

Link Magazine for St. George, Cam and St. Cyr, Stinchcombe.

(Churches within the Church of England, Gloucester Diocese)



APRIL 2020

Both churches are closed during the ongoing Covid-19 situation. We are live streaming services daily:

Sunday 9:30am – Benefice Service

Live on Zoom and Facebook

Or on YouTube from about 11am /

Listen by phone on 01453 708200 from midday

Daily Services on Facebook Live

Morning Prayer @ 9am (except Sunday)

Compline (Evening Prayer) @ 5pm

all services can also be watched later on Facebook

Bible & Prayer Meetup – Wednesday @ 7:30pm

Live Zoom meeting



www.facebook.com/StGeorgeCam/



www.youtube.com Search for St George Cam



Download zoom app and use links in church emails

Join our email list to keep in touch from the contact page on our website www.camandstinchcombe.org

Contact Details:

Vicar	The Rev'd Fiona Crocker fiona@camandstinchcombe.org.uk	01453 548343
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Diocesan Reader	Ken Hitchings	01453 543907

Table of Normal Sunday Service and Readings for MAY

Sunday	Readings for St George	Readings for St Cyr
3rd May <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30am All Age Celebration with Holy Communion <i>First Reading: Acts 2. 42-end Gospel: Luke 10. 38-42</i>	11.10am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 2. 42-end Gospel: Luke 10. 38-42</i>
10th May <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 7. 55-end Second Reading: 1 Peter 2. 2-10 Gospel: John 14. 1-14</i>	11.10am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 7. 55-end Second Reading: 1 Peter 2. 2-10 Gospel: John 14. 1-14</i>
17th May <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 17. 22-31 Second Reading: 1 Peter 3. 13- end Gospel: John 14. 15-21</i>	6pm Evensong <i>First Reading: Acts 17. 22-31 Gospel: John 14. 14-21</i>
24th May <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.30am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 1. 6-14 Gospel: John 17. 1-11</i>	11.10am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 1. 6-14 Second Reading: 1 Peter 4. 12- 14; 5. 6-11 Gospel: John 17. 1-11</i>
31st May <i>Pentecost</i>	11.10am BENEFICE SERVICE AT ST. CYR	11.10am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 2. 1-21 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12. 3b-13 Gospel: John 20. 19-23</i>

We hope that the table above will be helpful to our readers, enabling them to follow where we are in the church year and give them the opportunity to read and reflect on the readings.

Keep up to date with news from the Diocese!

Read ♠ The Messenger

which contains interesting articles

and details of events taking place in the diocese - go to:

www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/communications/

A hard copy is also posted each month

on the notice board at St George



Please note:

Our churches are closed

"Let us continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable, and build our communities, even while separated"

Monday to Saturday On Facebook Live, you can join our Benefice Morning Prayer at 9am and Compline (Evening Prayer) at 5pm daily.

On Sundays, on ZOOM and Facebook Live or by Telephone, you can join our 9.30am Benefice Service Or, view it later, on YOUTUBE after 11am. Plus At 8pm you can join Compline on Facebook Live.

If you are not on Facebook the link to this page is:

[www.facebook.com/st-george's-church-cam](https://www.facebook.com/st-george-s-church-cam)

For ZOOM Download the APP, then click on the LINK provided via a church email.

On YouTube, Search for "St George's Cam"

To listen to the Benefice Service by Telephone dial 01453-708200

Keep a look out for details of a Bible and Prayer Meet-Up on Wednesday Evenings at 7:30pm, via ZOOM or by Telephone- (Ask Fiona for the phone number to use)

Also;

Information in this magazine is correct at the time of going to press. Please keep yourself updated by keeping an eye on our Church Website, updated Government Announcements on TV etc. and the NHS Website.

Editorial:

The Curate Life in Lockdown

Curacy as a Deacon has been a year of adjustments, for me, for Louise and for James. Our house has become the curatage, the license from the Bishop means I am now answerable to the church with a new level of responsibility. This has been a time of settling into a new life which has felt rather odd. Something has changed and I not sure what it is. The transition from being a student, when I was also working full-time, to curate, still working full-time, has been difficult. And time has been the biggest issue. Working out with Fiona how to make the best use of the time I can offer has been tricky, because we'd both like it if I could do much more, now though, the time just isn't there.

The support from everyone, in both churches has been immensely humbling. The battle of taking on more than I should has been overwhelming at times, self-esteem has taken some knocks, but has been restored by the faith shown in me by everyone. This is an amazing privilege and one I take very seriously, but also with a sense of humour about

how other-worldly this vocation really is!

I've said this before, but this is the best, and the hardest, thing I've ever done.

Then, a month or so ago, everything changed. The COVID-19 virus arrived and within a few weeks, all our lives were turned upside down. I have continued working in my paid employment but from home. The company I work for are a key supplier to food and medical companies as well as hospitals, so are keeping going, for which I'm grateful.

I've also been doing more church things from home, there have been video calls, daily services, more telephone calls than ever, more e-mails. In addition, as someone moderately IT literate (but no expert!), I've taken on the Benefice website, Facebook page and set up a YouTube channel for the benefice. We're all learning new skills and I've been busier than I've known for a long time. Oddly, it feels like I'm doing more ministry now than I was before, praying online and through zoom (a conference website).

Along the way, some curate training events have been cancelled and I had my first curacy review with the Diocese through Zoom just after the

lockdown. Less auspicious, is that my first solo funeral visit was on Skype, and my first solo funeral, will be a COVID-19 person, at the graveside with just a few mourners. Something we couldn't have predicted.

At the time of writing, we don't know if the ordinations to priest will go ahead at the end of June. It looks like they may be moved. Another consideration would be whether the first communion I preside at will be online, and I'm not sure that feels right either. So right now, there are a lot of unknowns. But we all face those, these are interesting times.

Perhaps the most rewarding experience has been praying morning prayer or compline on the internet, and seeing the number of people watching with us, or watching later. It's far more than we would get in church, to the extent that our mission field, to nurture and grow disciples has changed overnight. Getting comments and knowing we are speaking to you, praying, offering a smile and a reminder of hope is another great privilege. I'm aware this is a difficult time, but also that in our God, we have a faith which abounds in joy and hope, in the Holy Spirit, we have a constant companion and in Jesus, a saviour who has gone through trials before us

and knows us and our pain. In all of these, we have an ever-present reminder of a God who loves each one of us and an assurance that even in isolation, we are never alone.

May you know the peace of God today and if you ever need to talk, please just call.

Thank you,
Andrew.

Holy Week and Easter Reflections

What follows is a selection of some of the special things provided to help us as members of our two churches together, to reflect on and share in the Easter Story during these difficult times.

Sermon by the Archbishop of Canterbury on Good Friday

Good Friday is the darkest and most difficult day in the Christian story. But it's also the day that tells us something so important: no matter what we are going through, God is with us.

On the cross, Jesus was in physical agony. He was also in spiritual and emotional agony.

He had seen his community of disciples torn apart by betrayal and cowardice. He could see his mother watching him die - is it possible to imagine her anguish? He was mocked and told he was a failure.

His sense of God the Father's presence was gone. It seemed there was no earthly or heavenly help in his hour of need. He could not call on God for help.

He was choosing to enter into the fullest hell of all - separation from his loving heavenly Father - and bearing the weight of all the wrongs of our world.

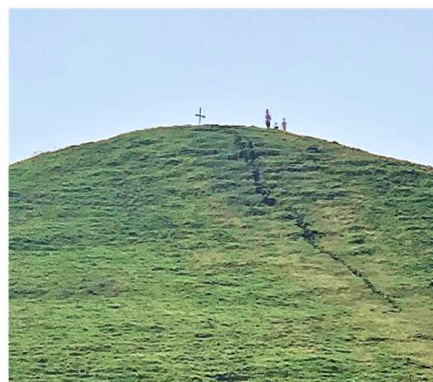
His resurrection had been promised, but it could only be taken in faith.

Right now, we are in the darkness of the coronavirus crisis. So many are suffering in bereavement, worry and illness.

But today we see the sign of our eternal hope: the faithfulness of God dying for us on the cross, and the promise of the resurrection of Christ.

Today we may call out: "Oh God, where are you?" The answer will come: "I am with you always."

The Cross on Cam Peak



Sophia's Reflection for Easter Sunday 2020

'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?' is a hymn often sung on Good Friday. It tells the Easter story from the sadness of Good Friday to the emptiness of Saturday and the joy of today, Easter Sunday. 'Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?', it goes on. 'Were you there when they pierced him in the side?' 'Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?' But then finally: 'Were you there when he rose to glorious life?'

This extraordinary Holy Week and Easter, we have surely been there. We've been there in our services, still carrying on online, due luckily to the rest of the ministry team all being much more techie than me –so many thanks Andrew, Fiona and Ken. But we've also been there – been present with Jesus - in what we have experienced during this time of global pandemic and the current lockdown. On Maundy Thursday, we recalled Jesus washing his disciples' feet in humble, loving service, and we remembered too, his companionship with his disciples as he shared the Last Supper with them. But we also paused in our worship to come together in companionship in what has

become a custom on Thursday evenings at the moment – applauding the selfless service of our health workers as they risk their own safety for the sake of patients suffering from the virus. We were there. And later perhaps we watched the news, where the cameras went inside an intensive care ward and we saw the courage and the exhaustion of doctors and nurses, giving oxygen, stopping for a few words of comfort with a patient, wearily taking off their protective equipment at the end of a long shift. They were clearly there too. Later, as we joined in the Watch, being with Jesus, alone and desolate in the Garden of Gethsemane, his friends asleep, those of us living alone or self-isolating, those of us who are fearful and anxious, those of us missing family or friends - we were all there.

As we stood at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, watching the agony of the crucified Jesus as he died a cruel death from asphyxiation, we were there. But the 30 year old man, previously fit and healthy but now fighting for breath, was there too, as was the daughter, in agony as she was prevented from being with her dying mother in hospital, and the dementia patient in the care home, unable to understand why his family could not visit him – they were there.

As we went through the emptiness, the time of waiting of Holy Saturday yesterday - waiting while Jesus lay in the tomb - we were also conscious of the waiting we are all having to do at the moment: waiting for the end of the lockdown, longing to see family again, anxious about work or money, perhaps feeling life is empty or on hold or changed. We were all there again.

But today is Easter Sunday and we're there too. We're here today to celebrate Christ's defeat of death and darkness. To look back at the way of the cross and see that it could not win over the love and life and hope of God. To be open to the new life Christ offers us. The life of Christ that cannot be contained in a tomb, cannot be held by death, breaks out, bringing new life. Easter Day changes everything. What had seemed to be utter disaster - the end of everything the disciples had hoped for from Jesus - has been shown to be just the beginning of something new that God has done, opening up new possibilities and giving us new courage. As this year we remember all those who have sadly died, and all who are ill, we need so much also to be 'there when he rose to glorious life', as the final verse of the hymn goes.

And even as we celebrate, we're aware of some of that new life starting up around us. This has been the most beautiful spring I can remember - partly because of the wonderful weather but also perhaps partly because I've had a little more time in my garden to appreciate it. And the green shoots in the garden have been echoed by green shoots in our communities, with so many people coming together to help their neighbours, to shop for the vulnerable, to ring round to make sure everyone is OK. People have talked about the paradox of getting to know the people next door better now than when they were allowed to meet in the street. All the bitterness and divisiveness of the long Brexit debate seems to have evaporated. The Queen's message, assuring us with quiet faith that this will end, that we will see our families and friends again, was another of those green shoots, as was the news that our Prime Minister is out of intensive care. The skies of Wuhan are bright and clear instead of clouded with pollution. The fight against global warming will have been helped by the cancellation of flights. There are signs that the rate of infections has slowed, and that the lockdown is working. And of course, the courage and resilience of our health workers

and other essential workers has brought us together as communities in admiration, and in recognition that serving your neighbour is one of the greatest gifts we can give.

As we are baptized into the death of Jesus, so we are also baptised into the life of the resurrection. This year, we were there in a new sense when they crucified our Lord. But we were also there when he rose to glorious life, and that life cannot be quenched. Alleluia: Christ is risen. Happy Easter.

Meeting Together via Zoom



Our clergy have been making tremendous efforts to ensure that our churches remain active during this difficult time,

providing us worship opportunities throughout the week which we can engage with on-line via Facebook Live and YouTube and Zoom. (**Note:** you can join Zoom meet ups by phone without a computer - if interested contact Andrew or Fiona)

In addition to this, they have considered our need to stay in touch with and support each other, as we would do on Sunday Mornings with refreshments following the service.

Their introduction of meetings via ZOOM has proved to be successful in bringing us together in a way that enables us to see one another and talk to each other. It takes a little practice and self-discipline to avoid speaking over one another, but I am sure we will get better with practice.

The great thing is we can see each other and so know that we are still one church together. So, thank you to those with the Tech Skills for making it possible.

I encourage you all to take part in these initiatives if you are able and so continue your participation in the life of our churches during this difficult time for us all.

Bob Robson.

Lent blog: God in the Arts

A big thank you to all those who contributed to our daily blog during Lent on the theme of 'God and the Arts'. We had a really lovely mixture of contributions looking at different art forms and some moving reflections on how the arts had helped people in their journey of faith. It was interesting to read what had inspired different people and I'm sure many of us have been introduced to new things or have been helped to see pieces of art we already knew in a new way. It was also a very cheering addition to each day at a dark time.

The whole blog is still available on the church website for anyone who missed it.

Many thanks again to everyone for such thoughtful and varied contributions.

Sophia.

A Nurse's Diary: April 2020

I am a nurse, a children's nurse. I qualified 14 years ago, and I have worked on a general children's ward, at the same hospital where I trained, ever since. We take children from

birth up until the day before their 19th birthday. We can have any number of patients, from about 12 when it's quiet, for example during the holidays, up to 70+ when its busy. There's often no rhyme or reason to patient numbers, but an average length of stay is about 48 hours.

We see a mix of surgical and medical patients, including appendicectomies, fractured arms and legs, and head injuries, as well as bronchiolitis in babies, wheeze, asthma, child protection and mental health issues.

We provide care for all children who need hospital treatment, at all hours of the day and night, every day of the year. People often assume that because its hospital, there will be a lot of death, but that's not true (at least not on a general children's ward). Children are designed to grow and that also means that they make a good, and quick, recovery, so, not nearly as much death as people fear!

Thankfully, I no longer work nightshifts (they were not my forte and my boss is very understanding!), but I am available to work every day of the year, including Christmas day and Easter Day.

Since Covid-19, people have been asking me how I am, and how is the hospital. The hospitals all sent home their patients where they could, so the wards were eerily quiet initially. However, the wards are filling up and Intensive Care is busy. The children's wards are much quieter however, to the extent where doctors are concerned that patients who still need care may be missing out because they or their carers are too anxious to attend or are unable to speak to their GP.

Our wards had a lot of cubicles so that babies could be nursed separately from each other, to protect vulnerable infants who lack their own immunity due to being so young. However, we had so few patients that our wards were requisitioned by the hospital board and we were transferred to another ward – maternity, which has also been summarily dismissed to share a ward with another maternity ward. We are now three wards squashed into two wards and still trying to isolate our patients from each other which is not easy when we have lost most of our cubicles!

Trying to work whilst wearing the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) is difficult. Without PPE, we leave ourselves wide open to any bugs that may be around.

With PPE, (which is all plastic) we get hot, sweaty and uncomfortable – almost as soon as we put it on. This combined with wards which are designed with walls of glass on the south-facing side means, as soon as the sun comes out, we are all going to melt!

Putting on and taking off the PPE is time-consuming and takes at least two of us to do it properly. This means that we need more staff than we would expect to provide the same level of care for each patient. Even when we have PPE, it often doesn't look like it would protect against anything: a small, flimsy, plastic apron against a deadly virus, it doesn't inspire confidence.

We have been greatly heartened by offers of support, Thursday clapping, gifts of Easter eggs, welfare boxes of food and toiletries for staff and patients, laundry bags and head bands for the masks which are making our ears sore.

Some say that clapping achieves nothing, but I disagree, clapping encourages people, both the community and healthcare workers and it does no harm. So, I say, carry on clapping! Chocolate and cake give us all a boost and you'd think that doctors and nurses haven't eaten for weeks

when you see them fall on goodies in the staff room. Some simple snacks such as pot noodles and breakfast cereals mean that we don't have to go out to the canteen every single time we want food, this helps to keep us all safe.

When all of this is over, I ask that you consider our readiness as an area, a country and the world to deal with our next pandemic. Do we have enough PPE, do we have the ventilators and other breathing machines, do we have the staff and the buildings to deal with the next outbreak?

Would you consider writing or talking to your councillor, Member of Parliament, Prime Minister, World Health Organisation about some of these things?

Thank you for your support,
A Nurse.

Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.'
(Mark 4:39).

What started out for the disciples as a routine trip

across the Sea of Galilee, ended up with a storm threatening to overwhelm their boat! Jesus was asleep in the boat, so little wonder they feared for their lives: *'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?'* (38).

Who would have thought two months ago that the world would be overwhelmed by the Coronavirus pandemic and our lives turned upside down! Self-isolating and self-distancing are now part of our daily vocabulary, as we live in an uncertain world. What does this story say to us in our circumstances?

Firstly, we read that Jesus calmed the storm: *'He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!''* (39). He is the Lord of the storm and holds our circumstances in His hands. We are called to trust, not fear, being assured that He is with us to protect us. *'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?'* (40). Nothing is outside of His control.

Secondly, despite the calm, the disciples were still terrified: *'They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!''* (41). Like us, the disciples were asking why Jesus, who loved them, had allowed the storm to happen!

Our circumstances provide us with an opportunity to understand more deeply who Jesus is. We can't control Him, and we don't always understand His bigger plans for us and His world. We are called to overcome fear and insecurity, by living lives of peace, faith and hope. How contagious can we be for Jesus in a stormy world?

From Parish Pump.

21st May - Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all

corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection!

Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last

few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3)

In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

From Parish Pump.

31st May - Pentecost in Jerusalem

On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for it was one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar – the 'Feast of First-Fruits', looking forward to the wheat harvest.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing

else for them to do: Jesus had died, He had risen, and He had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter'. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so, they waited – on Him, and for Him.

They were not disappointed, for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ's body here on earth.

Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world – throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. But now His Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, His body on earth.

Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the Gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome.

The Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.

From Parish Pump.



Who could you Phone to-day?

Who do you know who is isolated and may be feeling lonely? A phone call could make all the difference to their day! Talking to someone is much more personal than texting or e-mail.

So, please think about picking up the phone for a chat when you have some spare-time and brighten someone's day.

Remember some people do not have access to the internet so it is very important to keep in touch with them!

PS. If you would prefer to speak to Revd Fiona, then please do give her a ring on 01453 548343 or 07817021196.

For your prayers

Please pray for peace and justice for all people, for all affected by poverty, hunger, natural disaster and conflict, and for those who seek to help them.

Pray for all those around the world affected by Co-vid 19, those who are ill, those who

have died and their families, and those seeking solutions to control its spread and to find a vaccine and cure.

Pray for all those who are distressed by the restrictions of Lock-down and for our leaders to guide us well in these difficult times.

Pray for the mission of our churches and an increase of God's people in our parishes.

Pray for Fiona, Sophia, Andrew and Ken. For our Churchwardens and the members of our PCCs together with those recently baptised, married or bereaved.

Recent Funerals

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Derek Morrison
Shirley Coë



Churchwarden's Notes

Self-isolation does not mean a total absence of Easter. The use of YouTube for the Palm Sunday service and the use of zoom to join a St. Cyr's coffee morning keeps the church

alive. This year has certainly been different.

We hope that time at home for so many people might become more thoughtful and reflective and more prayerful. It is also a chance to see the church in action- not in our closed building but in the small acts of loving kindness we can show to others. Easter, in its truest meaning, is about sacrifice and love.

We have time to think about this and to show our gratitude for the hardworking sacrifice of all those who are working and caring in our NHS and all the support workers who are keeping our country going during this difficult time.

It has been said many times that the church is not the building but the people in it. In our small benefice, we join with the people of our community, our country and the whole world to ask God's blessing on those who are sick, bereaved or frightened and that His love may carry each of us through to the end of this crisis.

Paul Bartlett.

Anniversaries of death in MAY for St Cyr

2nd John Deere 2004
14th John Rex Wood 2010

21st Joanne Humphries 1997
24th Frances Turner 2004
28th Vera Ginn 1996
28th Lillian Summers 2002
29th Evelyn Jill Sweet 2015



Birthday Celebration in Lockdown



Irene Partridge, a much loved and valued member of the St. George's family and Mothers' Union, recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Unfortunately, the current restrictions meant that, although she received many telephone calls and flower bouquets (and one or two visitors waving from her drive-way), Irene was unable

to celebrate in quite the way she would have liked to - don't worry Irene, we'll make up for it when life returns to normal!

Foodbank

During this time of no services in Church, please can I encourage you to continue to support the Foodbank by giving into the bins at Tesco if you are shopping there or by sending a donation.

Fiona.

Thursday Social Group

We might meet on-line, keep an eye on emails.

If you do not have email speak to Alex Reeves, James Irvine or Francis Jones – Tel. 546950.

Men's Breakfast

Until further notice this meeting will be held remotely via a video/audio conferencing system called Zoom see:

(<https://us04web.zoom.us/>).

If you would like to participate in these meetings Please speak to Andrew Hill, Peter Smout Tel 542619 or Peter Ashman for more information.

Poems and Prayers etc.

MAY

'Tis the Merry Month of Ma
So what to say?
Bird songs heighten
The days lighten.
Enjoy the flowers
And leafy bowers
Company for some
But not for everyone.
Pets fill a space
For your love race
God's within you
Say prayers too.
Give thanks for all
The large and the small
The large and small
The world is strange
With a vast range

© Robinette Deere 2020

WINDOWS

What do you see
When cleaning windows?
A snapshot
Of the inside of a house
Toys in a child's bedroom
Fal de rals in others
Bliss when it's done
Peace comes again!

© Robinette Deere 2020

A POEM FOR THIS TIME

Twass late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full,

Doctors overwhelmed, no one
in school.

As winter gave way to the
promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching
peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from
the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed,
social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches
were closed.
"There won't be an Easter," the
world supposed.

"There won't be church
services, and egg hunts are
out.
No reason for new dresses
when we can't go about.

Holy Week started, as bleak as
the rest.
The world was focused on
masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year,"
it proclaimed.
"Online and at home, it just
won't be the same.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday,
the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just
would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and
nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the
people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the
world was grumbling.

"They're finding out now that
no Easter is coming.

"They're just waking up! We
know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open a
minute or two,
And then all the saints will all
cry boo-hoo.

"That noise," said the world,
"will be something to hear.
So it paused and the world put
a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming
through all the skies.
It started down low, then it
started to rise.

But the sound wasn't
depressed.
Why, this sound was
triumphant!
It couldn't be so!
But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around,
popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was
a shocking surprise!

Every saint in every nation, the
tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite
of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from
coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just
the same!

And the world with its life quite
stuck in quarantine

Stood puzzling and puzzling.
"Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it
came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts,
cantatas, or money.

Then the world thought of
something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought,
"doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means
a little bit more.

And what happened then?
Well...the story's not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing
hope in this night?
Will you share the source of
your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but
so is the tomb,
And Jesus is victor over death,
doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this
be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all
around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it
looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is
not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in
Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a
time of dejection.

May 2020 be known as the
year of survival,

But not only that - Let it start a
revival.

*SGKIDS & R.E.Source
Children's & Family Leader, Holy Trinity
Church*

PRAYERS IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS

*Continuing with our need to
pray more in these
extraordinary times and
hearing how the prayer leaflets
were so well received, in this
edition of the magazine, we
have given some other prayers
for you to use and adapt.*

*Thank you for all your prayers
and know that the Lord hears
the cries of our heart, whether
they get articulated into spoken
prayer or not.*

A Personal prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to
your disciples, 'I am with you
always'. Be with me today, as I
offer myself to you. Hear my
prayers for others and for
myself and keep me in your
care.

Amen.

Other Prayers

Keep us, good Lord, under the
shadow of your mercy in this
time of uncertainty and
distress.

Sustain and support the
anxious and fearful, and lift up
all who are brought low; that

we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake.

Amen.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.

Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer with a child 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.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care
for all creation, but the world
feels strange right now. The
news is full of stories about
Coronavirus. Some people are
worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their
family and friends. Be with
them and help them to find
peace.

We pray for the doctors and
nurses and scientists, and all
who are working to discover
the right medicines to help
those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these
anxious times, you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you
and keep us safe.

Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with
me.

You are with me in the day and
in the night.

You are with me when I'm
happy and when I'm sad.

You are with me when I'm
healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am
peaceful and when I am
worried.

Today I am feeling (*name how
you are feeling*) because
(*reasons you are feeling this
way*).

Help me to remember that you
love me and are with me in

everything today.

Amen.

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love,
would keep

Your watch around us while we
sleep.

Tonight we pray especially for
(*names family or friends who
are affected by Coronavirus*)
and the people of (*country or
place which is affected by
Coronavirus*).

Please give skill and wisdom to
all who are caring for them.

Amen.

Before going to sleep

God our Father, by whose
mercy the world turns safely
into darkness and returns again
to light: we place in your hands
our unfinished tasks, our
unsolved problems, and our
unfulfilled hopes, knowing that
only what you bless will
prosper.

To your love and protection
we commit each other and all
those we love, knowing that
you alone are our sure
defender, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

From the Church of South India



The twins had been doing Messy Church at home.



Our church warden is not letting people into the church just now