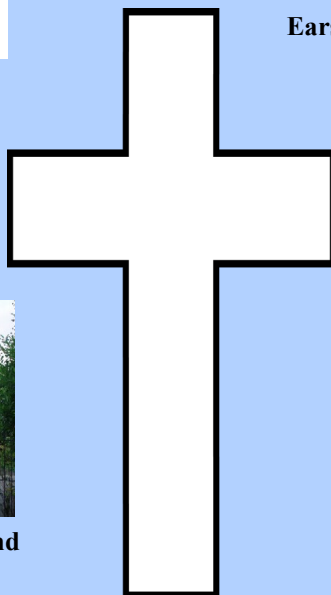




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# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**June  
2020**

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# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## JUNE 2020

Dear All,

So the suspension of public worship drags on. This is now my third monthly update on 'life during lockdown'. What's been happening since I wrote like this for the May magazine?

A trawl through the diary shows that early in May I went to Hadrian Leisure Centre to give blood. If we are going to have to live with COVID-19 for some time, then this was a taste of the future. We were greeted by a queue of chairs to sit on while we waited for our turn at reception. The chairs were spaced two metres apart, so stretched well outside into the [thankfully] lovely sunshine.

Once processed, we were shown to a grid of chairs to await our turn. This was a glimpse of the problems that will await *schools*. You can't get many chairs on a *grid* two metres apart. A friend of ours is the head teacher of a school in Bristol. She reckons she will be able to get a maximum of nine into any of her classrooms. Another casualty of the new restrictions was that there was no recovery table. Curses! What's the point of donating a pint of blood if you don't get to wrap your chops around a tasty orange club biscuit?

Sue and I have been with you for just over a year now, so the first anniversaries are beginning to roll round. I remember May 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 because it was my first Church Council meeting here. May 8<sup>th</sup> is the day on which Christians remember Julian of Norwich. She was the nun who wrote the immortal words 'All shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well'. Let's continue to cling on to words like those as the pandemic continues.

May 8<sup>th</sup> is also VE Day, which this year marked its *seventy-fifth* anniversary. Just in time for this, the restrictions on church buildings were ever so slightly eased. This meant that I, as Parish Priest, was allowed to go into church and ring the bell. Bishop Christine had reflected on the significance of church bells in our national history.

The restrictions were eased just in time for me to ring the bells along with the NHS applause on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>, and then ring one of the bells seventy-five times to mark the ending of the two minutes' silence on VE Day.

Another of my colleagues had reflected on the *visibility* of the clergy. We might be less visible at the moment, not leading worship in church or taking school assemblies. But this colleague reminded us that we could be visible online. So I posted on the Bloomin Earsdon Facebook page. I explained that I would be ringing the bells for the NHS and for VE Day. There was a lovely positive response. People posted 'That's lovely – always love to hear the bells. Home-made flags will be going out tomorrow to celebrate VE Day... Great news! I love hearing the church bells! ... It will be lovely to hear the bells again: stay safe... Great idea: I'll be listening while clapping.'

On May 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> I had my first two COVID funerals. Both were burials in Earsdon cemetery, with appropriate social distancing. Thankfully the weather for both was lovely – sunny, calm and still. That doesn't, I'm sure, ease the pain of parting. But it did mean that we were able to stand and listen to music that had been special to both people.

Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> was Ascension Day. We had our now-familiar Zoom worship in the morning and in the evening. The morning service was special in that it was the first time that Pearl and Edward had joined in. Thanks to Craig, they were able to worship with us on a special day for Edward – it was on Ascension Day 1957 that he first received communion. Towards the end of the evening service, we went outside to clap the NHS and then went back to see each other on Zoom and compare notes. It was a new experience to see Dianne Morgan one minute on a computer screen, and the next to see the real Dianne out on Front Street banging a saucepan.

Zoom worship on Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> was very special. It was our eighth Sunday edition, and it is increasingly becoming its own thing. By that I mean that it's less 'pretend church' and more 'a special kind of worshipping in its own right'. I may have reflected before on the increased level of *participation* in this kind of worship. Our theme on May 24<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful heart transplant where God offers to take out our heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh.

What I didn't know when putting the service together is that Kath Payton works on an ITU ward caring for heart transplant patients. It was memorable to hear her reflections – and all spontaneous and unscripted. As Jo McEvedy wrote later: 'it has been so wonderful to hear the huge range of ideas and experiences people are bringing to the service every week'.

We remain aware that not everyone is online, and that not everyone is Zooming. So we continue to keep in touch by phone and email too. And it takes me only an hour and a quarter to cycle my route dropping off hard copies of worship resources to those who don't have access to a computer. The most recent tour saw me dropping off services for Ascensiontide and Pentecost.

As I write, Pentecost is four days away. May we all keep in step with the Spirit as the living God continues to mould the church in these extraordinary times.

Yours with love,

Tim Mayfield



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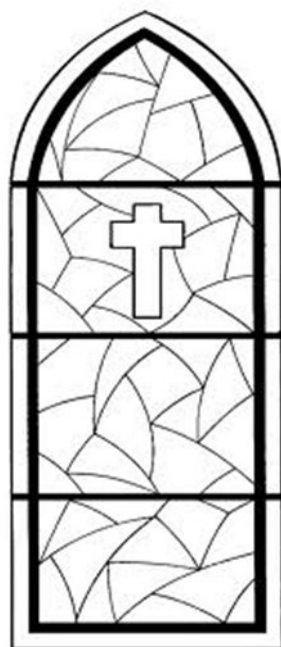
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Forthcoming events

Sadly we still have no forthcoming events to advise you about this month, due to the Corona Virus lockdown.

\*\*\*\*\*

20th June

June is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. Sol + stice come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

\*\*\*\*\*

50 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1970 that following the Vietnam War, US troops were withdrawn from Cambodia.

\*\*\*\*\*

30 years ago, on 1 June 1990 that US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed an agreement to end the production of chemical weapons and to destroy existing stocks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Also 30 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1990 that Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, was dismantled. It remained an official crossing point between East and West Germany until re-unification in October. The guard house is now on display in a museum.

\*\*\*\*\*



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## SUBMITTED BY A SENIOR LADY

Did you know that we old folks are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs!

I have become older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old woman.

I am seeing six gentlemen - every day! As soon as I wake up, *Will Power* helps me out of bed, then I go to see *Jimmy Riddle* and then it is time for breakfast with *Mr Kellogg*, followed closely by the refreshing company of *Mr Tetley* or my other friend who I only know by his initials - *PG*! Then comes someone I don't like at all: *Arthur Itis* - he knows he is not welcome, but he insists on being here, and what is more, he stays for the rest of the day. Even then he does not like to stay in one place, so he takes me from joint to joint!

After such a hectic day I am glad to get to bed (and with *Johnny Walker*, too!) What a hectic day! Oh yes, I am now flirting with *Al Zheimer*!

The vicar came to call the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him that I did all the time. For no matter where I am, the kitchen, the sitting-room or the garden, I ask myself "Now what am I here after?"

Well I'll close now and hope that *Will Power* is your constant companion too, but do make sure that his friend *Emma Royd* does not creep up on you from behind!

And watch out for the crafty one... *Gerry Atric*!

*Courtesy of St George's, Cullercoats' magazine, and sent in by Joan Armstrong.*

## Cat's Ascension Day



*Sent in by Gillian, to give us a smile !*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **A few thoughts if you are feeling stressed, particularly during the Covid 19 pandemic.**

“God is present in the midst of all the chaos that surrounds us.”

- Henri Nouwen

“I think one of the big effects is there’s a renewal of the sense that we all belong to Christ... I’ve been deeply moved by the services I’ve participated in; they’ve reached out in a way that surprised me, and that is, I think, a sign of the work of the Spirit... we’re finding this all over the country. There are so many clergy streaming from really basic facilities, finding huge numbers of people online with them, and making a huge impact.”

– Archbishop Justin Welby

“My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word.”

- Psalm 119:28

“Enduring uncontrollable aversive events can leave us feeling trapped, unsettled and helpless... Focus on what you can control, and favour short-term goals over longer-term aims.”

– Linda Blair, clinical psychologist

“Have courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones. And when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.” – Victor Hugo, writer

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9



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Welcome to “**The Secret Life of St Alban’s and St John’s Folk**”.  
This month we have been talking with Valerie Cash, from  
St. Alban’s church.

**1) Where were you born?**

Ashbourne Avenue, Cheadle, Cheshire.

**2) What do you do during the week, when you’re not at church?**

Before Lockdown I was working part time in John Lewis as Systems Support and looking after my grandsons 1 day a week, but from 6th June I will be officially retired so will be looking for new challenges.

**3) Surprise us with one of your hobbies, or something we may not know about you**

Many years ago I qualified as a football referee.

**4) What’s your favourite book?**

Jane Eyre.

**5) What’s your least favourite food**

Liver.

**6) Tell us about somewhere interesting you’ve visited**

Probably the most exciting place I’ve visited was Chicago I felt like I was in a film set!

**7) What are you most likely to be doing on a Saturday evening?**

Having a nice meal, a glass of red and watching a good film (preferably a rom-com).

**8) What are you enjoying least about lockdown?**

I am missing visiting and hugging my 5 grandchildren so much..

**9) Sum up what being a Christian/being part of the church family means to you**

Being a Christian means never being alone and striving to be a better person. I enjoy the Sunday service for reflection and shared worship.

**10) Tell us about someone who has had a big influence on your life**

My Dad who died 16 years ago, because of his sense of humour, his beliefs, his non judgmental tolerance of other people and love of life.

*Thank you to Gillian, and to our interviewee, Valerie .*

## CHURCH VIEWS FOR JUNE 2020 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

### International Nurses' Day, May 12 2020



BBC and ITV News broadcasters took everyone by surprise when the Queen spoke on the telephone from Windsor Castle to parishioner Professor Kathleen McCourt CBE on this special day. It is believed that broadcasting a conversation between the Queen and an individual is unprecedented, a notable 'Royal first'.

Her Majesty spoke of the "very important part" that nurses are playing in this international crisis.

Nurses and midwives make up half of the global healthcare workforce, and as Head of the Commonwealth, the Queen was particularly interested to speak to Professor McCourt in her current role as President of the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation.

Speaking of International Nurses' Day, the Queen commented, "This is rather an important day because they've obviously had a very important part to play recently".

Professor McCourt, a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing, told ITV news that having such recognition meant a "tremendous amount" to nurses and "There was a genuine interest, there was a gratitude that I can offer to the rest of my nurses in the Commonwealth and also here in the UK."

Many members of the Royal family paid similar tributes in webcasts marking the day. In his video message, Prince Charles commented, "My family and I want to join in the chorus of" thank you" to nursing and midwifery staff across the country and indeed the world".

The Duchess of Cambridge spoke to nurses across the world in Australia, the Bahamas, Sierra Leone and India as well as British Army nurses in Cyprus. "I don't know how you manage to do this and keep the show on the road despite the extra pressures you're all under and the challenging conditions. You are a huge inspiration to everybody."



## Daily Masses



Although all our Churches remain closed, Mgr Andrew continues to celebrate Mass each day at 9.00am at St Edward's Church in Whitley Bay, without a congregation or servers. It can be viewed on the 'Our Lady Star of the Sea' group page on Facebook from which this image is taken. It is reassuring to know that our worship goes on and we can still enjoy a sense of community even when we cannot gather together.

### Share a Prayer

During this time of isolation, you are invited to share your favourite family and solitary prayers and practices with the rest of the parish in the parish bulletin at [parishofficeolss@btconnect.com](mailto:parishofficeolss@btconnect.com)

Although I will not be submitting this for our parish bulletin, my favourite prayer at the beginning of a working day which I suspected would be particularly frenzied, was Jacob Astley's prayer before the Battle of Edgehill in 1642. Short and heartfelt, it is simply:

"Lord, Thou knowest how busy I must be this day. If I forget Thee, do not Thou forget me."

This first Baron Astley of Reading was born in Melton Constable Hall. Some readers may be familiar with Astley and Melton Constable – historically speaking, of course.

(Gerry Latimer)



## A Covid-19 Poem

THE COVID IS RAGING  
MY LIFE IS A MESS  
I LIVE IN PYJAMAS  
AND DON'T HAVE TO DRESS  
I'M IN ISOLATION  
JUST STAYING AT HOME  
AND WOULD GIVE MY LAST DOLLAR  
TO BE FREE TO ROAM  
I'M SERIOUSLY AT RISK  
(OR THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY)  
TELLING ME TO STAY IN  
AND NOT GO OUT EACH DAY  
IN MY HEAD I'M SO YOUNG  
THOUGH MY LICENCE REVEALS  
I'M A 70-PLUS SENIOR  
(BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT FEELS!)  
WHEN I RUN OUT OF FOOD  
AND DELIVERIES ARE LATE  
I HAVE TO BUY GROCERIES  
BETWEEN 7 AND 8  
SO EARLY IN THE MORNING  
I HEAD OUT TO RESTOCK  
AND DISCOVER A LINE UP  
THAT WINDS 'ROUND THE BLOCK  
SOCIAL DISTANCING SENIORS  
ALL 6 FEET APART  
MAKE ME WONDER JUST WHEN  
I BECAME AN OLD FART  
MY MEALS ARE REPETITIVE  
(A LOT LIKE MY GAS!)  
AND I'M TIRED OF DISCUSSING  
WHY TRUMP IS AN ASS  
MY LATEST NEW OUTFIT  
IS GLOVES AND A MASK  
AND I'M STARTING TO WONDER  
IF I'M UP TO THIS TASK  
I WASH ALL MY GROCERIES  
ALL FRUIT, MEAT AND VEG.....

WILL THIS ADDITIONAL PRECAUTION  
TIP ME OVER THE EDGE?  
MY BEAUTIFUL BROWN HAIR  
HAS WIDE ROOTS OF GREY  
NO HAIRDRESSERS AROUND  
TO HELP WASH THEM AWAY  
I'VE BEEN TALKING TO MYSELF  
NOW I'M ANSWERING BACK  
IS IT MONDAY OR FRIDAY?  
I'VE REALLY LOST TRACK  
I'VE STOPPED DOING HOUSEWORK  
IT'S WEEKS SINCE I'VE DUSTED  
AND I KNOW WITHOUT VISITORS  
I'LL NEVER GET BUSTED  
I FACETIME MY FRIENDS  
OR WE GROUP CHAT ON ZOOM  
AND TRY TO PRETEND  
WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME ROOM  
THANK GOD LIQUOR STORES  
ARE CONSIDERED 'ESSENTIAL'  
WITHOUT DAILY DRINKS  
THIS WOULD DRIVE US ALL MENTAL  
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE  
IT IS GOOD TO REFLECT  
ON WHAT THIS ALL MEANS  
AND WHAT WE CAN EXPECT  
IT'S A TIME TO BE GRATEFUL  
FOR ALL THAT WE'VE GOT  
LIKE A WARM HOUSE AND FOOD  
THAT OTHERS HAVE NOT  
THE BOTTOM LINE HERE  
BY THE TIME THIS ALL ENDS  
IS THAT WE'LL GET THROUGH IT  
WITH OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
SO EVEN IF YOUR PARTNER  
IS A BIT OF A GRUMP  
YOU CAN REALLY BE GRATEFUL  
YOU'RE NOT MARRIED TO TRUMP!

*Thank you Liz York, for sending this in !*

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Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

*Thank you Cathryn, for sending this in !*

\*\*\*\*\*

“The congregation was wonderful,” said the minister after the Zoom service. “They were so polite that they even covered their mouths when they yawned.”

\*\*\*\*\*



# Earsdon Methodist Church

*Diary for June 2020*

Unfortunately we can't bring you any updates for June 2020 because of the Covid 19 lockdown.

Let's hope that normal service will be resumed fairly soon.

Every Thursday evening when we have ‘Clapped for Carers’ on our doorstep, I have wanted to give out a long whistle, but I have been dissuaded to do so by the lady of our house. She reminds me that she regularly tells me that seeing how I have inherited my father’s and my grandfather’s tuneless whistle; I must curb my inclination to pucker up and blow. Whether it’s a long two note calling whistle, or it’s what I believe to be a tune from Mozart or Dusty Springfield (both of which are favourites of mine), apparently it all sounds the same.

In my defence, I feel that a whistle is something that a man is quietly pleased to own. For me it has taken hours of practice to be able to get my lips around the sound; and many more hours developing the trills and register that I believe I now have.

However, I am told that when I am whistling in the car, to a passer-by it looks undignified ~ as though I have my mouth around an invisible straw and I am blowing instead of sucking.

I have argued that my advanced whistling skills with two fingers in my mouth is very practical, for it can stop a taxi at 50 paces and gain the attention of a friend at half a mile distant – but still my family detractor is not impressed.

I am informed that whistling is the lowest form of music – and am pointedly reminded that Mozart never included it in any of *his* Sonatas.

My one consolation is that it is impossible to be downhearted when you’re whistling – or singing for that matter - and as I am convinced that there is more good in this world than bad I am determined to express it with a tune – one way or another - but I may have to go into the greenhouse and close the door in order to do it.

I encourage you to keep cheerful in whatever way you can, for it certainly makes every day much brighter.

*Thank you Rev Wes. I love these pieces!*

# St. Alban's and St. John's



## Diary Page for June 2020

As you know, all churches are closed during the Covid 19 lockdown restrictions.

Maybe places of worship will be next to have those restrictions relaxed, but for now, St Alban's & St John's continue with an online Zoom service on Sundays, and on additional days depending on circumstances.

For example, there were two Zoom services on Ascension day, and during the week a morning service at 9.30 throughout what would have been school term time.

If you haven't already joined us and would like to, please contact Revd Tim Mayfield on 07414 601351 or email [tim.mayfield@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.mayfield@btinternet.com)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* If you have any suggestions, comments or requests \*  
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\* or call **Jean** on **0191 2377273**. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (July 2020) will need to be in before Wednesday 24th June. 2020. Thank you, *Jean*.



## Hear Our Prayers?

Lord hear our prayers, before we go to sleep,  
We ask for your blessing, our souls to keep.

We pray for our loved ones, with all our might,  
Can you send us a sign, a heavenly light?

We pray to you Lord, a lot more these days,  
There's more and more reason for us to pray,.

We're waging a war on an invisible foe,  
We're winning the war, though progress is slow.

Our faith in you Lord is strong, and we're willing,  
To keep up the good fight, which I think we are winning.

A Wish and a Prayer, do go a long way,  
To keep our enemy at arms length, and also at bay.

We pray to you Lord, for our Warriors in Blue,  
Proud, brave and unflinching, it's a cure they ensue.

They're on the front line, they're saving our lives,  
Sons, daughters, husbands and wives.

Applause on Thursday 8 o'clock at night,  
We Cheer them, Revere them, for their Valiant Fight.

They're risking their lives, to save yours and mine,  
Our victories are building, we're slowing the line.

Many victims fell, never again to be seen,  
We're looking for hope, a Cure, a Vaccine.

So listen my friends, please hear this well,  
Say A Prayer Every Day  
And This Foe We Will Quell.

*Albert John Griffiths*



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5		7			8		6	
	4			5			2	
					9	3		2
9				1				7
4		1	7					
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1				7				9

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			3	9			2	
		7	9	4		2	3	
		5	7					
							8	6

Due to lack of space in May's magazine, the Sudoku was omitted.

So this month you have two puzzles to enjoy.

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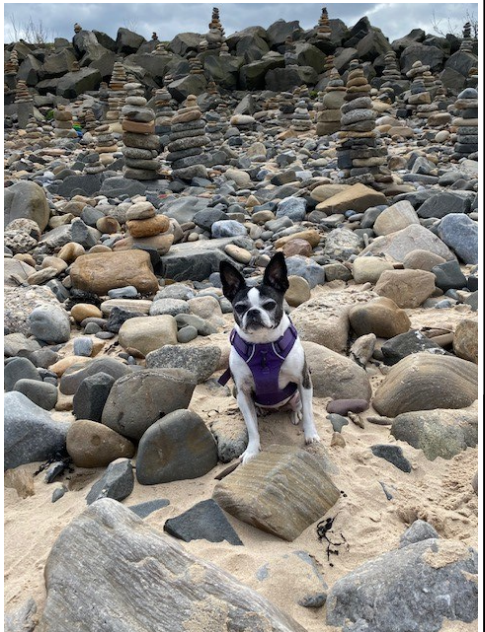
## Marti's Musings 75

I'm so pleased it's sunny! I have been spending lots of time in the garden sunbathing while mum works. She has actually been gardening! Wonders never cease! I haven't seen the garden look this good since the open gardens. Maybe we should have a socially distanced garden party?

I was so excited to go to the beach this week, I haven't been for months. The stacks of stones look great, what an interesting selection of stone cairns. I wanted to make my own pile but it wasn't very comfortable on my paws and I kept slipping. Mum took one home to paint and add to the collection in Wellfield painted by the residents. It was most significant as I used it to replace my heart of stone and was given a heart of flesh as in Ezekiel 36!

I'm still enjoying my Sunday Zoom services and I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday!

Lots of sun,  
Marti xxx



# WORDSEARCH

Coronavirus has turned our world upside down. But God is still there, and we can call on Him, as Psalm 91 (vs 1-6) reminds us...

- Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- 5 You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

- dwells
  - shelter
  - most
  - high
  - shadow
  - almighty
  - refuge
  - fortress
  - trust
  - save
  - snare
  - deadly
  - pestilence
  - cover
  - feathers
  - wings
  - faithfulness
  - shield
  - rampart
- fear
  - terror
  - night
  - arrow
  - plague
  - destroys



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