



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 29th March 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent



Good morning Friends.

Though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Colossians 2.5

I'm hosting 30 minute praying and Bible meetings at 8am, 9am and 10am on [ZOOM](#)
When you are signed in you can 'Join a Meeting' to access the services I'll be hosting.

The meeting ID for all the meetings is 846 662 9590.

There is no password – this is open to all.

Whether or not you might like to do this, let's be aware of the prayerful communion in God's Spirit that we all share, wherever we are, whether or not we are able to talk, video-conference or communicate with one another.

I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. Romans 1.9-11.

This comes with my prayers and blessing, Derwyn

The Choir anthem at our 10am service was due to be as follows:

Irish Blessing, Bob Chilcott (b. 1955) • Text, traditional

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be ever at your back.

May the sunshine upon your face
and the rain fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet again

may God hold you, may God hold you
ever in the palm of his hand.

[You might like to listen to the anthem via this link](#)

Collect for Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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.

Gospel for Fifth Sunday of Lent, John 11. 38-44

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to Lazarus' tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Children's resources –

With this week's newsletter we attach a copy of 'Look'. Each week the Gospel story is explained in age appropriate language. A prayer and a variety of activities that will engage the children are included, to help each child get to know the person of Jesus.

Or perhaps try a Godly Story? The story of the dry bones (Ezekiel 37), is specifically designed for families to use for worship at home on 29th March, when it is the lectionary reading from the Hebrew Scriptures for that day. Find it on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tE3sk7GJIdA

Derwyn invites you to listen to a short recording he has produced, part six of [a series on The Lord's Prayer](#).

Psalm for Fifth Sunday of Lent, Psalm 130

Refrain: My soul waits for the Lord

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,

O Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared. **[R]**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;

in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning,
more than the night watch for the morning. **[R]**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,

for with the Lord there is mercy;

With him is plenteous redemption

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **[R]**

Have no anxiety about anything, but with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4.6

It has been heartening to learn how many people are praying in this current testing season, and how many people are so deeply appreciative of and grateful for prayer.

As another layer of the praying life of the church in these days we have set up a simple Prayer Chain.

The idea is simple: a chain of people to whom a prayer request can be made through its coordinator. The coordinator receives the request and prays accordingly before passing it on to a member of the chain who does likewise, until the prayer returns to the coordinator after a number of days being prayed for by a variety of people.

If you would like the Prayer Chain to pray in this way for some concern which is on your heart, please make your prayer request to the coordinator, Diane Pettitt:

Tel. 01279 461845 Email diane.pettitt@hotmail.com

Let me add that requests are strictly confidential to the Prayer Chain, who will simply pray as asked. A request will not lead to any further contact or action.

Do keep praying in all the ways that connect you to Jesus. If a request to the Prayer Chain would help, don't hesitate to make it.

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ our Lord. Philippians 4.7

Bishops Stortford Food Bank Lent /Easter Appeal.

Items needed by the Food bank.



- Fruit Juice (long life cartons)
- Tea Bags
- Coffee (Instant)
- Meat (tinned)
- Fruit (tinned)
- Rice Pudding and Custard (tinned)
- Sponge Pudding (tinned)
- Tomatoes (tinned)
- Vegetables (tinned)
- Milk (Long Life/UHT/dried)
- Rice (500g packs)
- Sugar (500g packs)
- Hot chocolate
- Biscuits
- Chocolate/snack bars
- Noodles
- Breakfast Cereals (medium sized packets)
- Washing powder / pellets
- Washing up liquid
- Toiletries (e.g. shampoo, shower gel and deodorant)
- Toilet rolls

Please drop items into the collection box at Sainsbury's, Waitrose or Tesco's (Bishops Park). If you have a large number of items you wish to donate please contact us at bsfoodbank.coordinator@gmail.com



*With this ordinary, unconsecrated bread
I make remembrance of my last visit to Church
and I remind myself that
the bread that I received there, however long ago,
will keep me in life eternal.*

*And with this ordinary, unconsecrated wine
I remember all those who were there with me
and live in hope to see them all again.*

Fairtrade Easter Eggs – Christine Solway has about a dozen Easter eggs (£4 each) that she is happy to deliver, preferably within Bishop's Stortford and as part of her daily exercise. Please contact Christine on (£4 each). To arrange, contact - christine.solway@virgin.net / 831840.

April Parish Magazine – Due to the current situation, the April 2020 issue of the Parish Magazine will not be produced in hard copy. Please visit the [magazine page](#) on our website to see a selection of items already submitted to the editor before the decision was taken not to publish a printed issue. The situation will be reviewed with regard to future issues of the magazine and regular contributors will be kept up to date.

Electoral Roll – The APCM is on **Sunday 26th April** at 11:40am in the WCC **dependent on the Coronavirus situation**. The reports may be viewed on the [website](#).

Anointing and laying on of hands – At Parish Communion on **Sunday 17th May** we will offer anointing and laying on of hands for healing, **dependent on the Coronavirus situation**.

Foodbank Lent/Easter appeal – Please see the poster opposite for items that are urgently needed for the Foodbank, thank you. The Food Bank have asked us to clarify the position with regard to providing food for the sick or those who are self-isolating. Whilst they are hoping to provide emergency food boxes for people in need, and may be seeking help from the churches to deliver them, these can only be provided for those in poverty. They simply do not have the resources to provide food for other groups. Although many of the agencies, such as Citizens Advice, who normally issue food vouchers have closed - arrangements are being made to continue to allow them refer people to the Food Bank.

St Michael's School will need a new school governor from September – Experience in finance, education or HR would be particularly helpful but all applications are very welcome. If you are interested in finding out more about this voluntary role, do contact the Parish Office.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar) 653867
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO) 652173
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO) 771756
Rob Klincke (Reader) 833523
Vicar's Email: stmichaelsbvicar@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson 758389
Deputy Churchwardens:
Terry Pigram, Peter Rixson, Roger Sudbury
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