

News and Prayer Update for 10th May

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.



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Link for this week's service: <https://youtu.be/68iiVtDpSQ>

READINGS FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold;
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.
- 4 Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

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New Testament Reading: Acts 7: 55-end

- ⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'
- ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.
- ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.
- ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'
- ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Gospel Reading: John 14: 1-14

- ¹ 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.
- ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
- ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.
- ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

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⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'

⁶ Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'

⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?''

¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

In our reading today we hear Jesus teach his disciples that "Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do." The gospels tell us that what Jesus did was to love and serve those in need – our neighbours – those who live immediately around us, those who live a little further away and those who live across the globe.

Today we are expecting to hear about the easing of the restrictions put in place to limit the spread of Covid 19 – all of which have had a huge social and economic impact.

But in developing countries the impact is just beginning.

Although there has been significant impact on us – it's hard to imagine what it will be like for those in the developing world.

To try and do so, let's think about some of the things that have become part of our lives over the last few weeks:

I'm sure many of you are outside each Thursday evening at 8.00 pm to applaud NHS / care staff / ambulance drivers and other frontline workers.

We have a health service service to "protect".

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Imagine if there is no health service; no PPE; no ventilators, few medical staff – as is the case in so many of the world's poorest countries.

And do you remember - at the start of the crisis - the instructions on proper handwashing; soap and hot water for two full minutes – sing “Happy Birthday” twice or say the Lord's Prayer once.

Imagine though, if you have no running water; imagine if soap is such a rare & precious commodity that most families cannot afford it; imagine if you share your toilet with not a few people but tens or even hundreds as so many do in refugee camps.

Here, some people are “shielded / socially isolated” from all contact with others to protect them and all of us encouraged to socially distance from each other – that's fine if your home is safe and comfortable, there is only immediate family sharing the space.

But imagine if there are twenty people all sharing a small two-room home as there are in so many shanty towns across the world.

This is the situation facing millions in OUR world.

This global crisis is impacting on everyone – “we're all in it together” is what the slogan says – but we're not all equally affected by it.

You will all know how badly all charities have been affected by the lockdown. We are grateful that our government is going to provide extra financial support for charities and the developing world - but it will not even scratch the surface of the shortfall for most of them including Christian Aid who usually raise millions of pounds during Christian Aid week.

As Christians our calling is to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves – those neighbours who are near and those who are far away.

We should be caring for ourselves; we should be doing all we can to look after our immediate neighbours as well as supporting those in adjacent areas such as Warrington and Knutsford.

Supporting Christian Aid week, is one way in which we can support those who are our neighbours even though they live thousands of miles away and though we will never see their faces or hear their voices.

We are encouraging everyone in our churches to donate whatever we can to Christian Aid – and the easiest way is to do it online. There is further information and a link from the church website.

As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. I'm sure that all of you have already shown incredible kindness to your near neighbours in many and diverse ways. Now is the time during Christian Aid week to reach out to your neighbours who are further away from your home.

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Collect

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

HYMN: When I Needed A Neighbour Sydney B. Carter

When I needed a neighbour, Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, Were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, Were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

When I needed a shelter, Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

When I needed a healer, Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?

Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there
Wherever you travel, I'll be there
And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
I'll be there

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United Benefice

STORYTELLING SERVICE

https://youtu.be/uWcHP_6Uk&k

Jesus is King

Jesus is King, and I will extol him,
give him the glory and honour his name.
he reigns on high, enthroned in the heavens,
Word of the Father, exalted for us.

We come to him, our Priest and Apostle,
clothed in his glory and bearing his name,
laying our lives with gladness before him;
filled with his Spirit we worship the King.

O Holy One, our hearts do adore you;
thrilled with your goodness we give you our
praise,
Angels in light with worship surround him,
Jesus, our Saviour, for ever the same.

Wendy Churchill

Today's story is - The Ascension

Jesus Love Is Very Wonderful

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaMVjO_GruA

Jesus love is very wonderful x 3
Oh, wonderful love.

So high, you can't get over it,
So low, you can't under it,
So wide, you can't get round it,
Oh, wonderful love.

Jesus love is very wonderful x3
Oh, wonderful love.

Words - H.W.Rattle
Music arrangement - Scripture Union 1971

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He's Got the Whole World In His Hands

He's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole wide world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands
Refrain

He's got the little tiny baby in his hands (x3)
He's got the whole world in his hands
Refrain

He's got everyone of us in his hands (x3)
He's got the whole world in his hands
Refrain

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Closing prayer.

**Ascended Christ, present at all times and in all places, makes us brave in following your way and reign as king in our hearts, for your love's sake.
Amen.**

Ideas for Craft

We searched 'Ascension Craft Ideas' and came up with lots. Pinterest is good. Follow this link <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/73887250113626170/> If you have string, paper, cotton wool and glue you should be okay!

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PRAYER

Christian Aid week blessing

May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory. May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling. May God bless us with courage at this critical hour. And may the blessing of God, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, rest upon us and on all creation, this day and for the future to come. Amen

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!

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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

Password: 2v8UVT

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

(You can register for free at Zoom.us.)

Contact Patricia for more details if you wish on 01565 830595

or email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com

Magazine

The Magazine was sent out by pdf during the first week in May and you should by now have received yours. It is a special United benefice Edition with contributions from all the parishes. If you have not received it, then we probably don't have your email address on our magazine list, so please let us know. If your neighbours would like to receive it, please send the 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

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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
- 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

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.

You may be wondering how we can donate funds for the vital work of Christian Aid while we are in lockdown. Please do send in anything you collected during Lent. Money can be paid online. If you aren't able to do that then keep your collection until you are able to pay it in at a bank or eventually bring it to Church (the first two options are the most helpful).

Go to the Christian Aid Website to find out how you can donate this year.

www.christianaid.org.uk

This work is even more important at the moment because the poorer countries and people are hit hardest by the current crisis.

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.

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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.

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 11th May: Psalm 145; Numbers 9:15-end; 10:33-end; Luke 4:38-end

Tuesday 12th May: Psalm 19; Numbers 11:1-33; Luke 5: 1-11

Wednesday 13th May: Psalm 30; Numbers Chapter 12; Luke 5: 12-26

Thursday 14th May: Psalm 57; Numbers 13:1-3,17-end; Luke 5: 27-end

Friday 15th May: Psalm 138; Numbers 14: 1-25; Luke 6: 1-11

Saturday 16th May: Psalm 146; Numbers 14: 26-end; Luke 6: 12-26

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.

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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;

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.