

## 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 Vipran:** *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 Vipran?