

WELLINGTON & DISTRICT TEAM MINISTRY

5th April 2020. Palm Sunday

Welcome to our second Team-wide newsletter, which I hope will get out to even more people than the first one, now that more of you are on the church database.

So many people have responded appreciatively to what we are trying to provide by way of worship in the Team. Here is this week's offering – remembering it is Holy Week when we are privileged to walk closely with Christ, from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem through his final meal with his friends on Maundy Thursday, when, by washing their feet, he taught them more about service to others, through his solitary agony in the garden, dreading what was to come, when his closest friends simply fell asleep, through his arrest (when most of his friends abandoned him), trial, torture and death on Good Friday, through the silence, solitude and seeming finality of the grave on Holy Saturday. And then: the resurrection to new life on Easter Sunday. At the same time as walking with Christ we recognise that he walks with us in all that we go through in our lives – we are never alone - and together with Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to reveal more of God's presence in the world.

Sunday Worship

National: BBC1: 11.00 a.m. Sunday Worship from Hereford Cathedral led by The Dean of Hereford.

1.15 p.m. Songs of Praise from Glasgow *recorded before coronavirus*

Radio 4: 8.10 a.m. Sunday Worship 'Walking in the Company of Jesus – Fr Dominic Robinson and Dr Theodora Hawkins reflect on the way Jesus accompanies Christians spiritually when facing times of suffering, trial and bereavement.

Local: 10Radio 105.3 FM 10.00 a.m. 'The Home Service' bringing church worship to your front room. Tim Treanor will be leading this week, reflecting on the entry of Christ into Jerusalem. The service will also be available on podcast [podcast = recorded radio programme] through a link on the front page of the Wellington & District website.

7.00 p.m. As we light candles in the windows of our houses, John Young provides an hour of sacred music, with short comments/reflections in between. Live on John's Facebook page, but available later by email. Previous editions: Mothering Sunday <https://www.facebook.com/714483558/posts/10158327922718559/?d=n>; March 29th <https://www.facebook.com/johnnotsoyoung/videos/10158353755313559/?d=n>

Communion: 9.30 a.m. I shall be celebrating communion in my home on behalf of all the people in the Team and with you all on my heart. If you wish to join me spiritually, you are welcome to do so. If you wish me to pray for you specifically at this time, do contact me: mariahearl@btinternet.com. 01884 256380

For families with children: 10 a.m. Katherine Lyddon, Tone Deanery Children and Families Pioneer, will be leading an on-line service with Bible stories etc. You join by 'Zoom'. If you would like to be part of this exciting venture contact Katherine Tel. 07974 528880. Email: katherinelyddon35@gmail.com

Readings for Sunday: Palm Gospel: Matthew 21: 1-11 [The triumphal entry into Jerusalem]; Isaiah 50: 4-9a [God helps me whenever I am under attack]; Philippians 2: 5-11 [Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God.... emptied himself...]; Matthew 26: 14- end of 27 [The passion narrative].

Collect for Sunday:

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his
patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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.

Post communion prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of
a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for
our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

Palm Crosses will be available from the church porches of the Ashbrittle group of parishes and will be delivered to those who are self-isolating, in the church porches in the East groups of parishes, and from boxes placed near the entrances to St John's and Rockwell Green churches (which have closed porches). Please be careful when you pick yours up that you do not risk the possibility of contaminating others – use gloves? Palms will be posted to parishioners in Sampford and Thorne. *Thank you to those who are organising all this!*

Thought for the Day from Martin Beaumont can be found daily on the Ashbrittle Parish News website <http://www.stash.org.uk>

Worship in Holy Week

All services will be in **podcast** form and can be accessed by following the link on the Team website www.wellingtonteamchurches.org.uk or on the iKnow Church mobile app (for those who have signed up for this). If you have a mobile phone or tablet device and would like the app, please email Tim or Christine who will get you started.

The Passion Story On Palm Sunday it is traditional to read the whole Passion story, this year from the Gospel of Matthew. You could listen to this on Palm Sunday or during Holy Week.

The Way of the Cross The traditional, meditative journey accompanying Christ in his Passion stopping at 14 Stations. There are many ways you could use this: you could select places in your home and garden to represent each Station or places on your daily walk. The podcast can be paused so you can listen and reflect at one Station, pause the podcast and move to the next. You could use it over a number of days or on one day, perhaps Good Friday. Or you could sit in a chair and have pictures that remind you of the Stations. You might have a Cross placed before you. It is offered to help you.

Morning Prayer each day As well as the methods listed above, this will be sent by email.

Night Prayer (or Compline) each day A moment to reflect upon and give thanks for the day.

Maundy Thursday Hymns and Scripture, reflecting on Christ washing the feet of his disciples.

Good Friday 10th April You might want to use The Way of the Cross. *Why not erect a cross in your garden at home?* The Cross will be erected outside St John's on the High Street, Wellington visible to all who pass by.

The night of Holy Saturday 11th April

In the dark of the night, the traditional acclamation of the Resurrection, including lighting the Easter Candle and singing the Exultet.

Easter Day 12th April – 10.00 am video service (Time to be confirmed)

In addition to other services – more details next week – this special service will be pre-recorded by the Team Clergy and will be available by following the link on the Team website. Ideally, we will all share this service at 10 am (but you can join in later). There will be hymns, prayer, Scripture and an 'agape' meal - everyone will be invited to break bread and drink wine together in their own homes.

Communion 9.00 a.m. Each priest in the Team will join in the celebration of the Easter Eucharist of the whole church by celebrating the Eucharist in their own homes in spiritual communion with all people who belong to any of the churches in the Team. Do join us spiritually in your own homes or your own Easter gardens, to welcome Christ into your hearts afresh this Easter. *And why not decorate the cross you erected on Good Friday with flowers symbolising the resurrection to new life?*

Practical Help

Wellington Coronavirus Community Help: www.facebook.com/groups/3159877937378154

If you, or someone you know, is self-isolating and needs: shopping or a prescription picking up; a friendly phone call; posting letters; food/meal deliveries; animal care; anything else – please contact us. Tel. 07871 258048 wellingtoncommunitygroup@gmail.com. Facebook: WELLINGTON-CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY GROUP. We'll do our best to help you for free (safely and in accordance with recommended guidelines).

Church contact

Do ring the parish office number: 01823 665254 and leave a message. Sharon (Tim's PA), Christine (Team Administrator) and Tim monitor it constantly and will get back to you. Or email stjohns.wellington@googlemail.com. Or phone Tim Treanor: 01823 662248, Alan Ellacott: 01823 669824, Martin Beaumont: 01823 400127, Maria Hearl: 01884 256380 (self-isolating and working from home) Also Selina Garner: 01823 662227, back early from her sabbatical, self-isolating but offering help and support across the team as needed. Welcome back, Selina.

The prayer referral system in St John's is also available. If you would like to be prayed for contact Judith Dufour Judithadufour@gmail.com or telephone 01823 666633

Funerals

It may well be that at this time you are unable to attend the funeral of someone you love because severe restrictions are being placed on the number of mourners. If that is the case you might like to use in your own home a form of service produced by the Church of England and available from the church office by email or a hard copy. If you would like a priest or one of our chaplains to pray with you, either on the phone, or simply privately at the same time as the funeral service is being held, do contact one of our priests. Selina is particularly willing to help you at such a difficult time.

Contributing to church funds

Many people now contribute regularly to church funds by a standing order, which is really helpful at a time such as the present. However, if you are one of those who contribute by putting money in the collection plate each Sunday, now this is obviously no longer possible, you might like to consider starting a standing order, or using internet or telephone banking to maintain your contribution. Please contact your church treasurer to find out how to do this. The church office will be able to give you contact details for the treasurer if you are unsure. Thank you for continuing to support the work of the church in this way.

Good news Theft of Lead - Statement from Avon & Somerset Police 1st April

Three suspects have been linked to the spate of thefts of lead from churches in Somerset (including St Giles, Bradford-on-Tone and St John's, Wellington). They are currently detained, having been charged with offences in Lincolnshire. Investigations into offences in Somerset continue.

The Nightingale Hospital in London Tim writes: 'I saw some photographs on the BBC News of the new 4,000 bed NHS Nightingale Hospital in London. I was delighted to see members of my old regiment, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, contributing to the construction. In the photograph, Gurkha electricians are fitting out a bay ready to receive a ventilator and other equipment.'

Contributions to the newsletter Please may I have any contributions to next week's newsletter by Tuesday morning (it will need to be emailed out on Thursday morning as Friday is Good Friday). Email mariaheral@btinternet.com; Tel 01884 256380

Something to think about?

The Church Times is producing, free of charge during the pandemic, a weekly 'Lift up your hearts'. If you get our newsletter by email we shall also send you a copy of this.

The following comes from last week; I found it particularly helpful, so have several people I have shared it with, both Christian and non-Christian. It was written in 1948 by CS Lewis and seems to put the current situation into a different perspective. It is entitled 'How are we to live in an atomic age?'

'In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. "How are we to live in an atomic age?" I am tempted to reply: "Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents."

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anaesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds'. CS Lewis 'On Living in an Atomic Age' 1948