



Team Newsletter



Third Sunday of Easter (26th April 2020)

A Message from Michael: *Beauty and Brokenness*

The words 'beauty' and 'brokenness' came to my mind as I reflected on our current season. The lovely weather and the countryside around us shout to us 'beauty'. There is a strange peacefulness at this time, with less cars on the road and for many people less need to rush around. Spring is very much with us as the trees and flowers share the beauty of their blossom. But yet behind this beauty, the news is so much about the brokenness and suffering caused by Covid-19: the broken economy and many lives broken by fear, illness or bereavement.

I suspect the time between the death of Jesus and his coming again has always been, and will always be, a contrasting mixture of both beauty and brokenness, but the juxtaposition of the two seems especially stark at this time. The beauty points us in the direction of heaven, where 'there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain' (Rev21:4). In other words, God will eventually give us 'beauty for brokenness,' to quote the first line of Graham Kendrick's powerful song (www.youtube.com/watch?v=08utbDFP9AE). But the current brokenness tells us that we are not there yet.

I am reminded of some words of Joni Eareckson Tada. At the age of seventeen she had an accident that left her paralysed from the shoulders down. In the period after her accident she experienced anger, depression, suicidal thoughts, and doubt. But she has since written many books. In her book 'A Step Further' she writes:

'Suffering gets us ready for heaven. How does it get us ready? It makes us want to go there. Broken necks, broken arms, broken homes, broken hearts – these things crush our illusion that earth can "keep its promises." When we come to know that the hopes we cherished will never come true, that our dead loved one is gone from this life forever, that we will never be as pretty, popular, successful, or famous as we had once imagined, it lifts our sights. It moves our eyes from this world, which God knows could never satisfy us anyway, and sets them on the life to come. Heaven becomes our passion.'

The apostle Paul writes 'Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.' (Col3:1). This is not about 'being so heavenly minded that we are no earthly use'! Rather, when we know the security of his love and sovereignty, and hold lightly to what is short-lived, it gives us the confidence to reflect his love practically and self-sacrificially here and now.

I believe that even greater than the beauty of the nature around us at this time is the beauty of the acts of kindness, love and self-sacrifice that reflect the love of Jesus Christ: Those working patiently under great pressure in the health and caring profession or giving generously to support those in need.

May God give us the strength to be agents of beauty amidst the current brokenness.

Broadcast Christian Worship



Daily reflections on video from our team clergy are available on our Facebook pages and also on our YouTube channel
www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZdGhjVJE3PPjBmxbA6Aw

Each Sunday we are posting a short online Team Service

St. Elizabeth's also has a YouTube channel at
www.youtube.com/channel/UCZSKxjor6YBBHrkSsDH-62A



This week's BBC 'Sunday Worship' is from Hereford Cathedral at 10.45am on BBC1 & afterwards on iPlayer.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hrf1



Radio 4 Sunday Worship

Sunday at 8.10am and afterwards on BBC sounds

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hmx2



Canon **John Stott's** former church, located next to the BBC Broadcasting House in London, is streaming their inspiring Sunday & midweek service, available live or to watch later at www.allsouls.org/Groups/337797/Watch/Watch.aspx.

Worship Online with Holy Trinity, Brompton
(the home of The Alpha Course)

You can join in HTB Sunday Services at www.htb.org/athome



Watch the Church of England's National virtual service this Sunday
www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland/

URBAN OUTREACH
FOOD DONATION DAYS
MON 27TH APRIL @
ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH
CEDAR AVE BL6 6HT
TUES 28TH APRIL @
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,
CHURCH ST BL6 6AA
10AM - 2PM

Contact Rev Nicola for further details
07706979393

URBAN (BOLTON)
OUTREACH

www.urbanoutreach.co.uk
Store House Food Bank Project

As this crisis continues, more people need
Food Banks.

We have two collection points this Week:

Monday 10am - 2pm St Elizabeth's Church
Tuesday 10am - 2pm Holy Trinity Church

They are asking particularly for Pasta (500g),
Tinned Soup, Baked Beans, Chopped
Tomatoes, Tinned vegetables (Sweetcorn,
peas, carrots and potatoes), Biscuits,

Cereal (up to 500g), Tinned Pulses, UHT Milk, Tea
or donate money online on their website: www.urbanoutreach.co.uk/donate.



BELOW THE PIKE

Online May 'Below The Pike' Magazine
Is available on each of our church websites from
Saturday 25th April

[Holy Trinity](#), [St. Catherines](#), [St. Elizabeth's](#), [Rivington](#)

Would you like to join a Virtual Church Group?

We're exploring the options for having virtual Prayer/House groups, or just social get-together groups, meeting during this Lockdown period using social media platforms (*Zoom, Houseparty, Facebook, et al*) if any of you would be interested in doing this. For example, the monthly '**Beer & Chat**' group usually meet in the Blackedge Brewery Bar, but are now holding virtual meetings (*bring your own beer!*) (*email Gill Smart, see below, for a link!*) To register an interest in such groups, contact Gill Smart for Prayer/House groups & Rev Nicola for Get-togethers.



Horwich Christian Aid Week 2020

Coronavirus impacts us all - but love unites us all.

Given the current Coronavirus situation, Christian Aid week isn't possible, but people across the world are still suffering hunger, violence, homelessness, climate change & untimely death on a vast scale, even without COVID-19! The workload of all Aid Agencies like **Christian Aid** is increasing just as their incomes are falling because of the lockdown. As followers of Jesus, we're called to love others as He has loved us, so please consider sending a contribution to Christian Aid, made payable to 'Horwich Christian Aid Committee' c/o our Treasurer (*Ruth Rigby, 1 Mayfair, Horwich BL6 6DH*), or donate online at:

<https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/Step/1>

(if you do so, please let Brenda know for our records at brendagwoodford@gmail.com).



Please keep saving your used printer cartridges which Geoff Madeley can convert into funds for Namibia - hold onto them until our churches reopen, then drop them into the collection boxes in your team church! Thank you!



Light an Online Candle to remember your loved ones!

www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/light-candle

You can also continue to pray **#prayersofhope** & to show acts of kindness to those around them, whilst ensuring they abide by all government health advice.

**Join those putting up a Rainbow Poster
in support of the Emergency Services serving us all
so bravely in this crisis & count them on a family walk!**



Just for fun



Watch NHS Staff & British Public with Peter Kay in On The Road to Amarillo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMFbSxx7kPA&t=163s>



Or watch the Bolton Binmen sing the same song! Click the Facebook link below

www.facebook.com/boltoncouncilofficial/videos/220212729281962/UzpfSTExMzM3NjM5ODM6MTAyMjE1NTQzMDI0MjM2MDg/?q=bolton%20binmen&epa=SEARCH_BOX

Today's Collect & Readings

A Collect (*Prayer for the Day*) & **Lectionary Readings for the Second Sunday of Easter** *from The New International Version (NIV)*

A Collect for Easter 3:

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Acts Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 'Repent and be baptised...'

(Peter challenges a crowd to respond to Jesus)

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ...
³⁶'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.'

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'

³⁸Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.'

⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17 'Truly I am your servant, Lord'

(A Psalm of thanksgiving)

¹ I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

² Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

³ The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

¹⁰ I trusted in the Lord when I said, 'I am greatly afflicted';

¹¹ in my alarm I said, 'Everyone is a liar.'

¹² What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁴ I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.

¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank-offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-23 'For you have been born again...'

(Peter reminds his readers of the difference it makes to be a follower of Jesus)

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb

without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 'Were not our hearts burning within us...'

(What happened on the afternoon of the first Easter day)

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognising him.

¹⁷ He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?'

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?'

¹⁹ 'What things?' he asked.

'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.'

²⁵ He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

Other Resources

Check our websites & Facebook Pages *(at end)*

Rooted! Bible Society Study Aids

Grow your faith and understanding of the Bible's message!

www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/rooted/



The *You Version Bible App* offer a starter daily Bible reading aid: **'First Steps With Jesus'** at www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/13502

BBC Radio 4 Longwave Daily Service at 9:45am for 15 minutes. Many newer DAB radios cannot get it, but you can get recent recordings & also listen to it 'live' through this webpage: www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_fourlw.

Bolton's 'Bridge Church' have a live-streaming Sunday service at 9:30-11am - check on their website: www.bridgebolton.com.

Our Archbishops' Twitter Feeds: Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby (<https://twitter.com/JustinWelby>), Archbishop of York, John Sentamu (<https://twitter.com/JohnSentamu>), & Archbishop of York (*Elect*), Stephen Cottrell (<https://twitter.com/CottrellStephen>) - where he liked following hilarious YouTube video - be patient & wait for it! (<https://youtu.be/sMDhAQXoj5E>).



(<https://ntwrightonline.org>) is a website offering theological courses based on the books of the former Bishop of Durham, **Tom Wright**. Watch this YouTube clip where Tom explains why our faith is such **Good News** for the world today:

www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=ii2T6nDkXzc&feature=emb_logo. And see his radio interview about the Christian view of the Coronavirus Pandemic: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUTD0S9YVuu.



Enjoy Spring Harvest Online

You can still enjoy these worship & creative resources for all the family online **AT HOME!** Click below to find out more:

www.youtube.com/user/SpringHarvest.



The Bible in One Year

Why not download the 'Bible in One Year' App to your smartphone or tablet? You can read or listen to the bible passages and a short commentary on them by Nicky Gumble. If you don't have a smartphone or tablet you can sign up to receive daily emails

www.bibleinoneyear.org/

Try a Lockdown Pilgrimage! A St. Alban's Vicar explains how:
www.christiantoday.com/article/in-this-time-of-self-isolation-you-can-still-take-time-to-go-on-a-lockdown-pilgrimage-execute1/134605.htm

CWR

CWR FREE & Easter Resources

CWR (who publish the '**Every Day With Jesus**' Bible Notes) offer Christian resources for individuals & churches, some **FREE!** Check these links:

<https://www.cwr.org.uk/free-resources> & <https://www.cwr.org.uk/resources-1>



Can We Be Sure About Our Faith In Jesus?

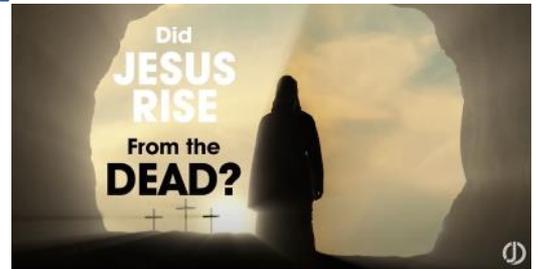
Many Christians experience times of doubt & uncertainty. At various times we can ask: **Does God love me? Am I really a Christian?** - & even **Is there a God at all?!** This short, readable book unpacks the difference between good & bad doubt, shows us where it comes from & how to deal with it in ourselves & others. It explains clearly & simply the liberating reality of what the Bible tells us about doubt, assurance & the Christian life. It can be bought for £3.31 at:

www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/17180/how-can-i-be-sure

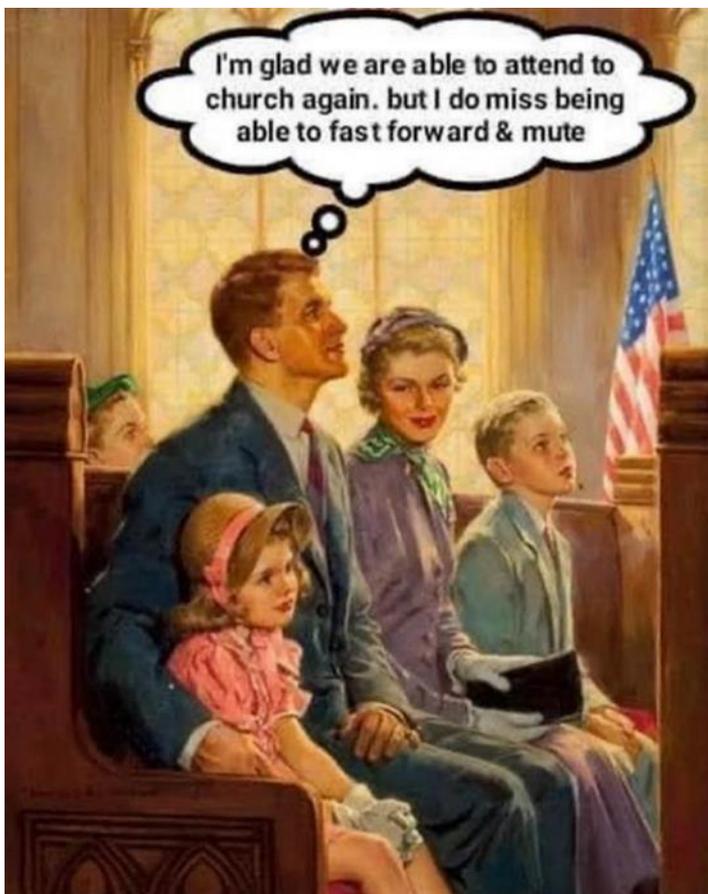
Is the Easter Story Real?

Is Jesus' resurrection just an old myth? Or is there historically verifiable evidence for those events? Take a look at this study video to find out more:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbUSnzuELaQ



If you have any other suggestions for online resources that you've found helpful, please let Nicola Butterworth know.



Useful Information

Worship: While churches are closed, our Ministry Team are developing means of helping people worship in their homes & providing resources on their church websites (*A Church Near You*) & on our Facebook pages. **See addresses for these below.**

Pastoral: The Ministry Team have developed a plan for the pastoral & practical support of those who are vulnerable or housebound in team churches. For those who need to self-isolate, we offer telephone support by voluntary helpers to assess needs.

Urgent Deliveries: Mrs Gemma Garcete (*details below*) is assisting the pastoral teams at our team churches in co-ordinating appropriate practical support (*shopping, deliveries, etc.*) in line with Diocesan Safeguarding guidelines & the Government's current isolation & general hygiene advice. We will try to identify anyone who is fearful or needful to offer prayer & other appropriate support, as required, or to refer them on to other appropriate and authorised agencies.

Prayers: Our team churches want to keep our prayer lists up to date & available during this time of crisis, so please send prayer requests (*having checked that those being prayed for are happy to have their names on these lists online, please!*) to:

Holy Trinity: Mike Foster (m.foster.hpc@googlemail.com)
& Susan Kerr (susanlaviniakerr@gmail.com).

St. Catherine's: Michael Behrend (m.behrend@ntlworld.com)
& Ian Winnard (iwinnard322@gmail.com).

St. Elizabeth's: Gill Smart (revgillsmart@gmail.com)
& Jill Harley (jill.harley@talktalk.net).

Rivington: Eunice Hawkins (eunicehawkins@me.com)
& Vicky Holden (vickyholden18@gmail.com)

Deanery Contacts:

Area Dean: Revd Vincent Whitworth, **01204 658921**, vincentwhitworth@hotmail.com.

Deputy Area Dean: Canon Chris Bracegirdle, **01204 396298**, vicar@boltonparishchurch.co.uk.

Westhoughton Team: www.youtube.com/channel/UCDx266HLh9ShYeBJnON80Dg

Deane & Lostock: www.youtube.com/channel/UCnMlpNspW-2F-iibeQNKp4Q/videos

St. Andrew's & St. Bede's: www.youtube.com/channel/UCrMxgACZ4uXxWyHNodqiVbQ

Team Church Website, Facebook & Social Media Channels:

Holy Trinity, Horwich: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16052/
St. Catherine's, Horwich: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16054/
St. Elizabeth's, Horwich: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16053/
Rivington Parish Church: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16056/

Holy Trinity: www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityParishChurchHorwich

St. Catherine's: www.facebook.com/stcatherineschurchhorwich

St. Elizabeth's: www.facebook.com/StLizziesCofE

Rivington: www.facebook.com/rivingtonparishchurch

St. Elizabeth's Instagram & Twitter Channels:

<https://www.instagram.com/stlizziescofe/> & <https://twitter.com/StLizziesCofE>

Useful Church Contact Details:

The Team Office will not be staffed during the Coronavirus emergency, but voicemail messages (**01204 692252**) and emails (churchteamoffice@gmail.com) will be checked remotely by our voluntary Team Administrator, Mrs Susan Preston **01204 693722**, colin.preston8@btinternet.com).

Team Ministers

Revd **Stephen Fletcher** (Team Rector until 30.04.20, but now moved to retirement in Leyland), horwichrectory@sandafletcher.myzen.co.uk. (15 Foundry Close, Leyland, PR25 3RA)

Revd **Michael Behrend** (Team Vicar & Acting Team Rector from 01.05.20), **01204 697162**, m.behrend@ntlworld.com.

Revd **Nicola Butterworth** (Team Curate), **07706 979393**, n.butterworth@outlook.com.

Mrs **Gemma Garcete** (Team Youth Minister), **07450 714711**, youthminister.gemma@gmail.com.

Revd **Peter Harley** (Associate Minister - awaiting surgery), **01204 694611**, peter.harley@talktalk.net.

Revd **Gill Smart** (Associate Minister), **07967 585670**, revgillsmart@gmail.com

Revd **Caroline Tracey** (Associate Minister), **01204 692303**, caroline@archangelos.co.uk.

Team Churchwardens

Mr. **Chris Knowles** (Holy Trinity), **07833 290498**, chrisknowles.winterhill@btinternet.com.

Mr **Grenville Hartley** (Holy Trinity), **01204 279365**, grenville.hartley@sky.com.

Mrs **Margaret Broadfoot** (Holy Trinity Deputy, but currently in self-isolation due to health issues), **01204 690283**, mbroadfoot283@btinternet.com.

Mr **Ian Winnard** (St. Catherine's), **01204 694005**, iwinnard322@gmail.com.

Mrs **Kath Jackson** (St. Catherine's), **01204 770598**, kathjackson@talktalk.net.

Mr **Graham Smith** (St. Elizabeth's), **01204 699875**, sgraham394@gmail.com.

Mr. **Peter Holden** (Rivington), **01257 482451**, peterholden@talktalk.net.

Mrs **Dawn Cunningham** (Rivington), **07733 104560**, misswitch66@msn.com.

Mrs **Sandra Leatherbarrow** (Rivington Deputy), **01204 843631**, bls12@uwclub.net.

Other Team Pastoral / ALM Contacts:

Mrs **Jenny Dagnall** (Holy Trinity), **01204 468683**, jennydagnall@btinternet.com.

Mrs **Jill Harley** (St. Elizabeth's), **01204 694611**, jill.harley@talktalk.net.

Mrs **Eunice Hawkins** (Rivington), **01257 481706**, eunicehawkins@icloud.com.

Mrs **Vicky Holden**, (Rivington), **01257 482451**, vickyholden18@gmail.com.

Miss **Wendy Holland** (St. Elizabeth's, but currently in self-isolation caring for elderly father), **01204 696755**, WLHolland@talktalk.net.

Mrs **Susan Kerr** (Holy Trinity), **01204 692760**, susanlaviniakerr@gmail.com.

Mr **Ron Knott** (Holy Trinity), **07719 274700**, ronknott@mac.com.

Mrs **Gloria Long** (Holy Trinity), **01204 692035**, glo@rbandglong.free-online.co.uk.

Mrs **Jacque Madeley** (Holy Trinity), **01942 589163**, jacquiemadeley.jm@outlook.com.

Mrs **Susan Rayner**, (Holy Trinity), **01204 468422**, suzeerayner@yahoo.co.uk.

Mr **Graham Smith** (St. Elizabeth's - see details above)

Mrs **Pam Smith** (St. Catherine's) **01204 699875**, pamelayork62@gmail.com.

Mrs **Jane Thompson** (St. Elizabeth's), **07772 163361**, janesimon1998@gmail.com