

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need To Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Link for this week's service: https://youtu.be/4_LFaexenBw

READINGS FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 116: 1 - 8

- 1 I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my supplication;
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him.
- 2 The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of hell took hold of me;
by grief and sorrow was I held.
- 3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the simple;
I was brought very low and he saved me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul,
for the Lord has been gracious to you.
- 7 For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.
- 8 I will walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.

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Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14-end

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

New Testament Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'

³⁸ Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.'

⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.'

⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24: 13 – 35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,

¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.

¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?'

¹⁹ He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,

²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.'

²⁵ Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?'

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.

²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

³² They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'

³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

³⁴ They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!'

³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Last year a friend of ours had surgery to correct a problem with her hip that caused her to walk with a distinctive gait. I remember her husband saying how much he and his wife hoped for a good outcome from the operation. The only downside, he told me, is that if it works, I won't be able to instantly recognise her in a crowd.

In today's reading from John's Gospel we find two of Jesus' followers walking the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus on that first Easter Sunday. In his Gospel, Luke tells us that it was about seven miles, roughly three hours walk at a steady pace. Cleopas and his companion were not part of Jesus' inner circle; we have not heard of them before and we will not hear of them again. They had obviously been close enough to hear that the women who visited the tomb had found it empty and reported having seen a vision of angels who told them that Jesus was alive. They knew that some of the disciples had gone and verified that the tomb was empty. It is pointless to speculate why these two had decided to leave Jerusalem and return home, but they left behind a fraught and suspenseful situation.

Now, as they walked along the road deep in discussion, they were joined by a man who seemed unusually interested in their conversation. We are told that it was

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Jesus, but that they were kept from recognising him. I am sure all of us would love to have been able to eavesdrop on that conversation; hear Jesus expound the scriptures and gently remind Cleopas and his companion of all the things he had predicted would happen. Hear him remind them of what he had told them before he died, that the path to redemption lay through the suffering of the Messiah.

As their journey, and the day, ended Jesus made to continue along the road, but the two men invited him to stay with them. Was this simply Eastern hospitality, or because they did not want the conversation to end? It was while they were eating together that Jesus did something so familiar, something that he must have done countless times before when they were with him. He took bread, blessed it and gave it to them. It was through those simple actions, most recently performed at the last supper, that Cleopas and his companion recognised that the stranger was Jesus. No wonder that when he vanished, they rushed back to Jerusalem where they gave their own testimony and joined the excitement at the resurrection of Jesus.

John's Gospel, like the other three were written years later when Jesus was no longer physically present with his followers. The majority of them had never met him and, like us, would probably not recognise him in a crowd. Cleopas and his companion were immensely privileged to be granted one of the few recorded resurrection appearances. I sometimes reflect on why Jesus chose them of all people. They were not part of his hand-picked inner circle who would go on to become apostles and take the good news of the gospel to the far corners of the known world. They were walking away from the centre of the action, turning their backs on the situation in Jerusalem. Perhaps the news of the resurrection was just too scary and improbable to warrant their hanging around to find out more. Why then did Jesus choose them for such an intimate and personal encounter?

Perhaps it was because they were like us, not theological heavyweights or great heroes of the faith, but everyday followers of Jesus who are easily discouraged and bewildered by events around us. They had set their hope on Jesus being the Messiah. When Jesus walked with them, initially they did not recognise him. Recognition came gradually, first as Jesus opened the scriptures to them. ³²They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' Second, recognition came as Jesus broke bread, blessed it and gave it to them.

At the moment we cannot join together and break bread at Holy Communion, but we can take time to study the scriptures. Both these are ways by which the Holy Spirit enables us to recognise Jesus as Saviour, our faith is strengthened and we are enabled to walk the road before us. As we do we can be confident that Jesus is with us, just as he was on the road to Emmaus.

Philip

HYMN: REJOICE! THE LORD IS KING

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Rejoice, the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing
And triumph evermore:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus, the Saviour reigns,
The God of truth and love:
When He had purged our stains
He took His seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n:

He sits at God's right hand
Till all His foes submit,
And bow to His command,
And fall beneath His feet:

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
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PRAYER

Collect for Third Sunday of Easter:

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Storytelling Service for 26 April 2020 3rd Sunday of Easter

The link for the service is: <https://youtu.be/5R24ut2XLRg>

Please note this link will not work until Sunday 26th April.

One More Step Along the World I Go

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PXV3dwaeNU>

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go,
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with You.
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with You.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn.
And the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.
And it's from the old....

As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know.
And it's from the old....

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving, though the world is tough.
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with You.
And it's from the old....

You are older than the world can be.
You are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.
And it's from the old....

Today's Story is:

The Road to Emmaus <https://youtu.be/5R24ut2XLRg>



Wake Up

Wake up, stand up, cheer up, sing up.
Sing up and be happy as we praise the Lord.
Wake up, stand up, cheer up, sing up.
Sing up and be happy as we praise the Lord.

Steve Morgan-Gurr

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Father Abraham

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
Right arm!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot,
Nod your head!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot,
Nod your head, turn around!

Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you
So let's all praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot,
Nod your head, turn around, sit down!

Closing prayer.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

This is one of our favourite songs. You can become quite dizzy if you do all the actions adding each one verse by verse. I decided this version may be the best of the bunch but try others if you wish. Skip the ad.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5o_J30x6E6s

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Ideas for Craft

I have found lots of ideas on Pinterest this week. The one below is from ministry2kidz.com.



Prayer suggestion from Bishop Kieth:

PRAYER FOCUS DURING THE COVID 19 CRISIS

Take **one hand** and look at:

Your thumb-pray for your church community and family.

Your first finger-pray for the NHS and those medical researchers looking for a vaccine.

Your second finger-pray for the Government and all those making tough decisions.

Your third finger-pray for those in care homes and working with the most vulnerable in our communities.

Your little finger-pray for yourself and those known to you.

Take **the other hand** and read out loud

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience” (Colossians 3:12) and let your thumb and each finger represent one of these “clothes” we are to put on.

Thumb-Compassion
First Finger-Kindness
Second finger-Humility
Third finger-Meekness
Little finger-Patience



When you pray, put your hands together and let the “clothing” of one hand touch the people and places in the other and see what God does!

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

NOTICES

Coffee and Chat

We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting every Wednesday morning from 11.00 am.

Topic: Coffee and Chat

Time: 11.00 am each Wednesday.

Meeting ID: 777 1980 5127

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77719805127?pwd=VTFEWmdWNVBwdStKemxxRUIBK2dwQT09>

Contact Patricia for the password on 01565 830595
or email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com

Magazine

We are sending the Magazines out by pdf week commencing 26th April. It is a special United Benefice Edition with contributions from all the parishes. If you do not receive it then we don't have your email address on our magazine list. If your neighbours would like to receive it please forward it to them or ask them to send their email address and house address to Patricia on pmrobinson51@gmail.com.

We will continue the magazine in this form until we are able to return to paper ones. **Please send in interesting news and pieces for the next magazine** to your usual Editors who will work to put the June magazine together for us.

We have put in the advertisements of firms who are able to work. Please support our advertisers as and when you can to help them through this difficult time.

Join the Prayer Chain:

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let her know.

Chris Stanisstreet Tel: 01925 755559; Mobile 07918 981 723;
Email: stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Access to services:

While self-isolating or in the current situation of cancelled services it is still possible to access services using the radio or internet, eg:

- Daily Service on Radio 4 long wave at 9.45am Monday to Friday
- Sunday Worship on Radio 4 at 8.10am on Sunday morning
Sunday Morning Service on BBC1 but the time seems to vary.
Songs of Praise at around 13.15 each Sunday lunchtime.
- Church of England website www.churchofengland.org – if you click on the purple box: “Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for churches” you will be able to access various on-line services and other resources
- Premier Christian Radio (on-line station), website: www.premierchristianradio.com

THANK YOU

The Treasurers would like to thank all those who have sent in an offering. This is very helpful as we still have to pay the bills for each of our churches even though we are not able to use the buildings at the moment.

The best way to give is by direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. Better still, if you are able, because your income is not affected, please set up a monthly direct debit.

St Mary's Treasurer: Mr Christopher Tetlow Tel: 0161 928 2137

St John's Treasurer: Nick Whimpany Tel: 07905 741969

Holy Trinity Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Girardier: Tel: 01925 754 717

St Paul's Treasurer: Judy Hancock Tel: 01565 733246

If your income has been affected by the current situation, please do not worry about giving to the Church just now.

Morning and Night Prayer

If you would like to join with us, we are saying Morning Prayer at 9.00am Monday to Saturday and Night Prayer at 9.00pm Monday to Saturday. Whenever you are able, why not say it at the same time as we do, then we will be joining together in prayer and worship.

If anyone does not yet have access to the “Worship at Home” booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Monday 27th April: Psalm 96 or Psalm 30; Exodus Ch 19; Luke 1: 1-25.

Tuesday 28th April: Psalm 98 or Psalm 36; Exodus 20: 1-21; Luke 1: 26-38.

Wednesday 29th April: Psalm 105 or Psalm 34; Exodus Ch 24; Luke 1: 39-56.

Thursday 30th April: Psalm 136 or Psalm 37; Exodus 25: 1-22; Luke 1: 57-end.

Friday 1st May: **Philip & James**, Apostles: Psalm 139; Proverbs 4: 10-18;

James 1: 1-12.

Saturday 2nd May: Psalm 110 or Psalm 42; Exodus 29: 1-9; Luke 2:21-40.

Night Prayer Easter Season

Psalm 104:1, 21 – 33

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

²¹ You appointed the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows the time for its setting.

²² You make darkness that it may be night,
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

²³ The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.

²⁴ The sun rises and they are gone
to lay themselves down in their dens.

²⁵ People go forth to their work
and to their labour until the evening.

²⁶ O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁷ There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

²⁸ There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.

²⁹ All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.

³⁰ When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.

³¹ When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.

³² When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

³³ May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

News and Prayer Update for 26th April

Short Reading

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night; they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:4,5

Bishop Keith is encouraging us all to join together as a diocese every Sunday at 8pm by placing a lit candle in one of our windows and praying for the diocese and our nation.