

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



**This week's news
for St George's, Tuffley
with St Margaret's, Whaddon
17-24 April 2020**

Dearly loved worshipping family

God is with us. And we have each other. This is the privilege of worshipping together at home.

This week, let us invest time to 'linger longer', learning to listen better to God with open and responsive hearts, as we read His Word.

Do use again the Easter Season Communion video. Our separate sheet with readings and short sermon includes more suggestions for hymns to enjoy in your worship. [You can skip any adverts in the videos!]

This Weekly News again includes intercessions you may like to use in your prayers.

We're trying to keep our community together in worship through this challenging time. Please do make the most of all these resources. And let me know how you get on with them; I'm keen to hear all suggestions for doing it better!

As part of God's church across the world, it's good also to keep in touch with worship broadcasts on TV and radio and on the internet. Please do share anything exciting that we can learn from in Tuffley.

God bless you

Bruce



Linda Medwell's Easter garden

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.

Look out for our neighbours



And please be ready to lend them a hand – or just to chat over the phone. Also if the Community Help Hub asks us to support a member of the community, the vicar may ring you to see if you could deliver a food parcel or collect a prescription or other essential shopping, or just pick up the phone for a chat. We may be in isolation, but none of us need be isolated. Thanks in advance!

Understanding the Coronavirus

Stuart Mitchell has kindly recorded a short video message to help us understand the current virus better. Find it [here](#)

IDEAS! Special Things to do this week:

- ❖ Write a poem about Tuffley or the Church
- ❖ Show your gratitude to someone who's caring for others or working for the community
- ❖ Keep taking items for the **Foodbank** to vicarage porch

Weekly Giving Envelopes @ St George's: we'll provide envelopes for the new giving year on request. However, in these interesting times you may find another method easier; for example, to pay by cheque for a number of weeks, we can arrange collection say monthly, or by internet banking, either one-off payments or by standing order. Most important: Don't worry about how to give. Just talk with David the treasurer on 302353. Thank you!

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.

OUR PRAYER COLUMN

[thanks this week to Susan Scothern]



Lord,

As we look outside and reflect on all we cannot do, remind us that your love is always with us. As we, like the believers Peter wrote to, suffer through various trials, remind us that we will rejoice again, As we, like the first disciples, hide behind locked doors, fearful of what is happening now and what is still to happen, remind us that you stand among us bringing your peace.

And so we bring before you:

- all who are working to keep services going
- those who are most vulnerable at this time, especially those at risk of domestic violence
- all working within our hospitals, care homes and providing community care
- those who are ill, whether from coronavirus or other causes
- those who have died and those who mourn them

We offer up these prayers in confidence to the one who is our Lord and our God. Amen

Let us give thanks for the healing of our Prime Minister; pray for wisdom for our government as they balance protection from the virus with survival of the economy; and pray for our MP Richard Graham for wisdom and care as he responds to many constituents' concerns.

A prayer for our NHS and all Carers:

Gracious God,
give courage, skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those making decisions and 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.

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

IN MEMORIAM:

Carol Johnson, Marion Lane, Jenny Perry RIP

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:

Susan Webb, William Rogers, Mike Anthony, Dennis Hardman, Annie Kennett, Marjorie Jones, Richard Emery, Brian Haines, Gladys Stevens, Jim Bodenham, Lilian May, Phyllis Spiers, Pamela Ellis, Don Clift, Derek Bodimeade.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

None that we know of this week

VERSE FOR THE WEEK: *Jesus stood among them and said "Peace be with you" (John 20:19)*

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 was 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 are available in vicarage porch for collection. If you can't collect, let the office know and we can arrange to deliver your May magazine (also do tell us if you still don't have April's)

Purposeful Exercise: anyone like to deliver some weekly news sheets during your daily walk on a Fri or Sat? Tell Bruce, and we'll bring you a bundle. Thanks!

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen*

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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).

Readings for Sunday 19 April 2020

Commissioned!

You might begin by lighting a candle...

You may like to sing a hymn, perhaps one of these:

[Love is come again](#)

[Jesus Lives! Thy terrors now...](#)



[if you're reading this through email, follow the hymn with a click, or ctrl-click, on the title]

Prayer for Today

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. Amen

Acts 2 Peter proclaims the Resurrection

During the Pentecost celebration thousands of Jews had gathered in Jerusalem. They spoke many different native languages. Yet amazingly everyone could understand when Peter proclaimed the news of Jesus

¹⁴ Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, ...

²² 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—

²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

²⁵ For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken...

²⁹ 'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption."

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Prayer: You were David's Lord, and you were Peter's Lord. You are our Lord too; grant us Peter's courage to say so. Amen

Psalm 16 God, You are my Safe Place

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.'...

⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Prayer: Give to us Lord Christ, the fullness of grace, your presence and your very self, for you are our portion and our delight, now and for ever. Amen

I Peter I Our Living Hope

Peter writes to the believers scattered abroad as refugees

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in

him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Lord we are overjoyed, because of the glorious inheritance you have for us ahead, and because meanwhile you protect us in all our circumstances. Amen

To anticipate the gospel reading, you may like to sing one of these hymns:
[Breathe on me, breath of God](#)
[My peace I give you \(Taize\)](#)

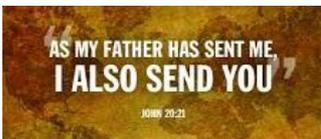
John 20 Jesus Appears to the Disciples



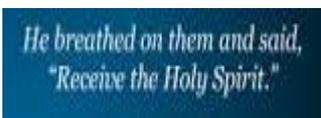
¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with

you.'

²⁰After he said this, he showed them *the wounds* of his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.



²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'



²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any,

they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Prayer: You are our Lord and our God. Thank you for bringing us your peace, and sending us to proclaim your forgiveness, so all may believe and share real Life with You. Amen

Short Sermon from Bruce

Have you noticed the stillness all around? The birdsong? All seems tranquil outside; yet we know all is far from well within. The virus is claiming many lives, the lockdown is gripping our economy. Cities are asleep. Across the globe we've pressed 'pause'.

These are desperate days. We're anxious, uncertain, fearful. Not altogether unlike the disciples in our gospel reading. We find them hiding behind a bolted door, paralyzed with fear.

Yet this was the Day of Resurrection! No shut tomb could hold him in; no locked room could keep him out.

Into this secret huddle the living Christ appeared and spoke of Peace. But far from being comforted by his greeting, Jesus' friends were startled, terrified.

Until he showed them his wounds. Only then could they begin to see: death, the final enemy of us all, had been overcome – for Jesus was alive! NOW they rejoiced.

Joy escapes when we focus just on the world around us. Joy returns when we recognise Jesus has conquered even death. He has come to us, bearing the wounds of all our sin, all our anxiety, all our pain. Now we can rejoice, for He, the 'wounded healer', has overcome all.

Now they could receive his peace, his Spirit. Now they could continue the work Jesus started, to bring the message of God's reconciliation to the world.

Now we too can live in the blessings of the resurrection, as we both receive and share the Spirit of peace and forgiveness. He has sent us; this is our commission!

His peace is not just about 'getting along' with each other well. Neither is it about restoring our status quo.

As we saw recently in the Beatitudes, His peace turns us upside-down, from living me-me-me to loving-my-neighbour. But what does this mean in practice?

We know our lifestyle is hurtling the world towards disaster; yet we've done precious little to turn around.

Now we're being shaken to the core, and forced to put life 'on hold'. When we 're-start' again, will we simply try and return to 'normal' after lockdown?

Or will we want to live differently? In ways that don't harm but help our neighbours in developing countries, don't destroy our environment but preserve it, don't put our grandchildren at risk but protect them?

I believe God is calling us and our national and global leaders to be bold and courageous. In this way we will experience and share more truly the Peace of Christ.

Recovery will come; we don't know when, or how. Let us pray for Christ's peace to transform us, and let us all be bringers of that peace.

As we each consider how to respond to God's word, this song may help: [Make me a channel of your peace](#)

Now please continue with the video, to share the Peace and the Eucharist.