

YOUR GIVING TO ST. JOHN'S TO SUPPORT ITS MISSION IN OUR COMMUNITY

At St John's we are very grateful to all our congregation and visitors for their kind and generous donations to the church. These donations are crucial in ensuring we can continue to operate (we don't receive any funding from the diocese to cover the cost of running the church), and the suspension of services is likely to have a very significant impact on church finances. Further details on how you can support St. John's provided on previous pew sheets or from Caroline Gulliver (gulliverjc@aol.com).

EASY FUNDRAISING.

Another easy way to raise fund is to use the Easy Fundraising initiative. This allows you to do your online shopping as normal, whilst helping to raise funds for St John's Church. All you need to do is register as a user (for free) at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and nominate St John's Church Lacey Green as your nominated beneficiary. Retailers include M&S, Vodafone, Amazon, John Lewis, Sports Direct, Boots and many more (4,000+). Easy to use. More details from Caroline Gulliver (gulliverjc@aol.com).

HELP FOR FAMILIES IN THE PRINCES RISBOROUGH AREA

St. Mary's, Princes Risborough, in joint venture with the CTR and the Town Council, is setting up a temporary food bank in Princes Risborough. Initially this will operate from St Mary's Parish Hall. The Food Bank will open from 10am to 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. At this stage, they anticipate needing three volunteers on each day to help sort through food donations, make up food parcels, and coordinate logistics. Some people may be able to pick up their own packages, whereas others are self-isolating and will need their package delivering to the doorstep. Initially they are looking for volunteers, food donations, gifts of money and most of all prayer support. Help and suggestions for running the Food Bank are most surely appreciated. Further details to follow.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

As indicated above the Church of England guidance remains the same the church building being closed to Sunday worship. Although our usual pattern of Sunday Services and mid-week gatherings must be put on hold, this does not mean that the Church of England has shut up shop. We may not be able to worship together and pray for people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people from our homes. Where we are able, we can certainly offer practical care and support. Keep safe and please continue to pray for one another. *Canon Tony, The Churchwardens & The PCC*

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2020
6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FOCUS ON ... THE THREE C'S

In life, we are all far too frequently motivated or imprisoned by fear. It affects and influences our choices. It fuels so much of our media which so often seems to set out intentionally to create fear and anxiety and even anger. In many ways fear of the unknown and anxiety about the future fractures our society. But Jesus wants to remind his followers that this is not the only way.

Railway enthusiasts will know of the Box Tunnel in Wiltshire, designed by the eminent Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and opened in 1841. It is almost two miles in length. During the Easter season, around the time of Brunel's birthday, the rising sun shines into the tunnel in much the same way that Neolithic stone memorials and passage tombs have a deliberate alignment with the light of the sun at key times of the year. Like Brunel's tunnel which is said to filter the sun's rays in Eastertide, we do have the means to see through the dark clouds of fear and anxiety – and trust that our faith in Christ will guarantee us a safe passage from one end to the other. Listening, loving, allowing the Spirit of the Gospel to mould and shape us; these things are vital if we are not to be paralysed by fear. So too is hope – hope in the promise that Jesus will be with us now and always; and that his Spirit is will always be with us.

Three years ago, the Bishop of Oxford called us to be Christ-like through the “three C's” – being contemplative, compassionate, courageous. He said that being contemplative means recognising that we are ‘poor in spirit’ and seeking to do good; being compassionate: means showing understanding towards those who mourn and mercy to all; being courageous: means having hunger for justice, seeking reconciliation, willing to bear the cost of discipleship. Perhaps another way of putting that is to say that, if we take steps to live by moving and listening truly attentively – to each other, to creation, to the Gospel, to the Holy Spirit – and only then so acting, and acting both compassionately and courageously, well we can become more effective as followers of Christ and as a Christian community which reveals God's love to other people who need to hear the Good News of redemption and salvation. Because that is the promise to all who seek it.

Tony Bundock

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COLLECT FOR 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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, *Amen*.

READINGS FOR 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts. Ch. 17 VV. 22 – 31
1 Peter Ch. 3 VV. 13 – 22

John Ch. 14 VV. 15 – 21



PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

(Pat Rushmere)

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the gift of your Holy Spirit among us as we pray to you now.

We pray for a world damaged by the Coronavirus pandemic. We pray for the safety and protection of all Key Workers, in the NHS and elsewhere and for the children, the young people, the elderly and the vulnerable. May there always be time for love and respect for one another in our homes and places of work, our schools, care homes and hospitals. We pray that there will be mutual support and thoughtfulness, consideration and trust.

Heavenly Father as part of our nation starts to return to work, and some who are able to venture into the wider community, we pray that the guidelines set down by the Government will be followed for the safety of all. Heavenly Father, you hold all souls in life. Bring all the departed to the place of refreshment and peace and, as we remember them with love and gratitude, we commend them to your eternal rest and unchanging affection.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.



Prayer Notes

- We pray for all parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and the souls of those who have died. We pray for those working in the NHS and Social Services who are working with the sick, the elderly and the disabled.
- We pray for those in our parish who are isolating themselves due to age or infirmity and those supporting them.
- For those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Phillipa King and Barnaby Woods.
- We thank you that our prayers have been answered and that Rev. Rob Brown and Laura Lee, daughter of June Brazier, are both successfully recovering from the Covid-19 virus.
- For the recently departed, particularly for Ruth Barclay. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for Jo Niven and her family at this difficult time.
- For Peace and Resolution for the peoples of those countries where there is conflict or tension including countries in the Middle East, Ukraine, Nigeria, Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.
- For Comfort and mercy for the peoples of those countries, where there have been natural disasters, and for the aid agencies bringing relief.
- For our Government and Parliament at this time of uncertainty, that that MP's of all parties will come together in the National Interest.
- For migrants that they may receive justice and mercy.
- Safety for Christians and peoples of all faiths in danger that there may be a spirit of peace and understanding.
- For our mission and ministry in this community.
- For our Linked Parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.
- Thanks for our church community and our shared faith
- Thanks for all who help, in any way, in our Church.
- For our successful fundraising events, this year.

COVID-19 AND THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Thursday 21st May is Ascension Day. Due to a slight change in guidance from the Church of England, although the church building remains closed for collective Sunday worship, Canon Tony or another representative is now allowed to celebrate acts of worship on behalf of the congregation either alone or with members of their immediate household. Tony will be saying Morning Prayer in Church at 9.30am on Thursday using the Simple Office leaflet for Pentecost and Ascensiontide that he has prepared. Although we will not be able to join him, we are invited to use the leaflet in our own homes on Ascension Day – either at 9.30am when Tony will be in Church or a time that is more convenient for you.