



# St Mary the Virgin Baldock

*“Building with Christ”*



## Rector's Blog – day 8

Dear Friends

*The LORD said to Moses, 'See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. 2You shall speak as that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his land. 3But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and I will multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. 4When Pharaoh does not listen to you, I will lay my hand upon Egypt and bring my people the Israelites, company by company, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgement. 5The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand and bring the Israelites out from among them.'*

I find the Moses and the 10 plagues in Exodus 7 - 13 one of the hardest parts of the Old Testament. God seems to be almost unrelentingly cruel and goes on and on until eventually Pharaoh caves in and lets the Israelite slaves go. In chapter 7, verse 3 we read that God promises he 'will harden Pharaoh's heart', and I always wonder why he didn't soften it instead, and save 7 or 8 plagues and lots of suffering.

However it seems the world does not work like that. When your back is against the wall you are more likely to be stubborn and fight back rather than give way and change your mind-set. It could be said that we are suffering a plague at the moment. I wouldn't suggest that God has sent it but I bet the Jewish scribes who put together the Old Testament texts would have thought it was a dead cert that he had and they would be looking to see why it had happened. How did they need to change?

Human nature looks at plagues as something to get through before returning to how life was like before. It seems to me that the biblical view is that plagues are something to learn from, and to adjust our lives accordingly.

What can we learn from the Corona virus about the way we live?

If you like Louis Armstrong you will enjoy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vf6jBP4YXwo>

## Foodbank donations needed!

There has been unprecedented demand for Foodbank parcels over the last week. The Foodbank are currently in need of the following items:-

UHT milk  
Juice (long life)  
Pasta sauce

Tinned meat and tuna  
Sponge puddings

Items can be brought to the church hall when the Baldock Distribution Centre is open- Tuesdays and Fridays 10am to 12 noon or, if necessary, dropped at the Rectory 9, Pond Lane at other times.

Every blessing

Andrew

### Prayers with Children

*Before praying, it is suggested that there is a discussion with the children about the people and places they wish to pray for.*

### A prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, (name of friend) is ill. They are not allowed to go to school or come over to play. I'm sad because I miss them. They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well. Please be close to them. Please be with the people who are looking after them. Please help them to get better and to know that you love them. Amen.