



**The Parish Church of Saint Peter, West Green**

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**



WELCOME to our service this Sunday at St Peter's. We hope you will find this service sheet useful for prayer, meditating on the scriptures and as an information service.

**As a church family we need to work together to protect our most vulnerable members. If you are self-isolating, then please let us know – so that we can pray for you at Church and offer any additional support you may require. Most importantly as a Christian family let us remember to pray for one another and let us gain strength from that knowledge**



**Hymns in this service sheet**  
If you have a computer and use the internet you can go into, say, Google or Yahoo, and look up a hymn.

You will probably find a choir or an organist who will sing it or play the tune.

If so, you could accompany the musician or choir and sing along with them, a bit like in church. You might even be joining in with Kings College Choir, Cambridge or a cathedral choir. What a joy and what fun, too! Fr Paul

Today's theme – building bridges and speaking for God

#### THE GATHERING

We get ready to worship God and we sing our opening hymn:

**O worship the King, all glorious above;  
O gratefully sing his power and his love;  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,**

**Pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,**

**Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;**

**His chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,**

**And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**



**This earth, with its store of wonders untold,**

**Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;**

**Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,**

**And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.**

**Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?**

**It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;**

**It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain;**

**And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,**

**In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;**

**Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,**

**Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer,  
and Friend.**

**O measureless might, ineffable  
love,  
While angels delight to hymn thee  
above,  
Thy humbler creation, though  
feeble their lays,  
With true adoration shall sing to  
thy praise.** *Robert Grant (1779-1838)*

#### THE GREETING

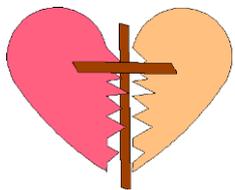
✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Jesus will soon return to the Father, but in  
today's gospel he promises to send the Spirit of  
truth on the disciples. Let us give thanks that the  
Holy Spirit reveals to us the truth about Jesus and  
gives us the grace to understand and to keep his  
commandments.



#### PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*We say sorry for the wrong  
things we have done and ask  
God to forgive us*

Jesus does not leave us on our own. His Spirit  
guides us through our lives, showing us the way  
to justice and truth.

Let us confess our failings in love towards God,  
our neighbours and ourselves, praying grace for  
repentance, forgiveness and amendment of life.

*Silence is kept for a time of reflection*

You are the way to the Father.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You promise us the Holy Spirit as our guide.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You give us the peace that the world cannot give.

**Lord, have mercy.**

✠ Almighty God, who forgives all who truly  
repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver  
you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen  
you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA (*our glory to God*)

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to his**

**people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly**

**King, almighty God**

**and Father, we**

**worship you,**

**we give you thanks, we praise you**

**for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the**

**Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the**

**world: have mercy on us; you are**

**seated at the right hand of the**

**Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord, you alone**

**are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory**

**of God the Father. Amen.**



THE COLLECT - *A prayer which collects or  
sums up our worship themes for today*

Let us pray.

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from  
the power of darkness and brought us into the  
kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death  
he has recalled us to life, so by his continual  
presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;

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.

**Amen**



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The bible readings for today:*

FIRST READING *from the Acts of the  
Apostles 17.22-31; Paul develops his message  
by teaching that God is Creator and Judge,  
and by declaring the truth about Jesus Christ  
and His resurrection from the dead*

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the  
Areopagus and said,  
'Athenians, I see how extremely  
religious you are in every way.

<sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and  
looked carefully at the objects of  
your worship, I found among them  
an altar with the inscription,  
"To an unknown god."

What therefore you worship as  
unknown, this I proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and  
everything in it, he who is Lord of  
heaven and earth, does not live in  
shrines made by human hands,

<sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands,  
as though he needed anything, since  
he himself gives to all mortals life and  
breath and all things.

<sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all  
nations to inhabit the whole earth,  
and he allotted the times of their  
existence and the boundaries of the  
places where they would live,

<sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God  
and perhaps grope for him and find

him—though indeed he is not far  
from each one of us.

<sup>28</sup> For "In him we live and move and  
have our being"; as even some of  
your own poets have said,  
"For we too are his offspring."

<sup>29</sup> Since we are God's offspring,  
we ought not to think that the deity  
is like gold, or silver, or stone, an  
image formed by the art and  
imagination of mortals.

<sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the  
times of human ignorance, now he  
commands all people everywhere to  
repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day  
on which he will have the world  
judged in righteousness by a man  
whom he has appointed, and of this  
he has given assurance to all by  
raising him from the dead.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 66.7-18**

7 Bless our God, O you peoples; make the  
voice of his praise to be heard,

8 Who holds our souls in life and suffers  
not our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare; you laid  
heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; but you  
brought us out into a place of liberty.

12 I will come into your house with burnt  
offerings and will pay you my vows, which  
my lips uttered and my mouth promised  
when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices with the smoke of rams; I will sacrifice oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.

15 I called out to him with my mouth and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had nursed evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me,

17 But in truth God has heard me; he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

**SECOND READING:** *1 Peter 3.13-22;*  
*Peter encourages Christians to be prepared to defend their faith in public*

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

<sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.

Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.

Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

<sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to

God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water.

<sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**



THE GOSPEL

**Alleluia!** I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John 14.15-21; this focuses on the role of the Spirit as advocate.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.

<sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

<sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, O Christ.***

THE HOMILY *from Fr Paul*

### **Advocate**

I was somewhat taken aback last Sunday, when we were told we should, 'Stay Alert.' Alert to what or to whom? Is it suddenly Advent? Maybe the Prime Minister was struggling with which words to use?

That was the problem the translators of the bible were having when it came to a special Greek word, *parakleetos*, which is hard to translate. Some have suggested Helper or Comforter.

Jesus was thinking along those lines about his disciples, especially when he would be crucified. They would be frightened. Or later when, after his Ascension, the disciples might be brought before a court

and need an advocate to speak up on their behalf.

Nowadays the word Comforter does not mean what it once meant.

It was first used by John Wycliffe in the 1300s when he was translating the Latin bible into English. He chose Comforter because the Latin word *fortis* meant brave. So, a Comforter would make you feel braver.

Nowadays Advocate is often used, meaning someone, perhaps a lawyer in court, who could speak well on your behalf and defend you.

Jesus wanted to re-assure his disciples that they would not be let down. He would always know their problems and be with them in some form and help them. That is good news for us, too.

That is the good news we can give to those who are still staying at home, staying safe, or confused about what they should be staying alert for and how. Pray them the loving support and help that knowing Christ is with you and loving you can bring.

Be yourselves re-assured and feel safer and loved by our good news.

Alleluia, alleluia, Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed, alleluia, alleluia!



THE CREED (*We all say what we believe as Christians*)

Let us declare our faith in God:

***We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of  
heaven and earth, of all that is, seen  
and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,***

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



#### OUR PRAYERS

*We pray together. We thank God. We pray for people who need God to be especially close to them*

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ... we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love ... we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ... we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ... we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them ... we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day ... we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



#### THE PEACE

Jesus said: "Those who love me will keep my word". We rejoice in our one-ness with him, and our fellowship with one another in his name.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

During this hymn we would normally gather the gifts of the church. Please continue to use this as an opportunity to give to the work of the church.

**Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour  
glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame  
bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions  
turn  
to dust and ashes in its  
heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious  
light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while  
my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner  
clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings  
weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of  
human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till he become the place**

**wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

*Bianco da Siena (d1434), tr Richard F Littledale (1833-90)*

## HOLY COMMUNION



**Please see the  
guidelines later in the  
service sheet for  
Spiritual Communion**

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

## PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, my dears, that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice  
at your hands, for the praise and  
glory of his name, for our good  
and the good of all his Church.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**  
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your  
glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**✠ Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.



In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.



Let us proclaim the truths of our faith

**Christ has died: Christ is risen:**

## **Christ will come again.**



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of Our Blessed Lady, ... and of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, saying*

*We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.*

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.**

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Before the distribution the celebrant says*

*This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.*

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Communion Hymn:*

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here; come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear:  
In him no sin is found we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,**

**with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight  
our radiant King of Light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:**

**he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.**

**No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

*David J Evans b 1957 ©1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music*



*A time for silent reflection and thanksgiving is kept*

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**



#### THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God defend you from all evil. Jesus counsel you with all wisdom. The Holy Spirit comfort you in adversity. And the blessing of God almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son and the Holy

Spirit, be upon you and all whom you love and pray for, living and departed, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**The Spirit lives to set us free,  
walk, walk in the light.  
He binds us all in unity,  
walk, walk in the  
light.**

*Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
walk in the light of the  
Lord.*



**Jesus promised life to all,  
walk, walk in the light.  
The dead were wakened by his  
call, walk, walk in the light.**

**He died in pain on Calvary,  
walk, walk in the light,  
to save the lost like you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.**

**We know his death was not the  
end, walk, walk in the light.  
He gave his spirit to be our friend,  
walk, walk in the light.**

**By Jesus' love our wounds are  
healed,  
walk, walk in the light.  
The father's kindness is revealed,  
walk, walk in the light.**

**The Spirit lives in you and me,  
walk, walk in the light.  
His light will shine for all to see,**

**walk, walk in the light.**

*Damian Lundy (1944-97)*

Be in peace to love and serve the Lord.

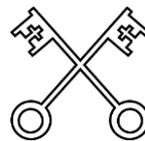
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Thoughts for the week:

Do we sometimes expect God to answer our prayers by making us immune from suffering? How do today's readings help us see our relationship with God incorporating suffering?

Many people today are not church-goers, but would say they believed in "the unknown God". How would you explain him to them?

*Readings for next Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of Easter :*  
*Acts 1.6-14; 1 Peter 4.12-14 & 5.6-11; John 17, 1-11*



**And on this rock  
I will build my church**

**For our prayers:**

Dear Lord, we thank you for all the love and care you show us. We send you our love for you to use, as you wish.

Dear Lord, we want to attract more people to join us in worshipping you. Please help us in this mission.

Dear Lord, we pray for our parish, especially this month those who live in Town Mead, Buckmans Road, The Link and Kites Close, and all those working at the Fire Station.

Dear Lord, we pray for those in need of our prayers, especially Phyllis Woods, Tim Butler, Joyce Mulford, Steve Williams, Bernice Golby, Beryl, Grace Walsh, Tim Lucas, Michael Grant, Tony Greener, Daniel, Keith and

Michael, Andrew Fairbairn, Peter Parsons, Debbie Langridge, Archdeacon Fiona Windsor, Jane and Geoff, Jacki and Geoff, Nancy.

Dear Lord, we pray for all those whom we have loved but see no longer, and for all those who have recently died, especially Josephine Smith, Revd Pauline Lucas (Rector of Kirdford), Nicholas Lockett. We pray for their families and friends as they mourn their loss.

Dear Lord, we pray for all those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time, especially Marjorie Thomson. ✠Rest and joy eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

*SECAM, the Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences in Africa and Madagascar, has suggested the following prayer for all those affected by the coronavirus:*

Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation.

We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world.

Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world.

Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families.

We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people.

Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.



## **Making a Spiritual Communion**

We must use these extraordinary times to our

advantage and make an opportunity out of being on our own for longer as well as thinking of how we can sustain our friends, neighbours and others whom we know to be in need, by using phone, text or email, as well as prayer, which has used a divine world-wide web for thousands of years.

We shall miss being together at our Parish Eucharist, sharing in each other's presence, friendship and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. We shall miss being fed by him and renewed by him through his presence in our communion. But when we cannot make our communion, like now, or when we are on holiday or ill at home, we can make a spiritual communion and know that the Lord can still feed us with his grace through the words of scripture, especially his words in the gospel and the words of the prayers and the words of forgiveness in the absolution.

So, if you can get a copy of the week's service sheet, either online, or a hard copy delivered to you, sit down and open it up as you would in church. You can imagine being in church. Read through the service, pause now and then and let the words sink in.

Pause before saying the confession and after the absolution, and give thanks for Christ wanting to forgive you and help you keep trying and maybe even do better.

The collect prayer is always good value and worth saying over a couple of times. Some of these prayers are very beautiful and uplifting. If you have time you can read all the scriptures, but be careful.

Always interpret the Old Testament scriptures in the light of what Jesus teaches us. If the OT, including the Psalms, is not as loving as the NT, then dismiss them. I think you need to have studied the OT for years in order to understand them, their origin and

meaning in ancient times and maybe now if applicable.

Always concentrate on the Gospel, where Jesus speaks to you. Savour his words and see what they seem to be saying to you. The service sheet will contain the intercessions and, again, if you have time say them and think around them and explore them in your mind and imagination. You can add praying for your loved ones and others whom you think need prayer, too. Say the words of The Peace. You could imagine exchanging the peace in church. How lovely!

Instead of seeing the elements brought up to the altar during the offertory hymn, imagine giving yourself to Christ so he can bless you and feed you. If you have time you can say the whole of the Eucharistic prayers and all those that follow. When you would have made your communion you can hold out your hands and imagine the sacrament being placed there, likewise with receiving the chalice. Now pause again, be still and know that Christ gives himself to you and loves you utterly and wants you. You are his child. Say thank you to the Lord for his grace and all that he went through to show you how much you are loved and wanted.

Finish with the collects and say the blessing over yourself and the dismissal. Remember that God wants to feed you with himself, his love, his grace because he so loves you! (Read John 3.16 & 17)

### Shorter Form

If this is too long - just say sorry and ask forgiveness, say the collect, read the Gospel, say some prayers and then open your hands to imagine receiving the sacrament and say thank you.

And there are the hymns! I hope you will enjoy singing them, when you know the tune (*you can check on Youtube*) and doing so out

loud, which is very good therapy. Often the hymns express a lot about the gospel in easy terms, sometimes sublimely beautifully, too. Have fun and joy!! Fr Paul

## ST. PETER'S NET

Vicar: Father Paul 01293 544046

Church Wardens:

Jean Dinnair Tel: (01293) 550453

John Keller Tel: (01293) 560526

### CHURCHES ARE CLOSED

until further notice

You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Now, more than ever, we need to make sure we keep our eyes fixed on God, and work together as a church family, to love each other and those around us.

But please do still let us know of anyone you wish to be prayed for



email or delivery, so we can all remain connected.

We hope that everyone in our congregation will receive our weekly service sheet, either by

St John's are screening their 9.30am service on the website [www.stjohnscrawley.com](http://www.stjohnscrawley.com) watch live on Sunday or at a time to suit you.



You can also view their Ascension Day service this Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 7.30pm



## Christian Aid Week

You can still donate, but this year 'digital only'. St Peter's has always given generously to Christian Aid, so please continue your support this year.

To give: go to: [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) or phone 0845 700 0300

### Blue Envelope Users

If you are a blue envelope user and use online-banking you could make your weekly donations to St Peter's online. The church's bank is CAF Bank, the sort code is 40 52 40 and account number 00013551, make sure you put those zeros in at the beginning of the account number, the name of the account is St Peter's Church West Green Crawley Current Account. For a reference please use your name. You might like to set up a standing order for the duration of the lockdown which would save you a lot of time. Any queries do call Keith on 514729.

### HEARING YOU - A local response to the Coronavirus crisis

The Diocese of Chichester with Together in Sussex have launched Hearing You, a pastoral phone line to enable the people of Sussex to feel connected and supported.

The phone line provides pastoral support and a listening ear to the recently bereaved and people directly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. It is staffed by volunteers who are trained in pastoral care and listening skills: clergy and licensed lay ministers.

All volunteer listeners will

- have an active DBS and have completed safeguarding training with the

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a **free national phone line** as a simple and easy way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus. It offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available **24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind

The BBC is broadcasting a **service on Sundays 8am** across local radio in England (**BBC Radio Sussex & Surrey for us**) + their usual Sunday Worship on Radio 4 8.10am.

And there is a service shown on BBC1 – **check TV listings for exact times**



### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW BISHOPS

10 Downing Street have announced the names of the new bishops of Horsham and Lewes to serve as suffragan bishops in the Diocese of Chichester.

**The Revd Ruth Bushyager**, currently Vicar of St Paul's, Dorking in the Diocese of Guildford will serve as **Bishop of Horsham**.

**The Revd William Hazlewood**, currently Vicar of the United Benefice of Dartmouth and Dittisham in the Diocese of Exeter will be the next **Bishop of Lewes**.

Diocese of Chichester

- be able to point callers to their parish clergy
- direct callers to other organisations offering specialist support if appropriate
- offer to pray for the caller or for their concerns.

*NB This is not a substitute for the emergency services (111 or 999) or a counselling service. It is a human, Christian response to anyone who turns to the Church in this time of need.*

The phone line is open to anyone living in Sussex whether they attend a church or not, and will initially run until the end of May, Monday - Friday 9am-7pm.

**The Hearing You number is:  
01273 425047**

### **ALSO**

The Diocese have launched a simple statement for people to take into hospital with them. Some people will need it printed by a friend, neighbour or parish priest.

We advise that every household should have one of these statements ready for use.

This statement declares a person's Christian faith, and request access to a Church of England a chaplain while in hospital.

A template for this statement is available on the Diocesan website

### **A Church Near You ...**

is the Church of England's website for parishes. St Peter's, West Green, Crawley can be found by searching within "A Church Near You" or you can go directly to

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5210](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5210)

The site lists Parish activities and resources. The weekly service sheet can

be downloaded from the News and Notices section.

The website needs some high resolution photographs of the building and especially of St Peter's in action. If you have some suitable jpeg files that you don't mind sharing please forward them to Alan Jamieson [alanjam@senet.com.au](mailto:alanjam@senet.com.au) for uploading.

**Cartridge Recycling** - If you are working from home and using your printer more, do remember to save the empty cartridges - we can recycle them for charity.

**Prayers** – if you would like to add a name to the weekly prayers included in the service sheet please contact Fr Paul or June in the Parish Office. *(Please also remember to tell us when to take someone off)*

**Year's Mind:** We keep a list of the anniversary of the death of close relatives and friends to remember them in our prayers, on or near their anniversary. If you would like to add a name please contact June in the Parish Office.

**Gift aid** - If your circumstances change, e.g. you no longer pay sufficient tax to gift aid your donations or you change address please tell Keith.

**Electoral Roll** – Should you change your contact details please let Helen know, so our records are kept up to date.

***Time on your hands? Get those knitting needles out ...***

The congregation & friends of St John's are now supporting the work of the Romanian Aid Foundation, a Christian charity operating from Horley Baptist

Church. They make up 'baby bags' that contain useful items for both mother & baby, so our layettes would be much appreciated.

Baby garments (cardigans, hats, booties, mittens, leggings, etc) can be knitted or crocheted. If you have patterns of your own, please use them. Sizes to fit from birth, to around 6 years, are needed. Any colour, double knitting or 4 ply wool can be used for baby sizes. DK or Chunky wool is more suitable for the larger size garments.

If you need some wool, a pattern or needles please email me:

[anne.granite@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:anne.granite@blueyonder.co.uk), stating what you need, and your address, and I will do my best to get it to you.

If you prefer something less complicated than garments, blankets (approx 36 inches square) are also needed.

*In the meantime - the pattern for knitted squares for a blanket is ... with needles size 8 (4mm) and double knitting wool cast on 20 stitches & knit approx 32 rows, until a square is formed. Great for using up oddments of wool - it will fill half an hour or so. Knitters don't have to sew them together - let's see how many squares we can produce before the end of the pandemic! Crochet squares are also welcome if you know how! Anne Granite*

We're also knitting 'twiddlemuffs' for patients at St George's hospital.

**Or write a letter/card to cheer someone up ... To one of our congregation ....** or the Charity From Me to You ask people to write to cancer patients spending time in Sussex hospitals. [www.frommetoyouletters.co.uk](http://www.frommetoyouletters.co.uk)

**Keep in touch with St Peter's:**  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5210](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5210)

[www.stpeterwg.org.uk](http://www.stpeterwg.org.uk)

**Facebook: 'St Peter's Church  
Crawley Booksale'**

### **Bible notes**

*Christians can bear testimony to the saving power of God in Christ with confidence because the Spirit is their advocate.*

*Paul preaches in Athens, a hostile environment where new ideas were assessed and often rejected, but attracts some support because he preaches the gospel appropriately and with confidence. Psalm 66 speaks of testimony to God's salvation at many levels, while 1 Peter encourages Christians to be prepared to defend their faith in public. John's Gospel focuses on the role of the Spirit as advocate.*

**Acts 17.22-31** Paul, delayed in Athens on his journey south, used the opportunity to talk to those he met, religious Jews in the synagogue and the philosophers of the marketplace. This led to an invitation to address the Areopagus, the most respected Greek court of its day; Paul was not on trial but simply an interesting speaker. Luke's account may be the sort of thing Paul would have been likely to say in the circumstances, rather than an accurate record of the speech.

Paul's audience included Stoic philosophers, who believed that life should be lived in acceptance of the natural order and free from passion or emotion, and Epicureans, whose highest principle was pleasure managed so that it did not lead to pain. Paul's speech is constructed according to rhetorical principles, expressed in the language of Greek philosophers (v. 25) and poets (v. 28) and referring to their artists (v. 29). He undercuts the Greek claim to intellectual leadership by referring to their lack of knowledge and to their ignorance: their intellectual heritage is flawed and needs the opportunity of repentance just as much as any other. Although this speech appeared unsuccessful because of its very limited impact, it is important to note that Paul maintained his intellectual integrity, holding together culturally appropriate forms of expression with resurrection, the heart of the gospel.

**Psalm 66.7-20** This psalm begins by stressing that God's power extends over the whole universe. He cares for his people, and the group

recalls the struggles undergone in crossing the Red Sea (v. 6) and in the battles since (vv. 9-11) but understands them as purifying, leading to 'the spacious place'. Finally, the individual testifies to God's help in trouble, and promises offerings in response. In all three sections, there is a call to public witness (vv. 1,5,16) and an invitation to come and see or hear what God has done, making testimony a key element of this psalm.

**New Testament | Peter 3.13-22** The passage begins with the optimistic expectation that Christians will not suffer for doing good; however, given the lack of religious tolerance characteristic of the Roman Empire, Peter goes on to consider how to respond if there is persecution. Verses 14-16 offer advice, while verses 17-22 offer a theological basis for that advice.

Peter advises the Christians to ensure that their lifestyle is beyond reproach, but to be ready to defend their beliefs with gentle persistence if they are brought to trial. Theologically, he returns to the theme of 2.21, linking their innocent suffering with Christ's. Christ's death served the purpose of bringing them to faith. The passage ends with a complex mix of ideas, offering two levels at which hearers can claim their salvation.

Those who refused to listen to God in the days of the Flood were, in Jewish tradition, the greatest of sinners, whose imprisonment was the most long term. Christ offered even them the chance to hear the good news – how much more does he offer it to these Christians? Noah and his family were saved through water, like Peter's audience who have been saved through baptism. The resurrection has the power to save all people.

**Gospel John 14.15-21** The passage focuses again on love, expressed through obedience. In John's Gospel, love concerns lifestyle, not emotion. It closes with a renewed emphasis on love as the force binding together Jesus, the Father and the disciples. This love enables Jesus to return to the disciples and lets them share in his life (v. 19). Life in Christ is explained as a three-way relationship: Jesus, the Father and the disciples dwell in each other. The mutual dependence of such indwelling is central to John's Gospel; in chapter 15, Jesus

illustrates it with the teaching that he is the vine, his Father the vinedresser and his disciples the branches.

Within this, Jesus teaches about the gift of the Spirit, who also indwells the disciples. John the Baptist saw the Spirit descend from heaven at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and remain with him (1.32). This gift passes to the disciples, to teach them (v. 26) and to lead them into the truth (v. 6). The key role of the Spirit is as Advocate, a term for someone who offers support by speaking for a person facing court proceedings. One stylistic device of John's Gospel is the idea that Jesus is presenting a forensic self-defence, as if the story is evidence at a trial to establish whether his claim about himself is true. The Spirit's role is to speak on Jesus' behalf and to help his disciples support his claim after he has gone.

## 'ST PETER'S CONGREGATION CORNER'

***To ensure that everyone continues to feel part of our church community, here's your chance to 'chat to your friends'. Send us a funny story, your views or news, a poem a recipe, or simply a 'hello' and we'll run them here each week - to make you smile!***

*Another great contribution from Val,  
a woman of many talents ...*

Would you want to be Boris at this time  
With extremely high mountains to climb  
You satisfy some, leaving others quite  
numb

Whilst acting as Minister Prime!

You'll have been through a very rough  
patch

Praying hard that you wouldn't catch  
This awful infection, with no known  
injection

Which our scientists just couldn't match

Baby Wilfred arrived, what a joyous  
occasion

All greeted with joy and much adulation  
But now you must face, with dignity and  
grace

Those who criticise....so with greatest  
frustration..

*Let us all sing to the tune of "Okey  
Cokey"....*

– you can go in and you can go out  
Put your left leg in, not your left leg out  
You do the okey-cokey but not turn about  
Is this what's it's all about?

Play tennis and golf if you like  
You can go with friends on your bike  
Go ten-pin bowling and get a strike  
Is that what it's all about?

All the while, be aware  
Of the two metre distance you must take  
care

In this we all must have a share  
THAT'S what it's all about!

Be safe everyone

### **'Just a thought'**

It's wonderful to see, that in most of the  
skype interviews with people on TV, they  
have a vast collection of books behind  
them – but have they read them?

***Hurrah! We've had a reply to our recent  
'Just a thought'***

Are you watching the daily briefing?

What are the two doors behind the middle  
lectern – the 'Ladies' and 'Gents'  
perhaps??

My suggestions for the two doors at  
number 10 are:-The broom cupboard  
and the passageway to the bunker or the  
escape route!! *Helen*

### **Laughter lines:**

A father was reading Bible stories to his  
young son. He read, "The man named Lot  
was warned to take his wife  
and flee out of the city, but  
his wife looked back and was  
turned to salt."



His son asked,  
"What happened to the flea?" *Seen online*

Yesterday I saw a guy spill all his Scrabble  
letters on the road.

I asked him, 'What's the word on the  
street?'

Alexa, skip to Friday

[www.rd.com](http://www.rd.com)

### **'Out of the mouths of babes'**

*Theology as explained by children*

Samson slayed the Philistines with the  
axe of the Apostles.

### **Reasons why NOSTALGIA is overrated**

*Ah, the good old days. But before you  
get too misty-eyed about your  
childhood, don't forget what it was  
really like ...*

"We didn't sit in McDonalds all day" ...  
No, as without Nando's, Maccy D's and  
Starbucks, there was nowhere for kids to  
hang out except abandoned bus stops and  
council flower beds!



## THE CINEMA CLUB

*For all those missing our regular films in the church .... have a seat, dig into some popcorn and enjoy this column, thanks to Edward.*

*Classic lines from the Marx Brothers:*

Groucho Marx...

'I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book'.

### WHICH FILM IS THE ODD ONE OUT..... AND WHY?

1. a) 'The Spy Who Loved Me' b) 'Live And Let Die' c) 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service' d) 'Moonraker'
2. a) 'The Sandpiper' b) 'Becket' c) 'The Comedians' d) 'The V.I.P's'
3. a) 'Amadeus' b) 'Gladiator' c) 'Rocky' d) 'Jaws'
4. a) 'Marnie' b) 'Rear Window' c) 'To Catch A Thief' d) 'Dial M For Murder'
5. a) 'In Search Of The Castaways' b) 'That Darn Cat' c) 'Summer Magic' d) 'Tiger Bay'
6. a) 'The Misfits' b) 'Gone With The Wind' c) 'It Happened One Night' d) 'Walk, Don't Run'
7. a) 'The Glass Mountain' b) 'Angels One Five' c) 'There Was A Young Lady' d) 'Pink String And Sealing Wax'
8. a) 'The Pink Panther' b) 'Monte Carlo Or Bust' c) 'Being There' d) 'What's New Pussycat?'
9. a) 'Funny Girl' b) 'Star' c) 'West Side Story' d) 'The Sound Of Music'
10. a) 'Ryan's Daughter' b) 'A Passage To India' c) 'The Dambusters' d) 'Hobson's Choice'

### Answers to last week's quiz.

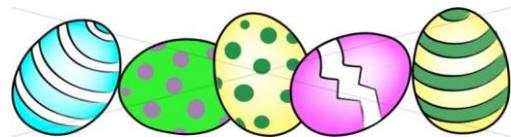
Question: Name the musicals in which the song lyrics appear.

1. 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' ('The Roses Of Success')
2. 'Singin' In The Rain' ('You Were Meant For Me')
3. 'The Jungle Book' ('I Wanna Be Like You')
4. 'Gigi' ('I'm Glad I'm Not Young Anymore')
5. 'Seven Brides For Seven Brothers' ('Goin' Courtin')
6. 'High Society' ('True Love')
7. 'An American In Paris' ('S wonderful')
8. 'State Fair' ('It Might As Well Be Spring')
9. 'Top Hat' ('Isn't It A Lovely Day')
10. 'Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs' ('The Silly Song/The Dwarfs Yodel Song')

*Movie facts you probably didn't know ...*

*Psycho was the first US film to show a toilet flushing!*

### Crispy chocolate fridge cake



*If you have any mini eggs left over from Easter, this is a great lockdown treat:*

- 300g dark chocolate, broken into pieces
- 100g butter
- 140g golden syrup
- 200g chopped biscuits
- 100g sultanas
- 85g Rice Krispies
- 140g mini eggs
- 50g white chocolate, melted

Line a 20x30cm baking tin with baking parchment. Melt dark chocolate, butter & golden syrup in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, stirring occasionally, until smooth & glossy. Add biscuits, sultanas & Rice Krispies, and mix well until everything is coated.

Tip into tin and flatten with back of a spoon. Press in mini eggs and put in the fridge until set. When hard, drizzle all over with melted white chocolate and set again before cutting into chunks. Enjoy!

## Message board

**Helen is our Safeguarding Officer at St Peter's** .. if anyone wants to contact her for a chat or needs anything, please email: [safeguarding@stpeterwg.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stpeterwg.org.uk)

*From Mya ...*

Elliott Jones Catering who usually supply the company where I work are now offering a fruit & veg delivery service to homes in Crawley, ie mixed box for family of 4 £20. Tel: 07776 148717 or email: [info@elliottjonescatering.co.uk](mailto:info@elliottjonescatering.co.uk) for more info.



### Prayer Corner

**Sunday prayer at 6**

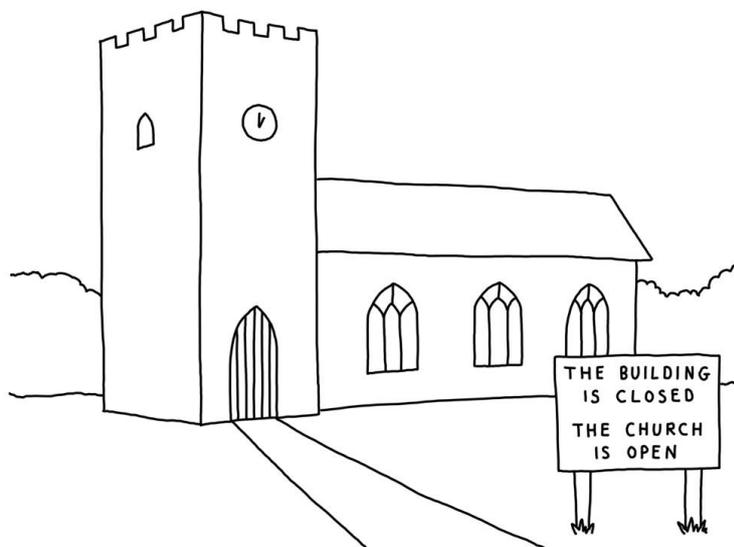
At 6pm tonight, let's all stop, stay silent and pray for ..

**All those working in social care**

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

All the students and staff at Minaki School, Kisarawe, Tanzania, and Veronica and all the children in Kisarawe Orphanage.

Imberhorne School (where our Gillian works) has a strong link and exchange program with them and as the coronavirus reaches Dar es Salaam, please can we keep them in our thoughts & pray for their safekeeping. Thank you



CartoonChurch.com

*By Dave Walker, Church Times cartoonist*



**Stay smiling, stay safe, stay in!**

***The Parish Office is closed – and the Team working from home. If you have anything to go in next week's service sheet please email to [june@stjohnscrawley.com](mailto:june@stjohnscrawley.com) by 5pm Monday***

**Do contact Fr Paul or the Parish Office (01293) 522692 if you need any assistance, or just want to speak to someone!**

*The Paschal Candle has been sponsored by Lea, in memory of Ron*

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