

**St Mary's, Crich and All Saints,  
South Wingfield with Wingfield Park  
CHURCH NEWS**

**SUNDAY 24th MAY 2020**

**Welcome! To a new way of being Church  
'To Know Jesus and for Jesus to be Known'**

**Welcome #57 This week's news...**

**The Lord is Risen! Hallelujah  
He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**SUNDAY'S BIBLE READINGS**

**Ezekiel 36:24-28**

**Acts 1:6-17**

**John 17:1-11**

**At the Parish Church of St Mary's, Crich**

**At the Parish Church of All Saints, South Wingfield**

**The CHURCH is still here just not as a building...**

**Your collection or offering is still needed by the Church, if you are still able to, put your collection to one side as an offering to God. If you can't don't worry! When all this comes to an end there will be both Celebration and Mourning to offer and then we can give our offerings as a response to the faithfulness of God.**

**COLLECT PRAYER FOR SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION**

**Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin  
may find forgiveness and know your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **WORSHIP AT HOME**

We have a virtual church service online with youtube at **CSW Digital Church**

It is a series of Services spliced with the readings and prayers for the Sunday and throughout the week.

If you want to follow the service, a 'virtual service' sheet is available by email for use at home.

### ***Please remember in your prayers....***

#### **Those in need:**

Kyle Goodhead, Richard & Bonnie Lane,  
Iva Henshaw, Eric Straw, Val Clark,  
Pamela Hall, Christine and John Hopkinson,  
Ben, Andrew and Cheryl Porter,  
Pam McCane-Whitney,  
Andrea Daniel, Wilf & Margaret Fretwell,  
Norah Bowler, Jean Stead,  
Brenda McCartney, James Hancox,  
Betty Kennedy, Bryan Sellors,  
Heather Watson,  
Gordon and Marjorie Harwood,  
Phil and Bridget Bateman,  
Ian with Hilary Wellby,  
Lucy, Alison and Alan

#### **All who mourn the loss of loved ones:**

Norah Bowler  
Gerald Longmuir  
Margaret Critchlow

## **PRAYER GUIDE**

***Do have you any suggestions for things you have found for good***

- The Coronavirus Spread, the Cessation of Conflict and the World's Climate Change
- Our Government, the European Union and the future of our countries
- Amber Valley Road, Crich
- Wingfield Park, South Wingfield
- The Heads, Teachers, TA's and Staff of ALL our Schools still at work and teaching
- The Diocese of Derby, Bishop Libby & Archdeacons Christopher and Carol
- CHIKS Project – their work with orphaned children & youth
- Gabriel [Nicaragua] supported through Compassion UK
- Our Hardwick Deanery esp. St John the Baptist, Ault Hucknall
- Our Armed Services, Fire, Ambulance, Police, Lifeboat, Mountain, Cave Rescue Services
- All Saints 'stay & play' & Crich 'pop-a-long' closed - but keep all families in your prayers

### **Crich Area Covid-19 Mutual Aid**

**A community network here to help.**

01773 447533

[Covid19@crichstandard.org](mailto:Covid19@crichstandard.org)

**Are you in the Electronic Age?** If anyone would like the Church-News by email, please let Ian, the Vicar, know or email: [cswvicar@gmail.com](mailto:cswvicar@gmail.com) and give your email address and GDPR permission.

***on-line worship and prayer? Let us know.***

## We are now on Alexa look for CSW Digital Church and enable

### NEWS FROM KENYA & CHIKS

We want to update you on the situation in Aduwa in the past weeks. Kenya went into strict Covid-19 lockdown about the same time as UK. The schools are closed, so the youngsters are with their guardians all the time now. The county-borders are closed, resulting in food prices being higher, partly because food isn't arriving from neighbouring counties. Travel locally, to get pig-feed etc, is restricted.



Then, at the end of April, it rained for 9 days and caused severe flooding that has affected a wide area across North-west Kenya and around Lake Victoria. The result of this for our friends and guardians is that it has flooded out all their crops, and some of the guardians have had to be evacuated to rented accommodation. The guardians' group savings have gone on these rents, and on medication, as several of them have had malaria because of the increase in mosquitoes. On the positive side, Elijah's home and compound is not flooded and the greenhouse, pigs and chickens are safe. Elijah is coping well with his extra responsibilities, but everything is that much more difficult. His faith is in God, who he says 'will see us through at this difficult time.' The CHIKS group are now sending money to pay for the rebuilding of 2



guardians' houses. We will then send an increased contribution towards their food, etc. This will carry on until they can again plant and harvest food. We have already received helpful donations from some of our donors, and we do value even small amounts as they all add up. If you want to make a donation here are the bank details for bank transfers. Otherwise, Lynda can bank cheques, or pass on to Dennis to arrange gift-aid. St Mary's Popalong CHIKS account: sort-code 08-92-99 a/c number 65399963 The Co-operative Bank For gift-aided donations: St Mary's PCC Crich sort code 40-52-40 account number 00019984 CAF bank Ltd

## From Archdeacon Carol

### From Archdeacon Carol

As I write this on Ascension day, having dismantled my driveway Easter Garden, I am conscious also of the desire to proclaim as the psalmist does in Psalm 47 “God is gone up with a merry noise the Lord with the sound of the trumpet” (*my favourite settings being that of Rutter and Finzi*).

I also watched the lovely [YouTube film from Tissington](#) as they celebrated Ascension and a virtual well-dressing. In this most unusual time, we are all wondering how we will indeed “get out there” again... how we will resume our lives as we knew them before lockdown. How confident will we feel about meeting other people again or visiting friends and family? The Ascension calls us to look out to the world around us, God is not hidden away, but amongst us in our lives, and this should give us confidence. Some of us may be anxious about what the future

holds, or asking questions about what kind of church will emerge? We will not be left comfortless though and from The Ascension we look forward to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts giving us assurance as we pray [Thy Kingdom Come](#). This week we look forward to a new way of being together, of new witness to the gospel, which we can joyfully sing praises with all our skill and with hearts on fire with love.

Every Blessing for an enjoyable and I hope refreshing Bank Holiday!

*Almighty God, you ascended Son  
has sent us into the world to  
preach the good news of your  
kingdom: inspire us with your  
Spirit and fill our heart with the  
fire of your love, that all who hear  
your word may be drawn to you  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

Archdeacon Carol

## Revd Ian writes:

The most important day in the life of the church for disciples and even before COVID19 it has largely been ignored.

This wasn't always true in the past though, in early medieval world they had far more holidays - Holy Days - than we have holidays today. This weekend may be the Bank Holiday weekend and even within living memory this weekend would have been a significant holiday; the Whitsun or Sunday School Treats where the girls had a new hat or children a new item of clothing perhaps?

Ascension Day into Whitsun, or Pentecost as we call it today, was a time of holiday but in the life of the church and perhaps more significantly it is a time when we considered the power and confidence for living out this Christian life we are called to having come through Lent, Good Friday and Easter. All be it in a strange and somehow disconnected way this year!

The celebration of Lent and Good Friday/Easter is about entering into the remembrance of those events at bring us life, hope and confidence in the God who comes us and calls us to be his disciples.

Ascension and Pentecost are the days that belong to us, those disciples that are here today; Ascension reminds us that we look up to God and to see Jesus enthroned in heaven and that his Kingdom is a reality. Not just a Kingdom of Heaven but the Kingdom in hearts and lives here today, the Kingdom that we pray for when we say YOUR KINGDOM COME! This Kingdom is where Jesus' rule is, the rule that begins

when we become his disciples. This day of Ascension then is for us to know that we are called; called to go out into the world as disciples.

Pentecost is the promise to come that we look for, not just in a future but here and now when the Kingdom of Jesus bursts into daily life in the Fruit of the Spirit:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control,

when the Kingdom of Jesus bursts into daily life through the Gifts of the Spirit: Tongues, Discernment, Wisdom, Prophecy and many more,

when the Kingdom of Jesus bursts into daily life in Signs and Wonders:

Healings, Restoration, Mended relationships, Broken down barriers and so much more.

These are the things of the daily life of the disciple of Jesus which we are called to, this is how we live the life that Jesus gives us, a life in all it's fullness.

So may this Ascension and Whitsun tide be a time for us when we look up with expectation and continue to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'!

Remember....

*Be **Kind** to one another*

***Support** one another*

*and **Love** one another...*

*It IS that simple.*

## What might a post virus church look like? Part two...

The other week I thought about how our churches might be... *Less of 'how we do church' and more of 'how we be church'.*

There has been further thought on that by a few people.

At South Wingfield there might be less changes as we are a small church doing a small number of things but doing them well. At All Saints, there may well be tweaks and pinches in structures.

At Crich there is the feeling that **being** the church has become important than **doing** church.

The vision from before Christmas was of the tree and Di's wonderful banner. I know she is working on a new one ready for when we return to the church building. The banner that is in church now is of the roots of prayer and worship feeding the tree. The new banner will show the same tree in a different light; what the tree is there for.

The roots of the tree may well be where we are anchored; in prayer and worship – the spiritual part of the life of the church.

The trunk of the tree may well be the solid nature of our building that holds us and gives us security when the winds blow – the practical and most visual part of the life of the church.

The branches and leaves of the tree are where we are out in the community through faith, our daily lives and what sustains us and links us – our networks of groups, friends, and community.

The blossom and the fruit of the tree are where God is forming all the good things that comes from all of the above, the blossom and fruit are the blessings and the outpouring of who we are and what we do.

If that is the Vision that I want to give you of the church what, then are we going to be as a church?

Three areas of development I want to suggest we work on in the coming years:

The churches buildings - The churches spiritual life - The churches community life

It would be far too easy to get bogged down in the practical changes to our churches, remodeling and bringing them into better use, but it will be done.

It would be hard to develop a spirituality that helps and sustains the life of the church for each disciple, but it will be done.

It feels near impossible to grow outward into the community in service and mission, but we have already been forced into it by the spirit of Jesus.

This is what I am calling us to as the churches of Crich and South Wingfield, to **build**, to **develop** and to **grow**...

**Will you be part of that in the coming years..?**



Father Timothy Pelc conducts the traditional Blessing of the Easter Baskets, using a squirt gun to distribute holy water. Photograph: Jim West/ZUMA Wire/ReX/Shutterstock

- A Catholic priest using a squirt gun to spray holy water has become a meme. The photos of Father Timothy Pelc conducting a traditional Easter Blessing in unconventional style [to adhere to social distancing guidelines](#) were posted on social media by his church, St Ambrose, near Detroit.

As was pointed out to me this week, sometimes we are called by God to think outside the box.....

The mode of operation may change and develop but the intention must remain true....

However, if, in 20 years' time, this church was doing the same thing in the same way, but with no COVID19 around, questions would need to be asked....

So what might that say to us..?

## Daily Hope phonline to address issues of social isolation.

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A free national phonline **Daily HOPE** will be launched this Sunday, aimed particularly at those who don't have access to the internet. Research indicates that some three million people – particularly those in an older age group have no, or very irregular, access to the internet. The line will be available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**.

### DENNIS REMINDS US:

'The one thing I would request is that regular givers store up their giving envelopes which we will receive once St Mary's church can be opened again.'

**Just a note:** the fact that we are not, at present, using the church does not mean that our costs have ceased. We are still expected to pay our Common Fund (£34,450), Insurance (£3,200), Utilities (£3,750) – most of the expenses are in the Winter months – and I would hope our Giving to Charities (£5,500) and Quinquennial (£12,000). In other words, most of our Budget Expenses will still need paying.

I read the other day a prayer that included in it;

**'Heavenly Father, give us enough to live and enough to give.'** May that be the case!

### GIVING ONLINE

Many people have asked about regular collections at church.

If anyone can set up a Standing Order through their bank to St Mary's here are the details:

St Mary's PCC Crich sort code 40-52-40 account number 00019984 CAF Bank Ltd

## **LYNDA WRITES:**

This sonnet by Malcolm Guite is well worth meditating on slowly, line by line. The Ascension of Christ is important to our relationship with him and how we can now pray. 'He took us with him the heart of things' – because of his victory over the enemy at the cross we are made his children, brothers and sisters even, and are seated with him in the heavenly places. We can pray in his name and his authority for the broken hearted. 'His light in us, and ours in him concealed, which all creation waits to see revealed.' Through our worship and praise we 'sing the waning darkness into light.' This broken world is waiting.

### **Ascension Day**

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place  
As earth became a part of Heaven's story  
And heaven opened to his human face.  
We saw him go and yet we were not parted  
He took us with him to the heart of things  
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,  
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness  
And sing the waning darkness into light,  
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
Which all creation waits to see revealed .

Malcom Guite. Sounding the Seasons. 2012. Canterbury Press

## **NEW SERVICIES**

With the days of Ascension and Pentecost upon us a new service outline is being put out through this Church News and through CSW Digital church. Feel free to use these alongside the daily Morning and Night Prayer.

# REMINDERS

OF FORGOTTEN CONCEPTS

THE HYMN BOOK



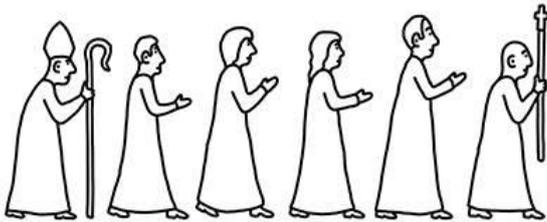
ALL OUR FAVOURITE THINGS TO SING  
IN ONE VOLUME

THE PEW



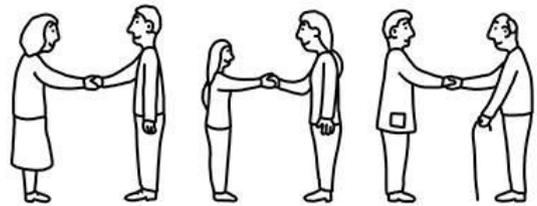
SEAT FOR MORE THAN ONE PERSON,  
NOT ALL FROM THE SAME HOUSEHOLD

THE PROCESSION



A FORMAL KIND OF WALKING, WITH  
PARTICIPANTS OFTEN PAYING SCANT  
ATTENTION TO SOCIAL-DISTANCING RULES

THE PEACE



A TIME DURING A CHURCH SERVICE  
WHEN EVERYONE STOPS AND SHAKES  
HANDS FOR THE SHEER JOY OF IT

## Remember these?

**Which one of these do you miss the most?**

*For me it's the Peace 'for the sheer joy of it'*

**What is missing from that [brief] list?**

*For me it's the Tea, Coffee an' Cake!*

**Which ones do you really want to get back to straight away?**

*For me it's Singing*

**Which ones do you think we really don't need any more?**

*For me it's Meetings!*

# USUAL WORSHIP AT OUR VILLAGE CHURCH COMMUNITIES

**Crich Wesley Chapel 3.00pm Every Sunday Say a prayer for them**

**Crich Baptist Church 10.45am and 6.00pm Every Sunday Say a prayer for them**

**South Wingfield Zion Methodist Chapel 6.00pm Every Sunday Say a prayer for them**

**South Wingfield Baptist Church 11.00am and 6.00pm Every Sunday Say a prayer for them**

**Fritchley Congregational 2.30pm 1st Sunday every month Say a prayer for them Fritchley**

**Quakers 11.00am Every Sunday Say a prayer for them**

## CHURCH CONTACTS

**Vicar: Rev Ian Whitehead,**

New Vicarage, 19 Coasthill, Crich DE4 5DS

01773 425077 cswvicar@gmail.com 07480 063 549

**Benefice Secretary:** Joanne Morton cswbensec@gmail.com

**Weddings & Christenings at Crich & South Wingfield** - - we are told no Baptisms or Weddings take place at this time but if you want to book in faith contact Joanne above.

**Funerals at Crich & South Wingfield:** Contact Revd Ian above.

Only close family should consider attending these services

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**Crich Churchwarden:** Martyn Offord 01773 853722 martynofford@gmail.com

**Crich Churchwarden:** James Hancox 01773 856948 james.hancox@gmail.com

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**S-Wingfield Churchwarden & Hall Booking:** Mark Irving 07834353912 mark@mirving.me.uk

**S-Wingfield Churchwarden:** Diana Marshall 01773 833667 cdmlinbery@btinternet.com

**Crich & South Wingfield Church Website:** www.crichstmarys.org.uk

## 200 Local Volunteers want to HELP you stay safe.

If you are over **70** or have a pre existing **medical condition** catching Covid 19 could make you very, very ill or worse.

**Stay Safe Isolate Stay at Home**

Our volunteers can help with your:

**Shopping**

**Prescriptions**

**A friendly telephone chat**

**Advice about hot and cold meal deliveries**

**If you are worried or anxious**

# Call 01773 447533

Local Volunteers helping Local people



# 'The Community Pantry'!

Foodstuff is required across our five Pantry's but tins of Beans and Chopped Tomatoes we have plenty of. Tins of meat-based products would be welcome. Please check the dates on tins and jars. Any fresh produce can be left with us too, preferably at the start of the week then I can get it into the schools. If there are any spare 'Gov Food Parcel' or spare bits from them, we can use those too.



If anyone is more able to give money or would prefer to, pop cash in an envelope through the Vicarage Door [clearly marked for the Pantry] I've already received nearly £200 over the past few weeks and so a huge thank you to those who have dropped off money.

Drop off what you can at the Vicarage Community Pantry or elsewhere and if you can or point people in their direction if you know of need...there are also Pantry's at Fritchley Congregational Church, Bullbridge at the Canal Inn, Whatstandwell near the allotments and South Wingfield at the Parish Room.

The idea is still simple; **'give what you can – take what you need'** no cost and no checks. This is a local effort by the villages, make it known as far as you can.

At Fritchley there are Books and Cross Stitch kits available too.

Larger non-food items are also welcome but check with us first as 'two dozen slabs' may not be useful! [I could do with some though!!] Thank you to those who left the two scooters at the Vicarage Pantry they were taken by a 'local after-school club' with a big thank you.

School clothing is something that is being considered but where and how is not quite worked out...anyone willing to take this idea on?

There are now brand new Community Pantry sign on all the Pantry's, many thanks to **'WINNING WORKS'** in the village for these, thank you Chris & Cathy [winningworks.co.uk](http://winningworks.co.uk) Also chalk boards to leave a message if there something specific you need with thanks for these to the 'Top school'.

# Community Pantry

*'drop off what you can - take what  
you need'*

Feel free to contribute  
food stuff or to take  
something you need

Based in Crich at the

New Vicarage, Coasthill

DE4 5DS

# A Short Service for ASCENSION

## **The Gathering & Welcome**

The Lord be with you

**All: and also with you**

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**All: Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Jesus is our high priest, tempted like us, yet without sin.

He lives for ever in heaven to intercede for us.

Through him we approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
and confess our sins. *Hebrews 4.15,16*

**All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## **Collect Prayer for the Week**

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Reading of the Word with Reflection**

## **The Peace.**

*God has made us one in Christ.*

*He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*Let us offer to one another a sign of peace.*

The Lord is here.

**All: His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For he is our great high priest who has entered once for all  
into the heavenly sanctuary, evermore to pour upon your Church  
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.  
He is the one who has gone before us, who calls us to be united in prayer  
as were his disciples in the upper room while they awaited his promised gift,  
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.  
Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing as angels and archangels  
sing the endless hymn of praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Jesus Christ is Lord

**All: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Prayers continue....**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
YOUR KINGDOM COME,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

The Spirit of truth lead us into all truth,  
Give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and strengthen us to proclaim the word and works of God  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# A REFLECTIVE SERVICE: FOR WORSHIP IN ISOLATION

A Prayer resources for those who are unable to meet together

An action to take in italics:

*Set up a candle or a cross for a focal point for your worship*

Say aloud in bold type:

**We come from scattered lives to meet with God.**

**Let us recognise God's presence with us now.**

*Keep a short silence, still your heart.*

**As God's people we have gathered;**

**Let us worship God now together,**

**Across the distance yet joined together in need.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people,**

**and kindle in us the fire of your love;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

**In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves**

**and confess our sins.**

*Keep a short silence and leave your sins at the cross*

Confession:

**Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.**

**We are not worthy to be called your children.**

**We turn to you again, have mercy on us,**

**bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead**

**but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Forgiveness:

**May the Father forgive us by the death of the Son,  
and strengthen us to live in the power of The Spirit  
all our days. Amen.**

*Read the bible reading(s) for today*  
[Sunday Readings will be in the weekly Church News]

Declaring our faith

**We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:**

**Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God,**

**but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave,**

**he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself**

**and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore, God has raised him on high,**

**and given him the name above every name: that at the**

**name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim**

**that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

[Taken from Philippians 2.6-11]

*We pray for others in the quiet of our hearts.*

**Lord, meet us in the silence**

**And hear our prayer.**

*Silence for prayer is kept:*

*Pray for yourself in your isolation, that God would sit with you*

*Pray for others in their loneliness*

*Pray for our country*

*Pray for the world*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Keep a moment or two of Silence*

**Faithful God, may we who share in this time of worship  
Glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Our salvation and hope, who reigns as Lord now and forever.  
Fill us, Good Lord with your Spirit of love;  
And as you have fed us with your presence,  
so, make us one in heart and mind, In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Ending

**Let us bless the Lord            Thanks be to God!**

**“For God has said, ‘I will not leave you or forsake you’  
so we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will  
not fear’.” (Hebrews 13:5-6)**

**“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you;  
he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be  
dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:8)**

**Please God, we ask that we can meet together in church again, soon. Amen.**

# AN ORDER FOR THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE (NIGHT PRAYER)

*The office of Compline (Night prayer) comes from an ancient practice of daily prayers by Christian monastic communities. It is a good way to end the day in quiet contemplation and reflection upon the past day before commending yourself to God and a peaceful night's sleep. The office should be said before going to bed in a quiet and calm way; a candle may be lit and you might like to sing a simple hymn.*

**The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.**

**Amen.**

**Our help is in the name of the Lord  
who made heaven and earth.**

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.*

**Most merciful God, we confess to you,**

**before the whole company of heaven and one another,**

**that we have sinned in thought, word and deed**

**and in what we have failed to do.**

**Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

*The following or another suitable hymn may be said or listened to.*

**Before the ending of the day,**

**Creator of the world, we pray**

**That you, with steadfast love, would keep**

**Your watch around us while we sleep.**

**From evil dreams defend our sight,**

**From fears and terrors of the night;**

**Tread underfoot our deadly foe**

**That we no sinful thought may know.**

**O Father, that we ask be done**

**Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;**

**And Holy Spirit, by whose breath**

**Our souls are raised to life from death.**

*The following psalm may be used.*

- 1. Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, •(pause)  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.**
- 2. Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary •(pause)  
and bless the Lord.**
- 3. The Lord who made heaven and earth •(pause)  
give you blessing out of Zion.**

*At the end of the psalmody, the following is said*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*The following short lesson or another suitable passage is read:*

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22.4,5

Psalm 91

- <sup>1</sup> Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- <sup>2</sup> I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."
- <sup>3</sup> Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- <sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,
- <sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

*The following responses may be said:*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. •(pause)

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth. •(pause)

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. •(pause)

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said*

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

**1. Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.**

**2. My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

**3. A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel. Luke 2.29-32**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Prayers of intercession and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

*Silence may be kept.*

**Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;  
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,  
and may your blessing be always upon us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Ending

**In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.  
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.  
As the night watch looks for the morning,  
so do we look for you, O Christ.**

**The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. Amen.**