

News and Prayer Update for 17th 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/ fFex3YmRAY](https://youtu.be/fFex3YmRAY)

READINGS FOR SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm: Psalm 66: 7-end

- 7 Bless our God, O you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
8 Who holds our souls in life
and suffers not our feet to slip.
9 For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
10 You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.
12 I will come into your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows,
which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
13 I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices
with the smoke of rams;
I will sacrifice oxen and goats.
14 Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.
15 I called out to him with my mouth
and his praise was on my tongue.
16 If I had nursed evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me,
17 But in truth God has heard me;
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

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New Testament Reading: Acts 17: 22-31

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.

²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

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²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,
²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us.
²⁸ For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”
²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

¹⁵ ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.
¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
¹⁸ ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.
²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Within the space of a week we recently experienced two significant commemorations, the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Both anniversaries have connections to conflict, because the influence Florence Nightingale had in the professionalising of nursing came about through her ground-breaking work managing and training nurses to look after soldiers wounded during the Crimean War. Most recently her name lives on through the Nightingale Hospitals set up by the government in various cities to ensure the extra capacity that might be needed to treat those affected by the coronavirus. Creating them was a sensible precaution but thankfully one that has not been needed.

As we know all too well through the recent focus on the public celebrations of VE Day, the war was won through the considerable sacrifices made by people, both those in the military and civilians, in this country and around the world. One of those sacrifices involved the surrender of many of the personal freedoms enjoyed during peacetime. Discipline was essential, whether obeying rules and regulations or heeding the many exhortations that appeared on posters throughout the war. Dig for Victory – Careless Talk Costs Lives – Is Your Journey Really Necessary – We Want Your Kitchen Waste – Make Do and Mend – all were successful in persuading people to do their best for the war effort. Florence Nightingale introduced discipline into nursing as well. She knew that a return to health depended on following rules on hygiene and routine, as well as what we would now refer to as a holistic approach to the patient.

As the coronavirus epidemic unfolds, the government has evoked the wartime spirit that sustained our nation through the dark years of conflict. With the slogans, Stay at Home – Save the NHS – Save lives, and most recently, Stay Alert – Control the Virus – Save Lives, we are being exhorted to be disciplined in the way we live our lives. We are being encouraged to put the wellbeing of others before the inconveniences we are experiencing. Living as I do in an attractive village and in the midst of a spell of very good weather, it has been upsetting to see the way in which people from well outside the area have travelled to Rostherne in contravention of the government guidelines, and how they often ignore the rules on social distancing. We have had to put up posters on the entrances to the churchyard asking people to respect the needs of local people and behave responsibly.

Jesus told his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments'. Does this introduce into being a Christian a book of rules that we must follow if we are to be true disciples of our Saviour? The words ascribed to St Augustine, 'Love God and do as you please', are sometimes quoted in this respect. Of course, the great theologian had no intention of claiming that if you love God you can do anything you want. Rather that if you love God then you will live your life to please him, and that will automatically involve obeying his commands. Augustine actually said, 'Love, and do what you will'. God is not mentioned, but that hardly matters because as John reminds us in the words from his First Letter that introduce the marriage service, 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them'. If we love God, then we will not need to consult the Sermon on the Mount or any of Jesus' other teachings. We will automatically do what is right, and in my view that includes

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following the advice of the government about how to behave during the present epidemic. Saving lives, at whatever cost to our convenience, is the litmus test of whether we love our neighbour as ourselves, and ultimately of how much we love the God who we worship this morning.

Revd Philip

Collect for Sixth Sunday of Easter:

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
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.

HYMN: Loves Divine All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down:
fix in us Your humble dwelling,
all Your faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, You are all compassion,
pure, unbounded love You are;
visit us with Your salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all Your grace received;
suddenly return, and never,
never more Your temples leave.

You we would be always blessing,
serve You are Your hosts above,
pray, and praise You without ceasing,
glory in Your perfect love.

Finish then Your new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see Your great salvation,
perfectly restored in You:

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Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before You,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley

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PRAYER

INTERCESSION (Set A) from Church of England website:

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, especially the mentally ill,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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The UK Blessing

Perhaps many of you will have seen this by now, but if not you will find it at this link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl3mNj5U>

Then listen to this interview from Premier Radio with Tim Hughes from Gas Street Church Birmingham about The UK Blessing. Think about what you hear and pray about what will happen and how the church in this country will be shaped in the future.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlC6C4pLmco&feature=emb_rel_end

NOTICES

41st Bishop of Chester

We hope you have heard during the last week about the appointment of our new Diocesan Bishop who is the Right Reverend Mark Tanner, currently the Bishop of Berwick-Upon-Tweed in the Diocese of Newcastle.

There is a lot of information on the Diocesan Website:

[www.https://chester.anglican.org](https://chester.anglican.org) and you can listen to Bishop Mark there and some people from this diocese welcoming him to Chester. Bishop Mark was ordained in Chester Cathedral and was a curate in this diocese before going on to other posts.

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

Coffee After the Service from Next Sunday 24th May

There will be a Zoom link in next week's Update so that you can join us for coffee "after the service". Make your drink, get your biscuits, and click on the link to join us for coffee and a catch up.

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Magazine

The Magazine was sent out by pdf during the last week in April 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

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

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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.

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:

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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 18th May: Psalm 65; Numbers 16: 1-35; Luke 6: 27-38

Tuesday 19th May: Psalm 126; Numbers 16: 36-end; Luke 6:39-end

Wednesday 20th May: Psalm 132; Numbers 17: 1-11; Luke 7: 1-10

Thursday 21st May: **Ascension Day**: Psalm 93; Acts 1: 1-11; Luke 24: 44-end

Friday 22nd May: Psalm 81; Numbers 20:1-13; Luke 7: 11-17

Saturday 23rd May: Psalm 47; Numbers 21: 4-9; Luke 7: 18-35

Night Prayer – for the Easter Season (This ends on Ascension Day)

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;

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

Night Prayer - from the day after Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost

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(Please use this from Friday 22nd May)

Psalm 86

¹ Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and in misery.

² Preserve my soul, for I am faithful;
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.

³ Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God;
I call upon you all the day long.

⁴ Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

⁵ For you, Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

⁶ Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer
and listen to the voice of my supplication.

⁷ In the day of my distress I will call upon you,
for you will answer me.

⁸ Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord,
nor any works like yours.

⁹ All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.

¹⁰ For you are great and do wonderful things;
you alone are God.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

¹² I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore;

¹³ For great is your steadfast love towards me,
for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

¹⁴ O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.

¹⁵ But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷ Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

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Short Reading

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.
The old shall dream dreams and the young shall see visions. *Joel 2:28*

Blessing

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May the Holy Spirit of God bless and sanctify us so that we may be consecrated in the truth.

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.