



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

10am-10:30am Service of the Word with June on ZOOM

When you are signed in you can 'Join a Meeting' (Meeting ID **822 740 0814**, password **716922**). 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

There are a number of ZOOM meetings scheduled for fellowship and conversation, after the 10am worship session. If you'd like to join one, please enter one of the codes below at 10:30am:

June 822 740 0814 p/w 716922 • Derek 927 480 8728 p/w 889123

Rob 841 818 2500 p/w 645756 • Roger 458 034 0358 p/w 435609

On the Second Sunday of Easter last year we sang Ye Choirs of new Jerusalem. The Royal School of Church Music are offering a 'hymn for today' on their website and [YouTube channel](#) and the hymn can be found there. You might like to follow the words and join in singing.

Collect for Second Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

Gospel for Second Sunday of Easter, John 20. 19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Children's resources –

With this week's newsletter on the website 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? This week, the story of Doubting Thomas, with wondering questions for families to think and talk about together. Find it on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-CElj9qVro>

Psalm for Second Sunday of Easter, Psalm 16

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; I have said to the Lord,

"You are my lord, all my good depends on you."

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble in heart. **[R]**

Though the idols are legion that many run after, their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; in your hands alone is my fortune. **[R]**

My share has fallen in a fair land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,

and in the night watches he instructs my heart. **[R]**

I have set the Lord always before me; he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my flesh also shall rest secure. **[R]**

For you will not abandon my soul to Death, nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy

and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. **[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 – 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 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'd like the Prayer Chain to pray for some concern which is on your heart, please make your prayer request to the coordinator, Diane Pettitt: 461845 / diane.pettitt@hotmail.com

Requests are strictly confidential to the Prayer Chain, who will simply pray as asked and 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



Bishop's Stortford Food Bank – Excerpts from Chairman's Update for CTBS

We are working with Operation Community and Holy Trinity to enable all our food parcels to be delivered to people in need at their home address, removing the need for any face to face contact. All volunteers at the Food Bank always maintain a strict 2m space around them and strict hygiene practices are observed. We have been able to keep up so far but are starting to see shortages in some items being donated as they become increasingly scarce in the shops.

How to donate:

- Put items into boxes near check-outs when doing essential shopping:
Tesco at Lancaster Way,
Sainsburys (either Jackson Square or Thorley stores)
Waitrose

Please don't be put off donating if the box seems full – people are being so generous; sometimes it's difficult for our van to keep up, but every item is desperately needed

- Food Bank at the Methodist Church (Monday and Tuesday only, 10am-2pm)

To avoid unnecessary contact, we will leave a trolley in the doorway at the side path entrance.

Most Needed Items:

- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Long life Milk
- Tea Bags & Coffee
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Meat & Fish
- Biscuits
- Jam & Marmalade, Marmite & Honey
- Beans, spaghetti and soup
- Pasta and Pasta Sauces
- Long dated cereals
- Toiletries (shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, deodorants, shaving foam & razors, sanitary products etc)
- Washing up liquid
- Washing liquid or tablets (for washing machines)

To help by donating money: <https://www.justgiving.com/bishopstortfordfoodbank> or send a cheque or make a BACS payment direct to our bank. For further details please contact our Coordinator.

To help with food packing at the Food Bank: email bsfoodbank.coordinator@gmail.com

To help with delivery of boxes in and around town: Own transport and on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. Please send a copy of your driving licence, colour photo of your ID card, evidence of a DBS (paper copy or digital reference number) OR a certificate from the free online Basic Safeguarding Course run by the Church of England to Canon Mandy Brown at Holy Trinity Church at ht.nightshelter@outlook.com

Your prayers, and the practical support you give us is very much appreciated. **Bill Macdonald**



*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.*

ZOOM Worship on Wednesdays – Derek has kindly agreed to host Holy Communion at home (Meeting ID 927 480 8728, password 889123) each Wednesday whilst we are unable to worship in Church.

'The lockdown is putting relationships under great strain. The irritating habits of our husband/wife are becoming magnified towards breaking point'. If this is you, help is at hand. *The Marriage Course* is available online to guide you through these times together. Why not give it a try at htb.org/marriage? For further details contact Derek on derekhinge@gmail.com

Divine Loves – David Arkell, one of our organists, has written a poetry collection with all proceeds going to the Bible Society. Click [here](#) for a taster selection. The book of 52 poems with Christian themes costs £5 and is available from David: davidharkell@yahoo.co.uk.

April Parish Magazine – The April issue has not been 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 the May issue of the magazine and regular contributors will be kept up to date.

Electoral Roll – The APCM has been postponed due to the Coronavirus situation. A new date has been set as 25th October. 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**.

Prayers for our community – An invitation from Roger Sudbury: Would you like to join a weekly prayer session at 9:30am each Saturday? This usually takes place every Saturday in Church but for now will be via ZOOM, with the Meeting ID: 458 034 0358, password 435609. All welcome!

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
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Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson	758389
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