

A few words on our readings for Easter 3

Acts 2.14a 36-41

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles gives the end of Peter's sermon. He proclaims that God had made Jesus, whom the men of Judah had crucified both Lord and Messiah. Asked by his listeners what they should do in response, he offers them baptism in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and so that they will receive the Holy Spirit. This promise is still ours today and we know that throughout this crisis the Holy Spirit is inspiring the Church to find new ways of preaching the gospel and carrying forward its mission to all those in need. **Jesus is Lord**

Peter's first letter 1.17-23

Peter affirms the faith of early Christians. His words speak of the saving of Jesus and strengthen our own understanding of our faith in him.: *Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.* Peter urges us: **to love one another deeply from the heart.** That is something which we all need to do as followers of Christ and at no time more than at the present.

St. Luke's Gospel 24.13-35

This is a wonderful account of one of the post-Resurrection appearances of our Lord. It shows how the followers of Jesus were in turmoil after the death of their leader, on whom they had pinned all their hopes and they were disturbed by reports of his rising from the dead. Sad and disheartened two of them trudge back home from Jerusalem when Jesus meets them on the way. They do not recognise him, just as Mary Magdalene did not recognise the risen Jesus. As Jesus explains that the Messiah had to suffer before he entered into glory the disciples grow closer to him but still do not recognise him. Only when they invite him into their home and sit down to supper do they suddenly see who he is, as he breaks bread and blesses it. At that moment Jesus leaves them. ***Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him.***

The story is almost a parable for our time. We are in turmoil; we do not understand what has happened or what is going to happen. We read the scriptures but do not always understand them ourselves, we do not always hear Jesus calling to us but from the moment that we allow Jesus into our lives, we see him as he truly is, our Lord and Saviour. He remains with us in our hearts and in the breaking of bread. We look forward to that day when we can all once again share in the one bread, but **we remain today and always his body, the church.**

Prayers for 26.04.20

Prayer is a wonderful thing and is our way of talking to God and listening to Him too. You can pray at any time and in any place – washing up at the sink or in the queue at the supermarket are good places. Good too can be a quiet place in your own home or garden,

given that many of us are in isolation or lock down. A special chair in the corner, a place where you might light a candle or listen to some music can help. You can even pray while taking your daily exercise.

Simply open your heart and say:

God of love and hope
You made the world and care for all of your creation,
But that world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories of the virus.
Some of us are worried,
Many are anxious for family and friends.
Be with them please and help them to find peace.

We pray for all in the medical profession who are working so hard to help
And are trying to find a vaccine against this terrible disease.

Thank you that even, and especially, in these times Lord you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen

We pray for the recently departed Roger Law and Colin Scott. And we pray for those in our memorial book whose anniversary occurs this week: Timothy Hugh Bibby, Arthur Clare, Eva Dyson, Margaret Marshall, Keith Powell Robinson, Hilda E Starling, Walter Alban Watts and Edna Whitaker.

Opportunities & Other resources for worship, prayers and reflexion :

Sunday Worship BBC one 10 am & on radio 4 at 8-10 am

Songs of Praise BBC 1 at 13-15

The daily service (15 minutes) at 9h45 on BBC Radio 4 long wave

Choral Evensong 3-30pm on BBC Radio 3

Websites :

* <https://www.lightsforchrist.uk/> resources to assist you if in these troubled times you are asking what it means, as a Christian “to shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father”.

* **The Church of England** website : Special pages for covid 19 crisis :
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>

And more specifically there is a booklet where you will find a small collection of prayers for use at this challenging time in our lives, when we are sometimes struggling to find words to express how we feel. (If you have difficulties downloading the Pdf send us an email and it can be sent to you separately as it is too big a file to add for the normal mailing)

Diocese of Sheffield website : <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org>

<https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/cv19> has update information from Bishop Pete and Bishop Designate Sophie several times a week.

Sheffield Cathedral: www.sheffieldcathedral.org

Visit Sheffield cathedral from your armchair! You will find a video entitled : Canon on the loose: A virtual Tour to join Canon Keith on a tour of the cathedral and some of its most historic rooms and chapels. There will be a new video every week for the next 4 weeks.

Opportunities for online worship, weekly bible study, and a new series by the Dean "Beauty will save the world" looking at art, faith and the Gospel.

NEW THIS WEEK : <https://www.sheffieldcathedral.org/living-by-faith-bible-reflections>

Join Reverend Captain Ian Maher on a reflective journey in the company of some great figures of faith - Abraham, Ruth, Mary and Paul - asking how the lessons of their lives can impact our own journeys. Week 1 Intro. & Abraham

Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org for daily prayer and worship.

Services are streamed from some Churches and Cathedrals :

Via YouTube you can access online services from Rotherham Minster, St Albans, Wickersley and some 30 others in the Diocese of Sheffield. Further information from

A Church near you website: www.achurchnearyou.com

www.southwellminster.org (where former Whiston Chorister, the Rev. Canon Dr Richard Frith is now Precentor) ; www.durhamcathedral.co.uk Worship & Music page has a link to online services.

New This week York Minister www.yorkminster.org is offering AUDIO material "Stations of the Resurrection" for Eastertide , a series of meditations on the Resurrection appearances

The Redemptorist website who provide our Reading sheets, Look sheets for children (free online at the moment as the Church is a subscriber) offers resources including a free video Fr Denis McBride's one-hour video, *The Stations of the Cross Then and Now*
<https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/stations-of-the-cross-then-and-now-free-reflections>

Our website :

<http://www.whiston-parish-church.org.uk/>

Our facebook page :

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

Email: whistonparishchurch@gmail.com

Argentina Link

The Rev. Mario Agreda from our Link parish of Lomas in Argentina sent his belated Easter Blessings to all of us at Whiston by email earlier this week. They are experiencing a lockdown as we do. However, for them it is Autumn and a period which is normally the start of the new school year and of new initiatives. They also have to live with inflation running at 25% and already faced a difficult economic climate. We pray for all at Santa Trinidad, for Bishop Greg and for the Rev. Brian Williams who should have been consecrated as the new Bishop on April 25th.

Shopping :

Morrisons at Bramley are doing Doorstep Deliveries for vulnerable and elderly members of the community from an **essential list**.

People can Call 0345 6116111 and select Option 5 from the operators list. Payment will be collected via card at your doorstep.

Deer Park Farm Deli at Thrybergh 01709 850888

They will deliver dairy items, fresh meal, pies, quiches, fruit, veg, bread, preserves, wine etc.

Joe's Fruit and Veg 07771675581

They deliver boxes of fruit and/or vegetables. If you are on your own, they will deliver a smaller box.

Further details from Anthea Goodman tel. 01709 363604