

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



**This week's news
for St George's, Tuffley
with St Margaret's, Whaddon
10-17 April 2020**

Dearly loved worshipping family

We are not alone.

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

Our weekend starts with Stations of the Cross for **Good Friday**; meditations and pictures from the perspectives of five of the women who were there. See it [here](#) (available from Friday morning).

There's a treasure-store of Easter activities for families, via the **Messy Church** and related sites online – see them [here](#) and [here](#). Also our very own messy material [here](#) (look out for Messy Easter, available from Saturday).

We also have a special **Easter Communion** service pre-recorded at St George's, [here](#) (available from late Saturday evening). You can read the order of Service [here](#).

During the service, we're inviting everyone to pause the video to explore the readings and to pray, before returning for the Eucharistic Prayer.

You can find the **readings** [here](#) under 'worship during the crisis' At key points the readings also include links to favourite Easter **hymns**.

What better way to start our Easter worship than by **singing along** to *Jesus Christ is Risen Today – Hallelujah!* [see it [here](#)]

If you feel adventurous, you may like to sing the first verse outside your front door! Have a look [here](#) for more ideas and resources.

The Church in Tuffley Leaders have recorded a message about **where they see God** in this current crisis, and why Easter is so important to them. See it [here](#) from Saturday morning.

Then **Soul Space** for Easter is at **5pm on Sunday**. This promises to be a participative, fun celebration 'with a difference' where everyone is able to contribute something! Do 'come'. Get your joining instructions from Helen or Paula or Bruce.

Thank you to the **brilliant team** who've put these resources together for us all to enjoy. And special thanks to our anchor-man Hans for his technical whizz at making the impossible possible in a very short time.

For details of other special Easter services, do look at the Gloucester Cathedral and Diocesan websites.

Let us all give God all the glory due to His holy name; for raising Jesus to new life, enabling us all to share new Life with Him forever.

God bless you Bruce

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:

- ❖ Thanks to Dot for her '**Easter garden**' picture. It's not too late: send us yours this week!
- ❖ Show your gratitude to someone who's caring for others or working for the community
- ❖ Keep taking items for the **Foodbank** to vicarage porch
- ❖ Make an attractive poster for your window – "Christ is Risen – Happy Easter"
- ❖ Explore the Gloucester Diocese website for special services, meditations and messages over Easter

Weekly Giving Envelopes @ St George's ended last week. 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!

Our prayer column

This week let us pray:



- **with thanks** for God's goodness and all God's blessings of comfort, God's strength and His hope in these tough times...
- **with sorrow** for the times we've failed to listen to God and act on what He says
- **with commitment** to live God's way
- **with faith** for
 - all working people now on 'furlough' or whose business is at risk
 - all who've lost their job or business
 - all vulnerable families at significant risk
 - our police
 - all working in hospital, care homes and nursing homes
 - all who are distraught, lonely, or scared
 - Pamela, and all others known to us who are sick including those with the Coronavirus

*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*

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>

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.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Carol Johnson, Marion Lane RIP

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:

Mary Bulman, William Wilson, Madeline Baxter, Joshua Webb, Charles Speke, Emma Basset, Yvonne Gladwin, Joan Alderton, Albert Spiers, Henry Andrews, William Speck, Francesco Gallo, David Cohen, Keith Stephens, Gerald Halford, Mick Summerell, Edith Robins, Myra Waite, Margaret Winstone, Susan Webb.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Dawn Dolphin (15th) and her son Oakley Byrne aged 8 on 14th

VERSE FOR THE WEEK:

"He is not here; he has Risen!" (Matthew 28:6)

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? Another way to combat Coronavirus. Just pop your donation in an envelope clearly marked, through the vicarage main-door letterbox. Thank you.

LENT GIVING PROJECT ends Easter Day! To help us provide upgraded toilets at St George's for all as soon as we can, our ambitious target is £1000. Please make your contribution to the treasurer post-haste! Or put it in a marked envelope securely through the vicarage main-door letterbox.

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).

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!

Readings for Easter Sunday 12 April 2020

He is RISEN – HALELLUJAH!

We might each begin our worship together at home by lighting a candle...



You may like to sing the hymn:

Jesus Christ is risen today Alleluia

[if you're reading this through email you can follow the hymn by clicking [here](#)]

Prayer for Today

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

Acts 10 Peter visits the home of Cornelius, a devout Roman centurion, who had gathered all his relatives and close friends

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

God raised him from the dead on the third day and allowed him to be seen openly, ⁴¹not to everyone but to us his chosen witnesses. He actually ate and drank with us after he rose from the dead!

Jesus commanded us to preach and warn the people that God appointed him to be the judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³And not only us, but all the prophets agree in their writings that everyone who believes in him receives complete forgiveness of sins through the power of his name.'

Prayer: Thank you Lord that you have no favourites, but your love is the same for everyone, bringing forgiveness and peace to all who will receive you. Amen

Psalm 118 A song of Victory

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

² Let Israel say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

...

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

¹⁸ The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
**that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.**

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prayer: Saving God, open the gates of righteousness, that your pilgrim people may enter and be built into a living temple on the cornerstone of your salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Colossians 3 Our new life with Christ

[adapted from the Passion translation]

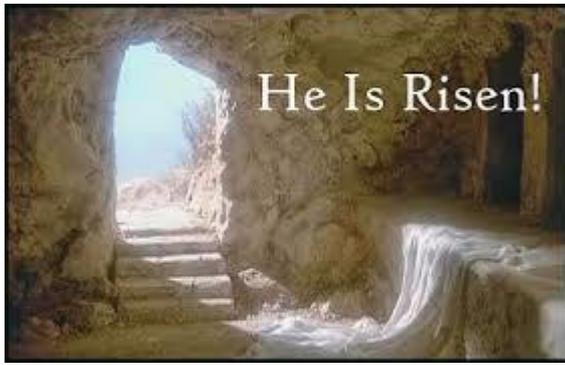
Christ's resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that's where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honour, and authority! ²Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm.

³ For your death and your life are both hidden with the Messiah in God.

⁴ And as Christ himself is revealed for who he really is, who you really are will also be revealed, for you are now one with him in his glory!

Prayer: Lord help us grasp the enormity of this outstanding reality – we have died with you, we are raised with you, and we share your glory! Amen

You may like to sing along with the Salvation Army band to the **hymn**: Up from the grave he arose!
[you can follow it [here](#)]



Matthew 28 The Resurrection of Jesus

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

⁵ But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.'

⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'



Dot Martin's Easter garden

Prayer: O Lord to know that you are risen from the dead: what unspeakable joy! Amen

Sermon thoughts from Bruce

Coronavirus is spreading, economies are crumbling; we're all being shaken to the core.

Quite naturally, we're anxious if not fearful.

How did all this happen? Will I stay well? How long can I survive in this lock-down?

Will life ever return to 'normal'? Where will it all end?

On Resurrection Day the earth shook, literally. This was monumental; and it changed the world order forever.

The tomb guards were so terrified they became like dead men. There's no sign their terror was tempered. Yet the frightened women were reassured, twice: "Don't be afraid – don't hold on to your fears". Theirs was not a fear like death; but an awe of God, a humbled recognition of God's glory.

We have now no need to fear, for there is hope beyond death!

Life has changed forever. There's been set loose in the world, a force stronger than all our pre-occupations, all our self-absorption; a force stronger even than death.

The angel breaks the astounding news but doesn't explain how it happened. Instead he invites the women to look inside the tomb, into the darkness, to see for themselves the emptiness and ponder the miracle.

Maybe we're being invited now to look into our own 'darkness' and ponder the meaning of events today; to discover how God is moving within this crisis.

When the women encountered Jesus., they fell down and worshipped. Time now for us to pray – to linger in God's presence and listen.

Jesus commissioned the women to go and break the astounding news to his brothers. And they went. Time now for us to go tell others how we've encountered the risen Christ, and the world of difference it makes.

And time for us to continue praying, that the whole world will listen, so when the virus is dead we'll be able to live, more fully in His joy;. And so we'll have the strength to resist returning to our own ravenous lifestyle that's been over-consuming our environment for so long, and instead to embrace the new life of self-giving love, spreading joy and peace wherever we are. Lord in Your grace may this be our new 'normal'. Amen