



Please share this bulletin as far and wide as you can – thank you.



19th April – Second Sunday of Easter

View Inside a Vicarage

Hello and welcome to this edition of the Bulletin. I can't believe it is a week since we celebrated Easter, and I hope that this last week you all managed to enjoy some Easter worship and the odd Easter egg or two!

This Easter will not be one we will forget in a hurry, and for many of us it will have been the first time we have spent an Easter at home and not in church. Last Sunday would have been my first Easter as an Incumbent in this area, and before our current situation of isolation, I certainly had had thoughts about how it would be celebrated and had even started to plan for our special services. However, I don't think anyone could have predicted a few months ago how it would actually turn out! And yet, whilst it had the potential to be disappointing and without the joy we traditionally associate with this festival, I have to admit what I experienced last week was not like this at all. For while it was most certainly different, celebrations happened in the most wonderful of ways!

I hope some of you got to see pictures of the Paschal Candle which I quickly adapted from an old candle I had in the house, and which on Holy Saturday I decorated with old felt pens I had in the cupboard, such that on Easter Sunday I was able to get up in time for sunrise, and light the candle on behalf of all our churches to welcome in the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Watching the sky change from dark to light as the sun came up, and hearing the birds sing their dawn chorus was to marvel at the wonder of God's creation and to give praise for a joyous Easter morning and the world we live in, in spite of all its current challenges and suffering.

At 10.00am several people from houses around the Vicarage came out into their front gardens and onto the street, to join in with the singing of the hymns "*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*" and "*Thine be the Glory*"; And whilst the singing may have been a little less than those of cathedral choir standards, as we stood singing those time honoured words, the sound made was joyful and celebratory, and were a wonderful act of Christian witness and proclamation. Easter had most joyfully arrived! And it was even better, knowing other Christians across our villages and the country, were all similarly sharing in this act of worship.

This last week I have also started to upload services onto a U Tube page created for this purpose; And, I am pleased to learn, that some people have gone onto the link and listened to the services I have recorded. I now hope to do this on a weekly basis, whilst also putting into this Bulletin a copy of the Church of England's Morning Prayer service together with a reflection, such that whilst we can't currently celebrate Holy Communion together, we can read or listen collectively to a service of worship.

In the last two Bulletins, I offered people who wished to enter a competition the opportunity by sending me a picture of an Easter Garden they had made. I am pleased to say we had some lovely entries, and therefore I am very pleased to announce that the winners are:-

Children's Category: **Lottie Cassel** who goes to Overbury Grasshoppers, followed by runner up **Rosie Walden**, who also goes to the nursery in Overbury.

Adult's Category: **Rosemary Hooper** from Eckington.

Pictures of the winning entries are shown below alongside my own effort, which was put together at the last minute with the help of my mother and daughter. Thank you to everyone who sent through an entry, and a very big well done and congratulations to our winners. I hope the gardens have given pleasure to many who have seen them, and maybe this can be an annual event for the future!

I am of course aware that for many the ongoing current situation is causing hardship, grief and an increasing frustration with not being able to go out, as well as concerns about the financial challenges which face us through not having our churches open and annual fundraising events being cancelled. However, as we journey through this time of lockdown, let us continue to remember the kindnesses, compassion and sacrifice which so many people are involved in, from the little acts of shopping for a neighbour, to our heroes in the National Health Services and other key workers, including our local shops, posties, food delivery people and countless volunteers who are trying to support those in self isolation. Our hope must surely be that when we eventually come out of this time of lockdown, through these people and their actions, it will have helped reshape our communities and country hopefully for the better; And let us also take hope from the fact **we** are each learning to live out our faith and worship not just by taking part in public worship, important as it is, but through practical demonstrations of love and generosity, and which are the means through which God is calling us into new and exciting ways of being His church.

My prayers for you all continue as ever, and I hope that you will all have a blessed week ahead.

Warmest wishes and blessings,

Allison

Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group



Good Friday worship on Bredon Hill 2019



Good Friday 2020 Bredon Hill during the Covid-19 Pandemic – a poem by Peter Hayes

The Hill was quiet today
No line of pilgrims toiling up the slopes,
No shoulders aching from the wooden cross,
no minibus from Overbury
no slightly crackly sound
no clergy, rather warm in their attire,
no Archdeacon,
no gracious words, handshake or smile
not even one cross.

No hymn sheets caught in the breeze before being handed to unsuspecting walkers, indistinguishable from the faithful other than by a note of slight alarm,
no excited dogs,
no noisy children, no phones taking snaps to later share on Facebook,
no bottled water slaking the thirst
no annual reunion with friends “we always see”
no, not even one cross.

No collection,
no embarrassed fumbling in the trouser pocket,
no bucket filled with goodwill
no address,
no words,
only the sound of the wind, the skylarks, the lambs;
no distant sight of busy motorway filled with other pilgrims on their trek to Michaelwood, Gordano, Sedgemoor, Taunton Deane, no-only those with an “essential journey”.

No groups of hikers kitted out with OS Maps, step counters and cagoule,
only the lone runner,

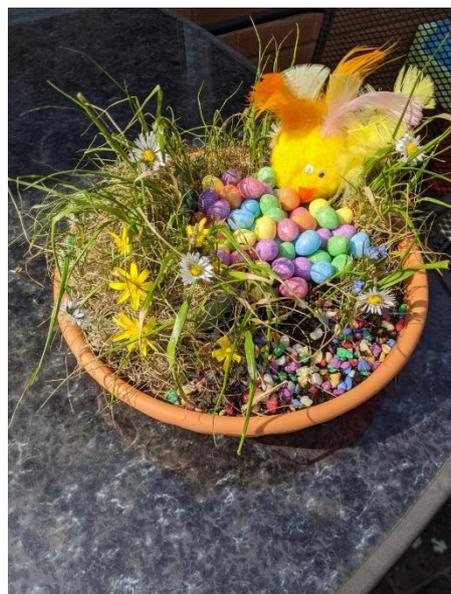
the allowed walk,
the anxious distance,
and not even one cross.

No lifting spirits as the service ends
no glancing to the sky hoping the rain keeps off,
no pointing out “our house”, “our village”, “our town”,
no puzzled enquiry as to “where is that farm?”
no holding open of gates to allow others to pass,
no jovial remarks “it's good exercise” “nearly there!”
only the mew of the Buzzard, the circling Kite
and not even one cross.

No steep descent,
no slipping in the mud,
no careful scanning for a good sure way,
no overtaking those with slower steps
no sudden darkness in the windblown trees
no eagerly anticipated hot cross buns and Earl Grey tea at Rivendell
No moment of relief as boots are eased off aching feet
and not even one cross.



Winners of the Easter Garden Competition



Lottie, aged 4, who attends Overbury Grasshoppers with her winning entry which made Revd Allison smile

Rosie aged 19months who also attends Overbury Nursery will receive a runner up prize for her beautiful Easter Garden



The winner of the adults Easter garden competition is Rosemary Hooper of Eckington

Reverend Allison's Easter garden (helped by her Mum and daughter)



Morning Prayer Easter Season
Sunday, 19 April 2020
The Second Sunday of Easter

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

All let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.

May we, the first fruits of your new creation,
rejoice in this new day you have made,
and praise you for your mighty acts.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

a suitable hymn, or the Easter Anthems

1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us: ◆
so let us celebrate the feast,

2 not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: ◆
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. *1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8*

3 Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: ◆
death has no more dominion over him.

4 In dying he died to sin once for all: ◆
in living he lives to God.

5 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: ◆
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Romans 6.9-11*

6 Christ has been raised from the dead: ◆
the first fruits of those who sleep.

7 For as by man came death: ◆
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

8 for as in Adam all die: ◆
even so in Christ shall all be made alive. *1 Corinthians 15.20-22*

All 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.

This opening prayer may be said

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God *Psalmody*

Psalm 81.1-10

Refrain: O come, let us sing to the Lord.

1 Sing merrily to God our strength, ◆
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

2 Take up the song and sound the timbrel, ◆
the tuneful lyre with the harp.

3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon, ◆
as at the full moon, upon our solemn feast day.

4 For this is a statute for Israel, ◆
a law of the God of Jacob,

5 The charge he laid on the people of Joseph, ◆
when they came out of the land of Egypt. *R*

6 I heard a voice I did not know, that said: ◆
'I eased their shoulder from the burden;
their hands were set free from bearing the load.

7 'You called upon me in trouble and I delivered you; ◆
I answered you from the secret place of thunder
and proved you at the waters of Meribah.

8 'Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: ◆
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

9 'There shall be no strange god among you; ♦
you shall not worship a foreign god.

10 'I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up from the land of Egypt; ♦
open your mouth wide and I shall fill it.' R

Refrain: O come, let us sing to the Lord.

*Father of mercy,
keep us joyful in your salvation
and faithful to your covenant;
and, as we journey to your kingdom,
ever feed us with the bread of life,
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Each psalm ends with

**All 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.**

Exodus 12.1-17

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day shall be cut off from Israel. On the first day you shall hold a solemn assembly, and on the seventh day a solemn assembly; no work shall be done on those days; only what everyone must eat, that alone may be prepared by you. You shall observe the festival of unleavened bread, for on this very day I brought your companies out of the land of Egypt: you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a perpetual ordinance.

The Song of Moses and Miriam, or another suitable canticle, may be said

Refrain:

All In your unfailing love, O Lord,
you lead the people whom you have redeemed. Alleluia.

1 I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously, ◆
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and my song ◆
and has become my salvation.

3 This is my God whom I will praise, ◆
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.

4 The Lord is a warrior, ◆
the Lord is his name.

5 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power: ◆
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

6 At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them; ◆
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

7 In your unfailing love, O Lord, ◆
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.

8 And by your invincible strength ◆
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

9 You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, ◆
in the sanctuary which your hands have established. *Exodus 15.1b-3, 6, 10, 13, 17*

All 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.

All In your unfailing love, O Lord,
you lead the people whom you have redeemed. Alleluia.

Scripture Reading

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

1 Corinthians 5.6b-8

Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

Death is swallowed up in victory.

All Where, O death, is your sting?

Christ is risen from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

All Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound
and the dead shall be raised.

All Where, O death, is your sting?

We shall not all sleep,
but we shall be changed.

All Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting? *from 1 Corinthians 15*

Gospel Canticle

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said,
or [The Song of Christ's Glory \(page 619\)](#) may be said*

Refrain:

**All The Lord is risen from the tomb
who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ◆
who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ◆
born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ◆
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ◆
and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ◆
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear, ◆
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ◆
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ◆
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God ◆
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ◆
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1.68-79*

**All 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.**

Refrain:

**All The Lord is risen from the tomb
who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.**

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

¶ for the day and its tasks

¶ for the world and its needs

¶ for the Church and her life

Prayers may include the following concerns for

¶ The people of God, that they may proclaim the risen Lord

¶ God's creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care

¶ Those in despair and darkness, that they may find the hope and light of Christ

¶ Those in fear of death, that they may find faith through the resurrection

¶ Prisoners and captives

These responses may be used at the end of each prayer

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in God's new creation as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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 Conclusion

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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Principal service based on Holy Communion for Second Sunday of Easter, 12th April 2020

Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth, through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Reading: 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reading: John 20:19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which

are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection for Second Sunday of Easter 2020

(Based on John 20: 19 – end)

I always find this a strange week in the churches year as we move from the immediate and obvious joy which must have been felt by the disciples to those few days afterwards when we read about them sitting in a locked room and being fearful of the Jews. Is this not a strange reaction for a group of people who have experienced one of the most wonderful events in history; And yet here they are – uncertain, fearful and not sure probably what to do next.

This Sunday is often referred to as “Low” Sunday, and as a child I naively thought this was because by this Sunday everyone had eaten all their Easter eggs. Today, I know differently and that in early Christian times it marked the end of the ceremonies surrounding Easter baptisms, and the end of the Easter octave of festivities.

For us today, this Low Sunday is different, and instead of being in church, we are commemorating this day in our own homes. Low Sunday probably seems much the same as many other Sundays, as we are by now getting fairly used to being “locked in”. For us in the Bredon Hill locality, we at least have the opportunity to enjoy living in a rural and beautiful area, but for many in this country, being locked down into our homes, means being shut into a small and fairly restricted space, with only minimal opportunity for exercise outside. However, no matter whatever our situation of isolation is, I suspect we all to some degree have the feeling of being fearful for the future and a question of what is going to happen next.

The disciple Thomas is also experiencing a feeling of isolation, as for some reason he is not with the other disciples in the locked room. For him, the challenge does not appear to be one of fear but one of doubt - How can what the disciples declare of seeing their Lord risen from death be true? For unless Thomas is given the physical evidence of touch and sight of Jesus being alive, he cannot accept its truth.

Thomas displays what is so inherently human in our own faith journeys; Unless the love of God, and the reality of God can be proven to us, how can we accept it as being real?

Many would argue that having doubts within our faith makes us lesser Christians, but actually I think this is not the case. For to have doubts demonstrates a genuine depth of feeling and desire for deepening our relationship with God, as it is in those questions and by the testing of our faith, that we receive a deeper insight into who God is, and how He wants us to dwell more within Him and He within us. For as we cry out for understanding and clarification, God responds.

The disciples receive their response from Jesus by being given “*peace*” – a calmness and serenity which only God can give to allay their fears and uncertainties. Thomas however, is given the conclusive proof that Jesus is indeed alive by being allowed to put his hands onto Jesus and to where cruel nails had left their mark; And as a result, it deepens his understanding of Jesus’ victory over death, such that he believes – all doubts are gone, and out of this increased faith, he is then able to declare, “*My Lord and my God!*”

When we cry out to God with doubts and fears, especially as we journey through these uncertain times of lockdown, we should be heartened to know that they do not make us any less of a true disciple of faith; And, we should be reassured in the knowledge that to have them, is to express a strong and vibrant faith, for they are exhibiting a strength of character within us, which demonstrates our relationship with God is strong enough to be honest.

For when we are honest with God, it is then that God can do his most special work within us, and we are most open and receptive for His will and loving purposes to take effect on our lives. Open minds and hearts allow the Holy Spirit to enter in and transform us.

Rev. Brett Ward who is an Anglican priest in the Diocese of Southwark expresses this most eloquently when he says, “ *An open mind is a room into which the Spirit can come with fresh insight, into which the risen Lord himself can come, confronting, enlightening and expanding*” .

Out of the fears and doubts of the disciples came transformation which enabled them to create the church of the modern day, through their belief and witness.

Therefore, as we journey through our own times of anxieties and doubts, particularly during this time of isolation, let us pray that God will use this time to strengthen our own belief in the risen Lord, to deepen our faith and to transform us with new life into an Easter people; People who are not confounded or bound by natural fears and anxieties about the future, but who give thanks to God for them, and for the opportunity to be honestly outspoken enabling us to share the Good News of Christ’s Resurrection, now and always. Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

Please find some thoughts for personal prayer.

There are now confirmed cases of coronavirus in 185 countries, including: Colombia, Brazil, Haiti, Chad, Nigeria, DRC, Bangladesh, Syria and Yemen. Pray for people in overcrowded communities unable to isolate, for those without access to clean water and without the finances to meet their basic needs.

With floods in Iraq and Cyclone Harold devastating the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji in the last week, pray for those at even greater risk from the combined impacts of the climate crisis and coronavirus, and for those working out how to respond to climate-related disasters at this time.

Finally, today there are national elections in South Korea. The majority party is running on a “Green New Deal” net-zero by 2050 platform, which would be the first in Asia. Thank God for this and pray that ambitious climate targets will be seen all over the world.

Jack from Tearfund

Please pray for the ill and isolated, hospital and medical research staff, all those working on the frontline and those who have died. We pray for all whose anniversary of death falls at this time and for all who have been bereaved.

Please pray in particular for:

Those on the frontline: Alison Herbert a nurse who has been working with the DART (Disaster and Relief Team) and the Mercy Ships in Italy

Those who have died and their families: Jon Doney, Barbara Howell, John Bennett

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, especially those affected by the Corona virus,
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.**

If you would like to include anybody in these prayers, please email us at eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com

Prayer Diary – April from the Diocese of Worcester



Recent events have meant that many of our prayer diary entries are out of date. We will therefore be issuing monthly pdf updates. Download the [updated prayer diary for April 2020](#).

Updated prayers will also be available on our website 'prayer for the day' and our social media streams.

Digital Resources from the Diocese of Worcester

What is currently available?

There are a range of new and existing Christian resources available for people to engage with at this difficult and challenging time in the life of the nation and the world:

- **Weekly service broadcasts** - these be made available each Sunday through [the Church's Facebook page](#).
- **Time to Pray app** - everything you need for Prayer During the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year. [Download for free](#).
- **Daytime prayer and Night prayer service audio** - building on the existing [daily prayer feed](#), this includes [daytime prayer and night prayer for each day](#). It will be available as a downloadable app in the coming weeks.
- **Live streaming services from churches** - AChurchNearYou.com now lists hundreds of churches offering livestreams of services from across the country. Churches need to add the 'Livestream' tag to their services and events that will be broadcast. Remember to add into the description how people can watch this. You add a link to the platform you're using to stream, such as your Facebook Page or YouTube Channel. [Find out more about live streaming services and events](#).
- **Increasing the number of training webinars** - to help churches stream sermons, events and make the most of digital platforms. [Sign up for free](#).
- **The BBC's Daily Service and Sunday Worship**.
- **Prayer for the day** - each day the Church of England [publishes audio and text of the Prayer for the Day](#).
- **Smart speakers** – daily prayer audio content can be [accessed via our smart speaker apps](#).
- **Mental health reflections** – [13 daily reflections](#) that seek to provide hope, reassurance and comfort. We have also [published five tips](#) to help tackle loneliness and isolation.

Pershore Foodbank

Due to the coronavirus, our churches have had to suspend the collection of food items for the Foodbank. However, we would still encourage you to donate, by giving money in lieu of food gifts. Therefore, if you can help, please send directly to:

Pershore Foodbank
Sort code 20-98-61
Account number 50714356

Food collections are still being made at Asda and Co-op in Pershore

Thank you



Reverend Allison Davies

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