

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?