

St Leonard's Church, Ryton-on-Dunsmore: Newsletter April 2020

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A Message from our Rector, the Revd. David Wintle.

I'm writing this the day after Mothering Sunday, and I think I'll more or less repeat what I found myself saying to those who turned up at St. Leonard's yesterday morning.

Many people found very creative ways to keep in touch with mothers and grandmothers, children and grandchildren on Mothering Sunday.

One family I heard of arranged that they should all, in their own homes, cook the same meal, and then sit down at the same time round their respective tables with their phones and connect with each other onskype or jitsi or whatever platform it was they chose. Many families met in parks or laybys or motorway services. Two of our own children turned up, separately and without prior consultation (one with a tape measure), and we stood outside the front door and talked.

For each of us, our relationship with our mother is among the most important in our lives. It may not always be the most important (that priority changed for me when I met my wife), or it may not be as satisfactory as it might be (my mother was what you might call “difficult”), but even if it goes wrong it is still the relationship that forms us more than any other. And if we never knew our mother, or if she rejected us or abused us, that absence or betrayal makes us who we are too. And when she dies, even if she wasn't all we think she should have been, there is a hole that can't be filled.

What everyone seems to realise is that if we want to maintain, or even maybe improve, our relationship with our mother, we need to keep in contact. And if for some reason we can't go out for lunch with her on Mothering Sunday, or visit her or invite her round, or give her a hug, we go to great lengths and we get inventive to make sure we can tell her and show her that we love her.

The bond we have with our mothers may be among the strongest we feel on earth, but the love between a mother and her child, even when it is as near to the ideal as it might be, is nothing compared to God's love for us. We can only get a glimpse of how great God's love is through our earthly experiences of love, which is why when human love goes wrong it is so difficult for us to understand that we can be loved.

Right now we are finding that, just as we need to get creative and make extra efforts to keep in touch with our mothers, so we need to get creative and make extra efforts to keep in touch with God. We are denied our church services; we cannot sing and pray together or receive Jesus Christ under the forms of bread and wine.

If our relationship with God is important to us - and it should be the most important, far more important in fact than our relationship with our mother - we need to find new and different ways to keep in contact with him.

There is an app which allows you to join in morning and evening prayer wherever and whenever you want:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

If you want something a bit shorter and snappier there is this:

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>

You can get a daily thought delivered to your email address throughout Lent here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-care-gods-creation>

Some churches are streaming live services and talks. I'm fairly technologically challenged, but you could try this one, courtesy of my son, Fr. Tom:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarynuneaton/>

Or look around the internet if that's a bit high church for your taste.

If computers aren't your thing (and even if they are) you could pick up your Bible and read it – a good move if you don't read it regularly or if you used to and have let it lapse. Don't start at the beginning and try to get to the end; pick one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) and don't get spiritual indigestion – one chapter a day is probably more than enough. If you have a computer but no Bible, try:

<https://bible.oremus.org/>

We have decided to send the weekly pewsheets to everyone who normally receives the monthly newsletter by email. You can use it to find out what is happening – or not happening – to help to focus your prayers and to unite with the rest of the Church across the world, many of whom will be using the same readings and the same special prayer (the Collect) week by week.

If you have news which you want to share, or requests for prayer (whether you want to publish them in the pewsheets or not), you can let me know.

By order of our bishops all churches are closed, even for private prayer.

However, I will continue to pray for you all at home at Morning and Evening prayer, and at other times too. If you would like to join me you can use the Daily Prayer app, or if that is a bit too formal for you, you might pause for a moment in the morning and offer the day to God, and then in the evening pause again to review the day and thank God for it.

You can use your own words, or the Lord's Prayer, or no words at all, but, however alone or cut off you may feel, you will know that you are joining in prayer with the whole Church.

Holy Communion will be celebrated in the benefice each Sunday, so the living and the dead will be prayed for at the altar, but it must for now be a private celebration.



You can use this prayer to make an act of spiritual communion, uniting yourself with Christ's offering of himself:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You;

permit not that I should ever be separated from You. Amen.

**Notice from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York
and from the Bishops of Coventry and Warwick.**

**Stay at home but continue to pray, to love, to care for the
vulnerable**

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England have urged everyone to follow the instructions given by the Prime Minister to stay in their homes in a national effort to limit the transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/church-england-close-all-church-buildings-help-prevent-spread-coronavirus/>

But they called on the Church to “continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable”. It follows the <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-the-nation-on-coronavirus-23-march-2020> announcement by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson of sweeping restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the virus.

It means all Church of England churches will close with immediate effect in line with the Government’s instructions. There will also be no Church weddings or baptisms. Funerals at the graveside or in crematoriums can still take place, but only in line with the Prime minister’s Statement.

In a joint statement the bishops said: “In the light of the Government’s measures, announced by the Prime Minister this evening, we urge everyone to follow the instructions given.

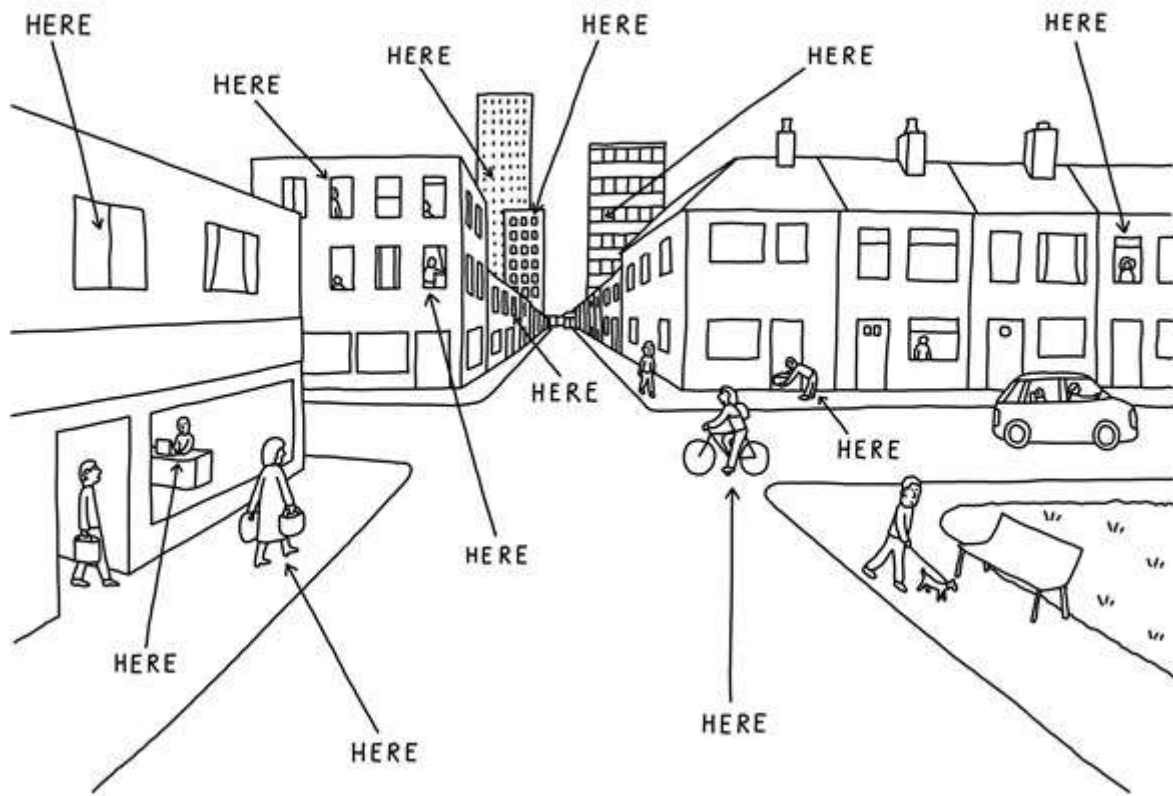
“We will give a fuller statement of advice as soon as possible. Let us continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable, and build our communities, even while separated.”

There is a Bible story and a colouring sheet for children at the end of this Newsletter

We include this in the hope that those of you looking after children during the shutdown may find it useful....

Please print out these pages for children to work through with your help.

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



Church Floodlighting

- March 22 100th birthday of the late Ted Mann.
- April 5 First anniversary memories of Beryl Lilian Boulton
- April 9 Birthday memories of Connor Dixon
- April 11 In Memory of Neil Rankin.
- April 12 Easter Day
- April 13 Birthday Memories of John Hathaway.
- April 26 Anniversary memories of Ken Batchelor.

Lent Lunches at Baginton: Discontinued because of the Coronavirus regulations



Lunch Club: discontinued because of the crisis.

Ladies' Guild: discontinued because of the crisis.

Tidy-Up Team.



Mark Jones is now heading up the churchyard Tidy-Up Team. He is looking for volunteers to help him once a month, on the first Saturday of every month 2pm- 2pm.

Please phone or email Mark on 02476 302272 markedwinjones@talktalk.net for information on work during the present crisis.

Clearly there can be no meeting with refreshments on Saturday, April 4.

Church Organ restoration. Amount raised so far is approx. £11000

Thank you so much for all your fund-raising efforts and individual donations.



The Skittles evening has of course had to be postponed.

We shall be continuing to engage in various fund-raising events when the present crisis is over.

Please let the churchwardens know if you have any bright ideas for fundraising events, or would like to make a donation to the organ Fund

Evergreens 50+ Club discontinued because of the crisis.

Our meetings are normally held in the Village Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 1.45pm to 3.45pm.

New members are welcome. Please contact John Loudon [02476301269](tel:02476301269)

We use the village mini bus to our meetings in the Village Hall.

We welcome volunteer drivers to take us on short distant day out trips.

If anyone is interested in helping us it would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact our Chairman on [02476301269](tel:02476301269).

Saturday, June 27: Fête Football and Conga Event.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the postponement of the annual Fete, Football tournament and CONGA 2020. The event was due to take place on June 27th, at which time we are still likely to be significantly impacted by the current Coronavirus outbreak. HM Government are strongly advising against mass gatherings and non-essential travel and even if it is possible that the situation may have improved by June 27th (which seems far from certain), working restrictions and self-isolation recommendations mean that the fete committee cannot complete the work necessary in the next few weeks to ensure that the event could proceed safely.

Each year our small but dedicated team put our heart and souls into making this a community event for all but given that we have so many people who are vulnerable to this terrible illness it feels we should take care of them by waiting until we all can enjoy as a community together.

Until then stay safe, follow the guidelines issued by the HM Government if you are vulnerable and need support do not hesitate to message and we will try to help as much as we can.

God bless.



Ryton History Group.

We meet from 7.30-9.30pm in the Village Hall.

Subscription: £20.00 per year or £2.50 per meeting.

For detailed programme, please see the Ryton Village Website.

Details from **Steve Garrett 76639228** or **Ann 76302695**

Children at St. Leonard's Church

We love having children in our church, and (in normal times) there is **always provision for them at our 9.30 a.m.** services. All families with babies and children are sure of a warm welcome whenever they can join us.

All our Sunday morning services start **at 9.30 a.m.**, and the normal pattern is:

2nd Sunday in every month: Village Worship.

The most informal of all our services. We start in the Church Centre (warm and welcoming) with workshop activities for children, and coffee, puzzles and chat for grown-ups to get to know one another. At about 10.00 we move into church for a short and child-centred service. If you can't get there at 9.30 am, come and join the fun as soon as you are able.

4th Sunday in every month: Family Service.

An all-age service of readings, songs and activities with everybody young and old in church together. Children always participate in the readings/ drama sketches etc. and sometimes people bring instruments to accompany the songs. (and any other musicians among you and your children would be very welcome to join them).



Tea/coffee and cake after the service in the Church Centre.

1st and 3rd Sundays in every month: Parish Communion with Sunday School.

Tea/coffee and the chance to socialise after every service. Children start the service in church with their parents, and after the first hymn go out for Sunday School activities in the Church Centre, returning to receive a blessing at the time of Communion.

Parents are welcome to accompany their little ones to Sunday School and to stay with them if they lack confidence at first.

At these services, we also have a robed choir which includes older children (aged about 8 and upwards) and teenagers: anyone whose son/daughter likes singing might consider encouraging them to join the choir. If your son/daughter might like to be part of the choir, please contact Barbara Marsh, our choir mistress on geoffandba@gmail.com (tel. 02476 304295). Adult choir members are also always welcome to join us!

We also offer the opportunity for children and young people to train to become altar servers at the Parish Communion services at both Bubbenhall and Ryton.

Contact Rosemary on rbking007@btinternet.com (tel. 01788 573067) about this.

We value children, and make them and their parents welcome.

Thought for the Month: From our Rector, the Revd. David Wintle



One night a traveller on the way to a big city met two others along the road: Fear and Plague. Plague explained that, once they arrived, they expected to kill 10,000 people in the city. The traveller asked Plague if he would do all the killing. "Oh, no. I'm only going to kill only a few hundred. My friend Fear will kill the others."

Fear is a great equalizer. We will all have to deal with Fear: You've been studying for years, and soon you'll be leaving college without a clue what you are going to do next. You know that your company's been going through some difficult times. Someone's going to lose their job. You and your partner have been together for a long time, but now there's some unspoken tension and uneasiness.

The doctor says it's just precautionary and he just wants to be sure.

There are countless other examples.

According to both St Matthew and St Mark, the Resurrection of Jesus is announced with the words "Do not be afraid".

Many of us treat those words as a wishful sentiment, like "Get well soon", or "Wish you were here". But these words are spoken with authority. Jesus could banish fear. He still can.

In his earthly life, Jesus healed people of their fears - through forgiveness of their sins, through miraculous healings, through raising people from the dead.

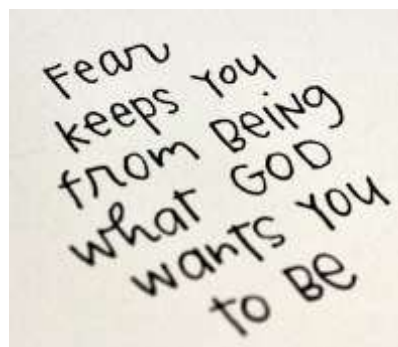
And finally by overcoming the biggest fear of all, the fear of death itself.

That's what Easter confronts us with: are we amazed by this story but not convinced? Is it an incredible tale that we've heard over and over again but it's just too impossible for us to really believe?

But if we do believe the words of the Gospel: "Do not be afraid. I know you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here. He has been raised", if we behold the Risen Jesus who comes to us right here, right now on our way as we deal with our own darkness, as we are plagued by our own Good Friday stories, then the Easter story becomes our story.

Then the resurrection becomes real in our lives.

Jesus says to us today "Do Not Be Afraid," and if we let go of our fear we, too, will see Him.



Breakfast in BUBBENHALL Village Hall discontinued because of the crisis.

Recycle your used printer cartridges



Used ink cartridges please!

We have registered with a scheme to recycle printer ink cartridges to raise funds for the church.

There is a recycling box at the

back of church, so if anyone has any used cartridges they can use the box to send them free of charge. The church will receive £1 for each cartridge, thus raising money for the church and helping to save the planet.

Churches are unfortunately shut during the current crisis: please don't throw your used cartridges in the bin, but hang on to them until we are up and running again.

Thank you very much to those who have already contributed used cartridges, but please note that we have now been informed that, unfortunately, used toner cartridges, also Brother, Epson and Kodak cartridges are not acceptable.

**“Good morning,
This is God.
I will be handling
All of your
Problems today.
I will not need
Your help, so have
A miraculous day.”**

Tailpiece:

Heavenly Father,
We feel so bombarded with stories, headlines which cause us to worry. Please come and take our anxieties, give us clarity in our prayers and help us to focus our minds on you. Amen

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” Philippians 4:6.

Contributions for the May Newsletter by April 20th please.

Do you receive your Newsletter by email?
Please encourage others to do so too!

- ♦ Email version normally reaches you before the printed version.
- ♦ Less work for our committed band of volunteer deliverers, (to whom we are most grateful)
- ♦ Easier to read.
- ♦ No charge.
- ♦ Email version often contains material which there wasn't room for in the printed version, e.g. pictures, cartoons, jokes...
- ♦ Environmentally friendly if you choose not to print it out, instead saving it to refer to when you want to.
- ♦ Rosemary's email is rosiking2963@gmail.com

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, but aren't yet on the recipients' list, please just get in touch. Rosemary

Next pages contain a Bible story activity for children: You might like to use this with your children, while they are at home.

Here's a story that Jesus told about a rich man and a poor man. Jesus gave the poor man in his story a name- anybody know what it is?



Look at the picture. What are the dogs doing? What is the poor man looking at? What is the rich man doing? Who is with the rich man? Does the rich man notice poor Lazarus?.

The Story of the rich man and Lazarus.

Jesus said to the disciples:

"There was a rich man
who was dressed in purple and fine linen
and lived in luxury every day.

At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus,
covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table.
Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

"The time came when the beggar died
and the angels carried him to Abraham's side.
The rich man also died and was buried.

In hell, where he was in torment,
he looked up and saw Abraham far away,
with Lazarus by his side.

So he called to him:

"Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus
to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue,
because I am in agony in this fire."

But Abraham replied:

“Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things,
while Lazarus received bad things,
but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed,
so that those who want to go from here to you, cannot,
nor can anyone cross over from there to us.”

The rich man answered:

“Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house,
for I have five brothers.

Let him warn them, so that they will not also come
to this place of torment.”

"Abraham replied:

“They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.”

"No, father Abraham," he said",

“but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.”

Abraham said to him:

“If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets,
they will not be convinced
even if someone rises from the dead.” [Luke 16: 19- 31]

Please scroll down for colouring sheet.



Lazarus was longing
to eat what fell from
the rich man's table.