

CORONAVIRUS - LESSONS FROM AN ANCIENT PLAGUE VILLAGE

BBC- LEARNING ENGLISH

In a crisis that _____ everywhere, even the remotest places could have lessons for us all. In Eyam in Derbyshire (UK), the memory of lives lost centuries ago is motivating a response in the present.

These _____ the names of long-dead villagers who, 350 years ago, _____ infected with plague and sealed themselves off to stop the disease spreading. 260 villagers _____.

It _____ the rector, William Mompesson, who _____ his people to **isolate** and save others. Today, the rector of Eyam is himself in quarantine, as his wife has symptoms of coronavirus.

Fergal Keane, BBC reporter: Are you awed or inspired by the example of your predecessor, centuries ago?

*Reverend Mike Gilbert: Often when I _____ through church and saw his name on the rectors' board, I _____ 'I wonder what would happen if it happened today and how I would **measure up**?' and I guess I'm finding that one out now.*

Reverend Gilbert _____ on social media to direct the **parish** response.

*Reverend Mike Gilbert: Already, we' _____ lovely **acts of kindness** of people collecting things, with people supporting.*

Next door in the village school, the headmistress is preparing to send most children home. Eyam school _____ open for the children of key workers in the health and emergency services. It is in the nature of this **close-knit** place that many children have grandparents who either live with them or nearby.

The village committee _____ now _____ the elderly - like ninety-five-year-old widow Sheila Vipan.

In World War Two, Sheila was evacuated away from her parents for four years. She's known this nation's darkest hours.

Sheila Vipan: That's right. I've got to be a bit careful, at 95. Try and do things that help one to smile or to laugh even. I' _____ just _____ the birds. Yes, I must keep them happy.

Here, they' _____ determined not just to endure this crisis, but, with **humanity**, to transcend it.

Need-to-know language. MATCH:

A. Seal off (phr v)	1. feel great respect, admiration, and sometimes fear for something
B. Isolate (v)	2. a kind and caring attitude towards each other
C. measure up (v)	3. doing things for others without expecting something in return
D. parish (n)	4. keep away from other people
E. awed (adj)	5. the residents of such an area
F. acts of kindness (n)	6. prevent people from entering an area or a building
G. close-knit (adj)	7. caring for and helping each other
H. humanity (n)	8. be as good as someone else

Answer:

- A. Where is the reporter? Why is he there?
- B. How many people died in that place during the plague, 350 years ago?
- C. Who is inspiring people to keep self-isolated?
- D. How has school life changed?
- E. Who is Sheila Vipan?