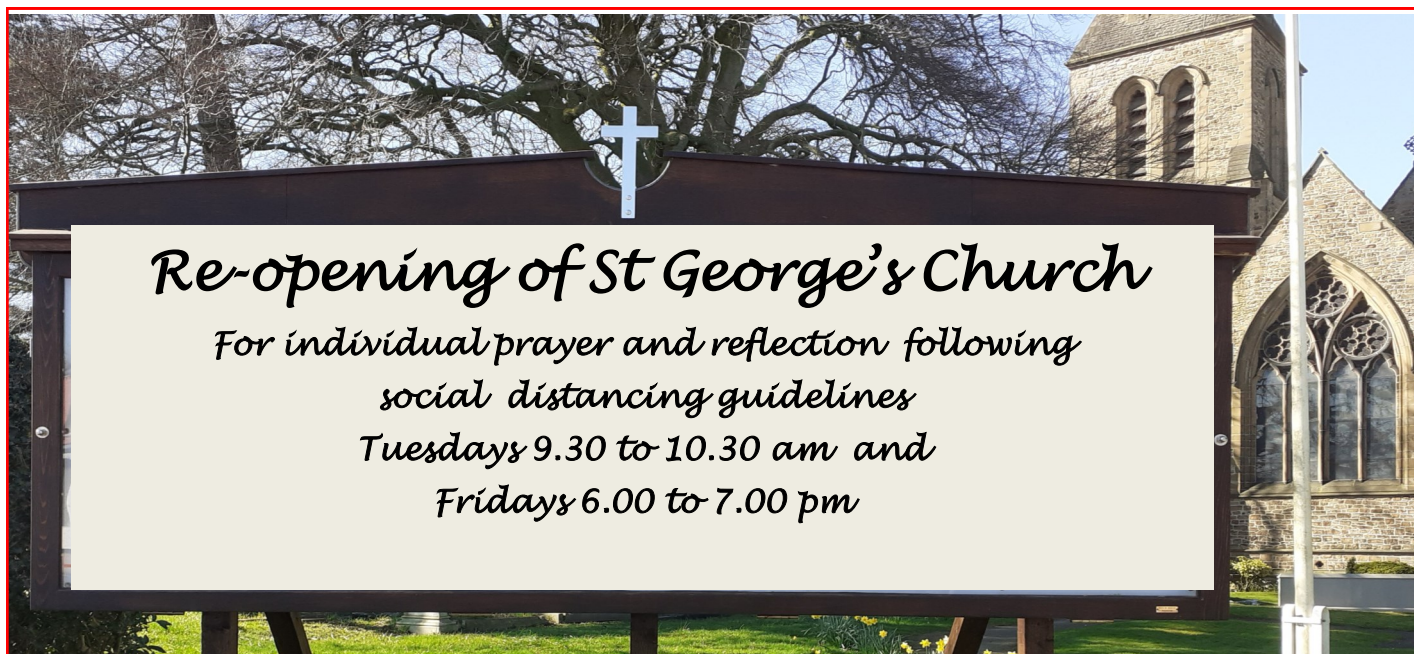




*We can't bring you GRAPEVINE but we  
can bring you an Offshoot*



*Poynton Parish Church*

## **Greetings to you all in the Name of the Lord Jesus.**

How have you been managing with "Lockdown"? There have been many and various experiences of it. Families have been struggling to educate their children and work from home at the same time. The stresses have been considerable and the feeling that this is going on for ever doesn't help. Others have had a positive experience, enjoying getting all the jobs around the house and garden finally completed. I've never seen so many clean cars and neat gardens (except mine!!). And still others have been burdened with the weight of deep loneliness as we social distance and isolate from one another.

One thing the lockdown has enabled is time to think, ponder and reflect. That can be a good thing but it can also be not so good. Recent events on the streets of our cities (and I don't mean the opening of Primark!) seem to have blown out of nowhere and leave us fearful for the future of our liberal and generally tolerant country.

This got me thinking about what Jesus and Scripture has to say as we look on. The Christian world-view is a real help and is often at conflict with secular ideologies.

**Firstly that our God is still in control.** That it is His world and nothing escapes His eye. And consequently He is the great Managing Director. This may be hard to see sometimes but that is one of the main messages in the Bible. The events in history all moved to the coming of His Son Jesus and will be continuing under His hand as Jesus returns. If it is so, then those who love Him and walk with Him are safe indeed.

**Secondly Jesus is the light of the world.** Isn't that what we need at the moment. Clarity and light in this dark time of conflict and disunity. Jesus can give that clear direction because He is the Light and His way is the right way.

**Thirdly for those who come to Jesus we become children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ.** That is the ultimate equality that no politics can achieve. It's a reality as we turn to Jesus. That unity in Christ is what St Paul wrote about in his letter to the Galatians chapter 3 - "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

For Christians we have no barriers because we are reconciled to God and reconciled to one another because of Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. There is now no Jew or Gentile - that is, there is no racial divide in Christ. No slave or free - no social difference between managing director or road sweeper. No male and female - no difference or superiority based on gender, true equality across all these areas. These areas are what divide our nation now. Jesus, our God, is the only one who can bridge the divisions we see in our national discourse at the moment.

That should encourage us in today's world. That we have something more precious than gold. And as we share the Good News of Jesus we don't have an archaic dead religion, locked in an old book which has no relevance today. But a vibrant, living faith, in a God who is infinitely interested in the beings who He created and redeemed, to be united as one under His Son, Jesus.

That's the Christian worldview. That's the Jesus that shook up the ancient world. That's the Jesus who overcame the Roman Empire and became the religion of that state which spread across the world. That's the Christianity which has tolerance at the heart. We would do well to return to this Jesus.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Amen.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andy", with a horizontal line underneath.

## St Martin's Higher Poynton in Lockdown

In these odd days, we are certainly proving the point that the church is about people rather than buildings!

Church members have been allocated to "keeping in touch" (KIT) in small groups of 4 or 5, and there is widespread use of phone, texting and other means of communication between people.

Some have been making a point of walking to friends' houses for a wave or conversation at a social distance.

We have suffered a deep sense of loss at the death of our good friend David Alcraft who died recently after serving as a Lay Reader, mainly at St Martin's, for well over 30 years, and we are still coming to terms with his absence – though his example of loving and faithful discipleship lives on.

One of David's last initiatives was to start a weekly emailed newsletter to keep us all in touch as the lockdown began. The newsletter has continued as a regular feature. We have missed our weekly Sunday services, but enjoy the "broadcasts" from the online church website, and recently have even started our own after-church Zoom coffee meeting. We've also missed seeing our friends who join us each month for the lunch for the retired.

Absent also are the many groups who normally use the hall. However, the opportunity has been taken to install new energy-saving lighting in the hall, and the field is regularly mown with the new sit-on mowing machine (thanks to the Property Committee for both these improvements).

No, the church is not the building - but the hall and church building remain in Higher Poynton as a physical reminder and witness to the presence of people who acknowledge Jesus as Lord, and want to share the knowledge of his love with others.



John Briggs



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

*The family and friends of those who have recently died:*

22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Alma Ellen Hackney	93 years
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Jessie Angel	100 years
4 <sup>th</sup> June	David Alcraft	75 years
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Leila Collins	94 years
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Nicholas Sharples	28 years



*Ann and Graham Booth would like to thank all friends from church for their kind regards, cards and gifts on the occasion of their diamond wedding anniversary.*

*Rosanne and family would like to thank everybody who sent flowers, cards, letters and kind tributes to David which were all very much appreciated.*

## Warden's Update

In the first edition of [Grapevine Offshoot](#) I asked "Are You Embracing The Technology?".

At the beginning of July the question now might be "Have you had enough of using the Technology?". Maybe you have? Maybe you are longing to be able to meet up with friends and family face-to-face? Maybe you are seeing the benefits of Zoom and Facebook? Keeping in touch with friends and family through the use of social media; being part of a church service sitting at home, sharing coffee with church friends after the service, attending home groups without travelling and attending the Monday night Prayer First meeting, sharing breakfast with other men, with other women and even enjoying a wine tasting evening are all things we have learnt to do using Zoom.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a real challenge for us to do church, but can you imagine how it would have been in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century when these technologies did not exist?

Whether you are liking the technologies or not, they will continue to play an important part for months to come in "doing church". So please continue to embrace them and if you need assistance please don't hesitate to ask a member of the church Leadership Team.

I hope you are looking forward to the arrival of our new vicar, Matthew, and his wife Kate. They will move into the existing redecorated vicarage on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Of course it will be a challenging time for them as they get to know Poynton and to help them get to know you, please take up the suggestion to make a short video "welcome message" of your household, include your names, which service you usually attend and what you do in church and in the secular world. If you are unable to make a video, maybe consider writing a card and enclose a photo of yourselves. Please send to myself, Aled or Joe Hadfield.

Matthew's Institution Service on the 21<sup>st</sup> July at 7:30pm will not be in church, however, all are welcome to watch the service from the comfort of your own home via a Zoom Webinar. Details on how to do this and a service sheet so that you can follow and "take part" are available on our church web site, our church Facebook and via the home groups.

As we move into the summer weeks of July and August, can I encourage the home groups to keep meeting, to be creative in meeting up with other church members who are not in home groups (eg. in gardens), remembering of course to follow the Government's social distancing guidelines. Make the most of what is available; on-line services, coffee time, men's and women's activities, ... and if you have any other suggestions/ideas to help us all through the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact a member of the leadership team.

Finally, remember the Church is currently open for personal prayer Tuesday at 9:30am and Friday at 6pm, both for 1 hour.

Please stay safe.

With much love in Christ.

*Dave*



## The Holiday we might not get

One of our favourite holiday destinations is Switzerland, and in particular, the Bernese Oberland region and the village of Grindlewald. We fly from Manchester to Zurich and pick up the train at the station under the airport. So convenient! The journey takes us through beautiful scenery by Lake Thun and Interlaken.



*Grindlewald*

Grindlewald is very pretty with many good restaurants and cafes to suit all tastes. There are the usual tourist shops and a mix of climbing attire and smart shops too. Sitting on the terraces watching the world go by adds to the enjoyment.

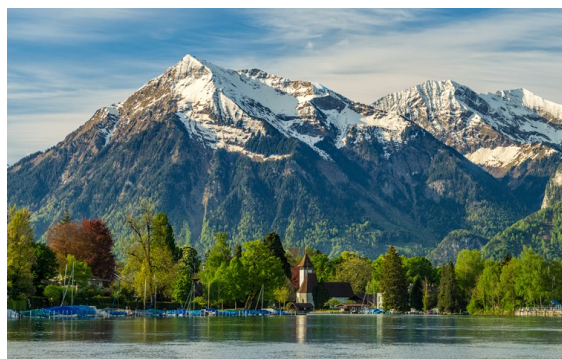
The Parkhotel Schoenegg is situated at the far end of the village, and slightly elevated giving wonderful views of the mountains. There is a small Leisure Centre and indoor pool within the hotel complex. The hotel boasts a five course dinner that, weather permitting, can be enjoyed on the terrace and in fact on our last visit we had both breakfast and dinner there throughout our stay.

There are many modes of transport that can take you up the higher peaks; rack rail, trains, gondolas and cable cars. Cafes are abundant to enjoy on arrival at the top.

There is also a train that leaves Kleine Scheidegg at 30 minute intervals that takes you up to the top of the Jungfrau where for the adventurous, a hike over the glacier brings you up to the Monch Hutter where good food and drinks are available. Alternatively you can hike or take the bus over the Grosse Scheidegg pass to Meiringen where the original Meringue was born, and where the famous Reichenbach Falls (120 metres high) are; stunning with the water crashing down over seven steps.

The scenery in the region is absolutely spectacular. The beauty of God's creation is evident all around. We come back home feeling really healthy having experienced clean air, good food and wine and wonderful memories. We have got another visit there planned for September and hope that the current Covid-19 situation allows it.

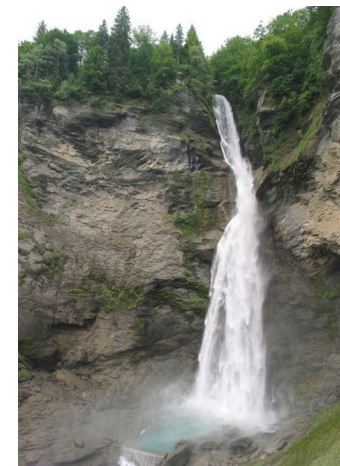
*Gordon and Alice Lees*



*Lake Thun*



*Swiss Train to Jungfrauoch*



*Reichenbach Falls*



*Dany pictured during his sermon on  
7th June 2020*

**Argentina Virtual Visit** With most of the world in lockdown and fighting Covid-19 sadly the planned visit by the team from Argentina in May was postponed. We don't yet know when they will actually be able to come but watch this space.

We were able to keep in touch by phone, Email, WhatsApp, and Zoom and agreed that the San Andres Pastor, Dany, would preach and he and Priscilla (now a Deacon) would attend our Monday evening prayer meeting.

Dany preached at our virtual service on 7<sup>th</sup> June on Acts 2 vv14-41, challenging us to share the Good News, let people know we are witnesses of the resurrection of Christ, that he is alive in us. He referred us to Romans 10 vv13-15

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*<sup>[14]</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"<sup>[15]</sup> urging us to be the ones who bring the Good News to others.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June our weekly 8pm prayer meeting (do come and join us) met via Zoom and prayed in small groups for Argentina, for Salta and for San Andres church and the work they are doing, the challenges they face in a country whose economy was ravaged even before Covid-19, and the number of people living on the streets. Their health systems are not as organised as in the UK and they do not have many intensive care beds. This was the reason the lockdown began as soon as the first case of Covid-19 was identified.

Even if you are unable to come to our Monday meeting, please pray regularly for our partners/brothers and sisters in Christ in Argentina, especially the leadership team as they make decisions and care for the people of Salta.

*Ann McClelland*

## Phyllis Nelson's 100th Birthday

Special birthdays are a real joy to celebrate aren't they? On Friday 10 July Phyllis Nelson, a lifelong member of St George's church, celebrates her 100th birthday. We are all very sad that we are not able to celebrate this amazing achievement together as a fellowship. We had plans which we have not been able to realise. Her family are a little disappointed too.

But we all want to say a huge Happy Birthday Phyllis!! Phyllis has had such an interesting and full life. She has lived her whole life in Poynton and seen so many changes to the village. She used live on Park Lane and then moved over to Dickens Lane where she still lives today. She still attends St George's Church where she was baptised.

During WWII Phyllis trained as an inspector at Woodford checking new engines which were put into Lancaster bombers.

She ran her own hairdressing business and started a local walking group.

Perhaps when we return to some semblance of normality Phyllis will be able to share her memories in person.

Happy birthday Phyllis!!!





## Men's Zoom Breakfast in June

In May we had planned to have a breakfast at Wetherspoons with some friends from our partner Church in Salta, Argentina. A year or so ago we sent a team of leaders to their church St Andreas to encourage them and this year they were going to do the same.

But it all went belly up with COVID-19. Lockdown started and all looked hopeless. When were we going to have our next dose of "healthy" bacon, egg and sausages? Then the Men's Events team had a brain wave. Let's do a Zoom breakfast!!

We planned it and since it had almost been two years exactly to the date when I went to the US mountain biking with my American friend Todd, I thought I'd ask him to give a short talk. He filmed a segment and sent it over.

Dave McClelland hosted the Zoom meeting and the 35 men attending were placed at "virtual tables" to eat our breakfast. Many had bacon butties and a few the full English. So we munched our breakfast while chatting to others on the screen. It was a bit surreal but also so good to see each other again. After breakfast we returned to the main meeting room to hear from Todd.

Todd told us that he is a Captain in the LASD - Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (the Police), and has a wife, Mary Ann, and two grown up girls, Kaela and Hayley. He's a great Christian man in a very responsible job. He told everyone how we met in 2006 on a mountain bike trail in Moab, Utah at 5am in the morning (in order to escape the heat - yes crazy!!). We had Jesus Christ in common and we got on like a house on fire and have remained good friends ever since. He talked about how these so called "chance" meetings are God's providence and for our benefit. He also encouraged us to stick with the basics of Bible reading and prayer. The first to go, he admitted, when he was snowed under with work as he tried to keep his family financially afloat. It was a very gentle and encouraging message Todd gave us.

We finished with a bit of a Q&A and then decided to try something else soon.

We're having Zoom Wine Tasting on Friday 19 June 8pm!!!

See you then.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy'.





## Church Choir Zooming Through Hymns

Like everyone else, the Church Choir have also been in lockdown, unable to meet for our regular rehearsals on Thursday evenings. With the help of my son, David, I had managed to set up singing sessions with my Cantata choirs on a Monday afternoon and having seen how well received they were, I approached the Church Choir with a view to doing something similar. Most of them were up for it, so we now meet every Thursday afternoon at 4pm for a Zoom through our favourite hymns.

To start us off I asked everyone to send me a list of 3 hymns they would like to sing and we had a real mixture of worship songs, traditional hymns and some that hadn't seen the light of day in many years. I put together a programme of about 9 hymns per session, and each session starts with a warm-up such as *I'm gonna zoom, zoom, zoom around the room, room, room* – seemed an obvious choice really! And we end each session with a blessing or a quieter reflective hymn such as *The Day thou gavest Lord has ended*.

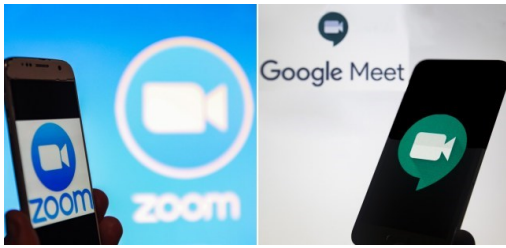
To date, we've sung our way through 35 hymns and learnt 2 new ones and we will continue with this pattern until we can all meet again as normal on Thursday evenings! Everyone has just chosen another set of 3 favourites, but they weren't allowed to choose any we've already sung. I wonder how many hymns we will have sung by the time we're able to meet in person again? I'll keep a running total! If you haven't seen us on the Poynton Parish Facebook group, here's a screenshot choir member Sue Dyson took of us at one of our sessions.



Catherine Silman

Eight new choir robes were needed due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.





## Zoom Wine Tasting Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June '20

On the back of a successful Men's Zoom Breakfast we decided to try something a bit different; Zoom wine tasting!!!

We all brought along two bottles of wine. One had to be sparkling white e.g. Champagne, Cava, Prosecco or British Sparkling wine, and the other a red.

Dave McClelland, our very own "Wine Guru", took us through the processes involved in the production of different sparkling wines, with photos to illustrate this, along with some questions for us to answer in smaller groups.

We then rejoined the main meeting and Dave explained the manufacture of red wine and why it was different from white manufacture. Then it was off into groups again to answer questions and chat during red wine tasting and nibbles.



We learnt a whole bunch of wine vocabulary like, lees, tannin, Pino noir grapes, 'disgorgement' and 'tank method'. But more than all that, it was just so good to see each other and be together again.

A huge thanks to Dave for putting together a really enjoyable Friday evening.

We are planning another event soon. If you are not on the emailing list and would like to be please do email me - revandylio@gmail.com

*Andy and the Team*

**Some members of the very first Men's Fellowship may remember Gordon Deacon. Sadly his wife Rosemary died on 10th April; our condolences go to Gordon and the family.**

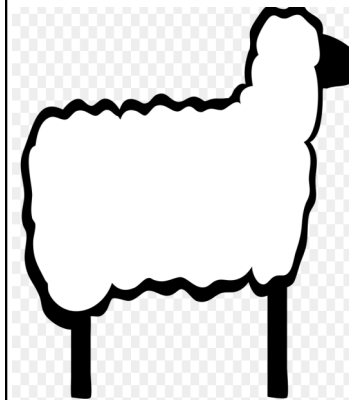
## Zoom Women's Breakfast Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June '20

Last Sunday morning we held our first Zoom women's breakfast and Sarah welcomed 47 ladies onto our screens. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces again. We then found ourselves in little groups to continue chatting and eating our breakfasts. There was much catching up to be done! Louise Coleman then shared a wonderfully honest and moving account of her faithful journey with God and of her dependence on Him, particularly through recent testing times. Throughout the many challenges they have faced as a family their trust in God and His faithfulness to them shone out. Our thanks to Louise for encouraging and inspiring us all. We were able to wave our goodbyes to each other just in time to join in with the Sunday morning service. A very different experience from our usual breakfasts but nevertheless very enjoyable.



*Deborah Myers*

### A Sheepish Recovery



A devout old shepherd lost his favourite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the sheep. "Your name is written inside the cover."

## Strawberry Tartlets (this quantity makes 12).

Short crust pastry  
Strawberries  
Double cream (small)  
Green's 'Quick Jel' - red  
A little icing sugar.

### Pastry

2ozs Trex or similar  
4ozs flour  
Pinch of salt  
Water to bind

### Method

Roll out the pastry and cut into twelve shallow bun tin size, line the tins. Brush inside pastry with egg white and bake blind for about 10 minutes (depends on cooker) then cool on wire tray.

Hull and wash about ten strawberries, sprinkle with icing sugar (optional) about half a teaspoon and mix together. Cut into small pieces.

Thicken double cream. Put a good teaspoon into pastry case and place about four small pieces of strawberries on top of cream.

Mix Green's Quick Jel to instructions for water, when thickened and coolish, put a teaspoon on top of strawberries.

Enjoy!

The Quick Jel can be used on the remainder of the strawberries.

Ann Decker



## Summer Quiz

1. In July each year, the Annual Wife carrying World Championship is held in which country?
2. How many kilos of strawberries are consumed at Wimbledon:  
a) 20,000    b) 27,000    c) 35,000?
3. The month of June is named after the Roman Goddess of what?
4. What Saint's Day falls on 15th July?
5. The August Bank Holiday was created by the Bank Holiday Act in which decade of the 19th century?
6. Now a museum, Castle Gandolfo in Italy was formerly whose summer residence?
7. Beach Hut 413 on Mudeford Spit in Dorset sold for a record price in 2017. How much (£25k leeway)?
8. Since 1950, the Met Office considers 4 years to be the hottest on record, each with an average temperature of 15.8\*. One point for each correct year.
9. Where are the Summer Isles?
10. Where in the U.K. in Summertown?
11. In which months does British Summer Time begin and end?
12. What is the other name for the Dog Star?
13. Where was 'Last of the Summer Wine' filmed?
14. Shall I compare thee to a 'Summer's Day' is a line from which Shakespeare Sonnet?
15. 'Though she is but little, she is fierce' is a line from which of Shakespeare's plays?

*Answers in the next edition of 'Offshoot'.*

## Summer Solstice and Midsummer Day

June is a month bringing many hopes, expectations and opportunities: weddings in the sunshine, roses in the gardens, picnics in the parks and, of course, the Queen's Official Birthday and the Trooping the Colour, to name just a few.

Sometimes however, events such as Covid19, or the weather, dash these hopes and cause these special occasions and events to be cancelled. Just about everything seems to have been cancelled, indefinitely postponed, or rescheduled this year!

Nevertheless, two dates come and go despite any setback: the astronomical calendar dictates the precise date of the Summer Solstice or equinox ; the longest day may be June 20<sup>th</sup> or a day or two later and for thousands of years has been celebrated with a variety of ceremonies and gatherings such as those at Stonehenge. Midsummer's Day however is always on June 24<sup>th</sup>, designated as the Feast Of Saint John the Baptist, observed in Christian countries, but also marked by some more unusual traditions. In Lyme Park, originally simply a deer park, it became the custom to herd the deer on Midsummer Day and drive them through the Stag Pool, perhaps to signify taking them to fresh grazing land.

Once the Hall was built, friends and neighbours of the Legh family would join in the spectacle. Though the occasion lasted for hundreds of years it is now obsolete and the original Pool no longer exists.

(A more recent pilgrimage is not limited to any time or date as devotees of Jane Austen arrive to see the lake made famous by Colin Firth and a wet shirt!)

*Susan Warrington*



## This is Praise

*Euros Brown; translated by the author*

In my day I have often heard morning and evening  
the thrush's call  
on the tree's high branch,  
the brook trembling in the solitude  
of moor-bank and marsh,  
an infant's ready laughter  
at his foot's first venture on the ground,  
and the children's noisy fun  
on the village meadow:  
And when the swallow,  
its diligent nesting done,  
has left for the south,  
I have seen summer decay  
as an acorn rolls golden  
into the shadow of the country's oak,  
like the smile of the departed  
Before burial in the earth. -  
Life does not die. This is praise.



*Song Thrush*



*Swallow*

*Sent in by Sylvia Boylin*







Yes ! This year you won't need to pack your bags and drive up to Keswick to attend the Convention; it's available on line, in our homes.

From Monday to Friday, July 27-31, there will be a special five-day Convention which will make the special experience of hearing gifted, faithful teaching in the company of many other Christians from round the country and abroad available to all. A treat to look forward to!

The daily programme outline Monday-Friday is:-

**10.00** Bible readings on the theme of Hope from the Psalms (Christopher Ash)

Coffee break

**11.15** Seminars (choice), Keswick4Kids or Keswick Youth

**8.00 p.m.** Evening Celebration (Mike Cain, Andy Prime, Amy Orr-Ewing, etc.)

Whether you have attended the Convention in the past, or just heard of it from afar, this is a wonderful opportunity to taste and see what is on offer. Many have found the Convention to be like an annual oasis of spiritual inspiration and renewal. Well worth planning into your diary for the week.

In addition to the main sessions, there are features for children and teens, those with a special interest in the arts, and for those with learning difficulties. Visit the website **keswickministries.org** for more information.

*John Briggs*

