

**THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM
WITH HENSHAW
Parish Newsletter May 2020**



During the period of lockdown for the coronavirus pandemic, we will not be publishing our usual Parish Newsletter. However, we will aim to publish something of interest each month for inclusion on the website and for circulation to those for whom we hold email addresses.

Is someone walking beside us?

As we reflect on the Easter period, the very powerful Bible readings for this time stay in my mind. I am always particularly struck by the story of the two disciples being joined by Jesus on the road to Emmaus, a powerful image of a person who walks beside you. In turn, I have then been reminded of the wonderful story of Ernest Shackleton and his fated Antarctic expedition which set out in 1914. You may know the story – his ship, the Endurance, became trapped in the ice for six months, and was eventually crushed and sank. The crew of 27 together with a large number of dogs transferred equipment and provisions on to a large flat floe, and then spent some months camped on the ice. When the floe started to break up, Shackleton then ordered the crew into lifeboats, aiming to head for the nearest land. After days at sea, they landed on Elephant Island, more than 300 miles from where Endurance had sunk. Shackleton knew there was very little chance of discovery and rescue from there, so he decided to take the strongest of the three boats and to risk the long sea journey to

South Georgia where there was a whaling station. He and five companions set off and for fifteen days endured the wild weather and seas, eventually landing on the southern side of South Georgia. Unfortunately, the whaling station was on the northern side, so Shackleton decided to take two of the men and to attempt a land crossing of the island. Equipped only with screws to make their boots into climbing boots, a fifty foot rope and a carpenter's adze, they completed the hazardous journey in 36 hours. A boat was sent to pick up the three men on the south side, and Shackleton then set to work to organise the rescue of the remainder of the crew from Elephant Island. After over four months of isolation there, the remaining 22 crew were all rescued.

How did they all survive such a harrowing and lengthy ordeal? In this astonishing story of courage, resilience, endurance and determination, the men later reported that they had the strong sense of another being with them, walking beside them. So we could ask ourselves, is there someone who always walks beside us? In times of crisis or when we are feeling desolate or abandoned or under great stress, is there someone who always walks beside us? We need the scales to fall from our eyes, as they did for the disciples (Luke Ch 24), so that we can recognise that we are being accompanied and supported on our journey.

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QUIZ – Answers next month

- 1. Which actress played the Vicar of Dibley?**
- 2. Who is known as the Vicar of Christ?**
- 3. What is the derivation of the word vicar?**
- 5. What is the name of the clergyman in Pride and Prejudice?**
- 6. Which clergymen have won the Nobel Peace Prize?**
- 7. Who was the architect who designed the new Coventry Cathedral?**
- 8. How many hymns did Charles Wesley write? More than 60/more than 600/more than 6000?**
- 9. Who wrote the coronation anthem “I was glad”?**
- 10. What did Archbishop Justin Welby do before he entered the church?**
- 11. In which month was St Cuthbert born?**
- 12. Who is the patron saint of music?**
- 13. In which novel does Bishop Proudie feature?**
- 14. Who wrote The Vicar of Wakefield?**
- 15. Who created the character Father Brown?**
- 16. What is the name of Gaudi’s unfinished church in Barcelona?**

- 17. Which religious order was founded by Ignatius Loyola?**
- 18. Who wrote Elegy written in a Country Churchyard?**
- 19. Which female saint is associated with Whitby?**
- 20. What was the name of the ship on which the Pilgrim Fathers sailed?**
- 21. In which part of the world did Buddhism first come into being?**
- 22. Shinto is the indigenous religious belief and practice of which country?**
- 23. What do Jehovah's Witnesses call their place of worship?**
- 24. What does the name Benjamin mean?**
- 25. What was the name of the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy kidnapped in Beirut in 1987?**

If you cannot wait until next month for the answers, then email galbraithanne55@gmail.com and I will send them to you.