

**Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'**



**This week's news
for St George's, Tuffley
with St Margaret's, Whaddon
24- April – 1 May 2020**

Dearly loved worshipping family

Today we celebrate St George the warrior and martyr. We pray for strength and persistence to 'fight the good fight' against our unseen enemy the coronavirus; to persevere until we prevail and the virus is defeated. How? By keeping ourselves and everyone safe and protecting our health and care services.

We've been asking 'Where is Jesus today?' One answer of course is: 'Right here among us'. So let's live consciously and confidently as 'Christians' – those with Christ within – sharing His care and compassion, and so being true neighbours to all God's creation.

Enjoy the worship together, at home.

God bless you Bruce



Shouldn't you still be in isolation / hibernation?

Hope in Tuffley

This weekend we would have welcomed Bishop Robert and a bundle of Curates as 'Partners in Mission' to help us build our confidence in sharing and living our faith stories. Instead, **this weekend please pray** for us all to grow more ready and keen to tell of what we see and believe God is doing round here!

Know someone who:

- ❖ Is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ Can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

Contact **Gloucestershire Community Help Hub**
on 01452 583519.

IDEAS! Special Things to do this week:

- ❖ Keep looking out for neighbours; lend them a hand or just spend time having a chat
- ❖ Borrow a good book (some are new) from Sarah's church library – in vicarage porch (we can deliver)
- ❖ Pray regularly for the Coronavirus. You can find some prayers [here](#) and [here](#) (also in vicarage)
- ❖ Write a poem about Tuffley or the Church
- ❖ Read advice on how to [combat loneliness](#) (also copies in vicarage porch)
- ❖ Show your gratitude to someone who's caring for others or working for the community
- ❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank** to vicarage
- ❖ Listen to resources such as
 - ❖ the Radio 4 Sunday service 8.10am;
 - ❖ BBCI Songs of Praise Sunday 1.15pm,
 - ❖ others on DAB Radio, Freeview TV, I-Player; including 'Premier Radio'
- ❖ Enjoy Christian resources on your CD or DVD player; ring Pete & Lorraine Best on 01452 419189
- ❖ Explore some of the Christian resources now available on the internet via *Youtube*
- ❖ If you have an I-pad: use your 'App store' to download 'Vision TV UK' app and explore links to some of the Christian resources

GRH has a new '**Patient Support Hub**' while families are unable to visit. They can print and deliver emails and photos; and they can sort out everything from toothbrushes to laundry. If you know of anyone in hospital, please let them know: 0800 019 3282.



*We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.
We are your people God, giving and loving,
wherever we are, whatever it costs
For as long as it takes wherever you call us.
Barbara Glasson President of the Methodist Conference*

OUR PRAYER COLUMN

[thanks this week to Derek Kingscote]

We know that the disciples felt bereft and anxious on their journey to Emmaus right up until the point when Jesus broke the bread. In these times it is quite normal to be anxious with concern for ourselves, our friends and our families. The prayers today will aim to help with that anxiety.



Dear God, we come before You to lay our panic and anxiety at Your feet. When we're crushed by our fears and worries, remind us of Your power and Your grace. Fill us with Your peace as we trust in You and You alone. We know that we can't beat this on our own, but we also know that we have You, Lord, and You have already paid the ultimate price to carry our burdens. For this we praise and thank you, Amen.

Lord, during this time of lockdown, we find it difficult, and distressing, unable to be with our friends, and comfort them. O Lord, our friends are very special; they mean so much to us. We've walked together for so long, and couldn't be any closer; but in these times of lockdown we seem so very far apart. Help them reach us or us to reach them with a simple comforting call on the telephone. May they know our love and care and that they can depend on us and similarly Lord, may we know your love and care and that we can depend on you. Amen

O Lord, you are our Saviour and our strength when we are weak. Your light is hope within our hearts. When the day is bleak O Lord, we put our faith and trust in you. Amen

God will calm all your fears. For the Lord your God is living among you.

We're all invited to join a round-the-clock prayer rota for GRH. See <https://www.stcatharine.org.uk>

IN MEMORIAM:

Marion Lane, Jenny Perry, Terrence Raybould, Josephine Beard, June Addis, Bill Dowdeswell RIP

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:

Don Clift, Derek Bodimeade, Maureen Bell, Baby Ralph Dre-Pritchard, Hannah Crumpler, Ruby Grech, Norman Cowley, William Richardson, Peter Johnson, Daphne Steer, Wally Jenkins, Lorraine Edwards, Ronald Dennis, Gladys Mitchell, Wendy Gillard, Alan Trenfield, Alan Smith.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Jayne Close 26th, Derek & Sarah Kingscote celebrate a wedding anniversary on 1 May.

A new local service delivering **food parcels** free for people temporarily hard-up for whatever reason during the pandemic: just ring Maxine King at Tuffley IncrEDIBLES' on 07715 457051.

VERSE FOR THE WEEK: *Then their hearts were opened and they recognised Jesus (Luke 24:30)*

Think of Africa. Two years ago we twinned with



three toilets. Now we'd like to twin with a Tap!!! As we're washing our hands more often, can we think about those people in villages without running water, and collect £60 to

provide a tap alongside training in hygiene? In this way we can help our 'neighbour' to combat Coronavirus. Just pop your donation in an envelope clearly marked, through the vicarage main-door letterbox, **by 3 May**. Many Thanks!

Crossroads Magazines for May are now available in vicarage porch for collection. If you can't collect, let the office know and we can arrange to deliver.

Purposeful Exercise: anyone like to **deliver some Messy Church letters**, or **weekly news sheets** during your daily walk? Tell Bruce or Helen, and we'll bring you a bundle. Thanks!

One-Minute Silence this Tuesday 11am



Please join in, to remember the health and care workers who've died from the virus, and all who mourn their loss.

CONTACTING US:

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The Administration office is not open until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic) and Grange (Baptist).

Worshipping at home together

26 April 2020
St George's Sunday

Walking in God's way

An outline order of service:

We light a candle...

We sing [Fight the good fight](#)

[If you're reading this online,
you can follow the hymn with a click, or
ctrl-click, on the title]



We follow our St George's Easter Liturgy [booklet](#) as we watch the first six minutes of the [video](#) or DVD.
Or watch the [St Margaret's](#) service.

Prayer for Today

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Readings

I Peter I Holy Living

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.

¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Prayer: Father, you have redeemed us through the blood of your dear Son. By our love and service to others, may we show our love and thanks to you. Amen.

Psalm 116 Thanksgiving for recovery

If there are two people sharing worship at home, you may like to read alternate verses.

- ¹ I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
- ² Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- ³ The snares of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me; I suffered distress and anguish.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"
- ⁵ Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
- ⁶ The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.
- ⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

*As we walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
Help us to call upon your name,
and to raise the cup of salvation,
proclaiming your death, O Lord,
until you come in glory. Amen*

Gospel

[You can also [listen](#) to the Gospel reading online]

Luke 24 The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Later on the Sunday when the women had found the tomb empty, two of Jesus' disciples 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 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 as 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. 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 Jesus 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.

Prayer: Walk with us and stay with us, Lord Jesus. Open our eyes, that we may recognise you, even in our disappointments and our fears. Amen



Supper at Emmaus (Caravaggio, 1606)

Short Sermon from Jonathan

[you can also [listen](#) to the sermon and hymn online]

When all is said and done, what do you **really** want? Health? Peace of mind? Wisdom? Security....? All sensible things to want: certainly more sensible than money, or a world cruise.

As a Christian, perhaps like me you crave a “closer walk with God” as the hymn-writer put it. A deeper relationship of prayer, the ability to hear God’s voice in the stillness, and in the scriptures.

But in a busy world, the prayer and stillness compete for our time amid the roller coaster ride through the ups and downs of life. Maybe the change of pace brought about by this virus crisis will give us more time for the things which really matter: I hope so.

The companions on the Emmaus road had a two hour walk ahead of them. Their mood was one of gloom and bitterly dashed hopes. In a short week they had gone from elation to despair; the Lord they loved had been condemned and suffered an unspeakable death. And now this weird story from the women that Jesus was alive, but the men hadn’t seen him. What was it all about? The companions had so much to talk over, but nothing in the way of good news.

Jesus walked with them and somehow everything began to drop into place, as he opened their minds to the scriptures they knew so well, but had never pieced together. Their hearts ‘burned within them’ (what a wonderful expression). And when they reached their journey’s end, it was the companions who urged Jesus to stay. Jesus does not enter uninvited. It is for us to want him to come inside, and we must open the door. So they welcomed him, and at last the recognition followed, as he broke and shared the bread.

Note too, how then they had to share the news immediately with the others. Putting aside whatever plans they had, they hurried back to the city, in the failing light.

Like the companions, we need to recognise God’s presence even in our apparent failures and frustrations. And like Jesus, we need to join people where they are, in their fears and disappointments, and travel with them. That’s all part of our walk with God, and it’s also part of the work of the Church.

Jonathan now sings ‘Love’s redeeming work is done’ - a vigorous and positive statement of our Easter faith.

You may now like to make your own intercessions, using suggestions in the weekly news.

Then please return to the [video](#) or DVD [6mins 15secs in] for the Peace and the Eucharist.