



## Dear Friends

Over the last few weeks, I think most of us have been a little concerned about our hair. We possibly hoped that the Prime Minister (who obviously has benefitted from a trim) would give us good news on that front. Unfortunately, it does not sound as if we can expect to be showing off a new "do" anytime soon.

But all this stress over our hair (and just about every person I have spoken to has fretted about it) helps reduce worry about far more frightening things. We know that one day, we will get that haircut (even if it is a bad one done by your nearest and dearest) and it will be a small victory against the strains of our lives at the moment. And, for most of us, it is the small victories which keep us going. Small victories help us avoid being overwhelmed by other, more dreadful things. Our victories may be small ones, but they are still victories.

When Captain Tom decided to do a hundred laps of his garden to raise money for the NHS every lap was a little victory. There he was, an old man with a walking frame plodding slowly round his garden - such a small thing yet by his small victory he changed the mood of an entire nation. He reminded us of the small and large victories of 75 years ago - and how much they cost. He reminded us that we are capable of more than we imagine. He proved to us that we can always do more, we can always do better.

Small victories, including yours and mine, make a difference.

*Yours in Christ ~ Elizabeth*

## RADCLIFFE TEAM MINISTRY

## Update 4

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Gathered and scattered  
God is with us  
Iona Community

### THIS IS CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> 2020

With the help of donations from people like us Christian Aid provides relief and supports development for some of the poorest people in the world during times of disaster, war and famine. Now, they are working to provide help to those people as they too face covid-19.

This year vital funding will be affected due to our "lockdown", so supporters (old and new), who have on-line access, might wish to be aware of some of the following links:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/churches/coronavirus-prayers> to assist our prayer in the pandemic

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/virtual-fundraisers> including quizzes and materials for children

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation> for ways to donate.

Donations for Christian Aid Week can be made by phone at: **020 7523 2269** or you can send a cheque made out to: 'Christian Aid' to Philip Gooderson, 273 Ainsworth Road, Bury, BL8 2LS. Whichever way you do it say that you are from the Radcliffe and Ainsworth Christian Aid Group, No.251071.

**PLEASE SEE THE AFTERNOON TEA INVITATION OVERLEAF**



## The church that prays together, stays together

Those who used to meet each week at St. Thomas & St. John for Intercessions and then picnic lunch together continue to pray "together" once a fortnight using a service based on Prayers During the Day. The service is sent in advance and as we pray at the same time, we can remember each other as we pray for the world, the Church and those in need. If anyone would like to join in, or if anyone has prayer requests, please contact Les Johnson (see: key contacts)

God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation, apart from loved ones distant from friends away from neighbours thank you that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability, each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care. Amen.

**Christian Aid**

Your prayers are asked for  
Tom Hurst  
The families of Margaret  
Waddington and Cliff  
Williams

## IS CHURCH OPEN?

### Well not yet!

At the moment things related to lockdown and beyond - or at least people's imaginings about them seem to be changing very quickly. By the time you read this everything may have changed but for the moment at least there is no news about re-opening our churches. Some of you will have seen that churches in Germany have re-opened but with social distancing, face masks and no hymns! Not exactly the church we remember! Our bishops and archdeacons meet regularly, and you can be sure that when there is news it will be sent out quickly. In the meantime, we carry on - but remember -

**WE ARE CHURCH!**

## AN INVITATION TO AFTERNOON TEA

This coming **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**, was going to feature an Afternoon Tea at St. Thomas and St. John. We were looking forward to enjoying dainty sandwiches, cake and the rest all served on the "best china" but it is not to be - OR IS IT?

This Saturday afternoon I invite you to **AFTERNOON TEA AT "OUR PLACE" 3pm - 4pm**

So, butter the bread, slice the cucumber, whip up the cream and get out your best china and join us (wherever you are) for afternoon tea.

If you can, why not send photographs round, facetime or send a text to let us know how you are going on and **PLEASE, PLEASE SEND A DONATION TO CHRISTIAN AID TO HELP MAKE THIS TEATIME ONE THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SOMEONE IN REAL NEED**

## THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It began in 2016 with an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England and has now grown into an international, ecumenical call to prayer.

This year there will be online/virtual prayer events across the country over the period of **May 21<sup>st</sup>-May 31<sup>st</sup>** and information can be found on the Church of England website. But we can still add a little extra prayer time during this period whether we have access to a computer or not.

## KEY CONTACTS

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