



Pentecost Sunday

Welcome to St. Thomas'!



A very warm welcome to St Thomas' Church.

This sheet is now also being sent via email! Please contact the office on our temporary number of 07702 822546 if you wish to receive an emailed copy.

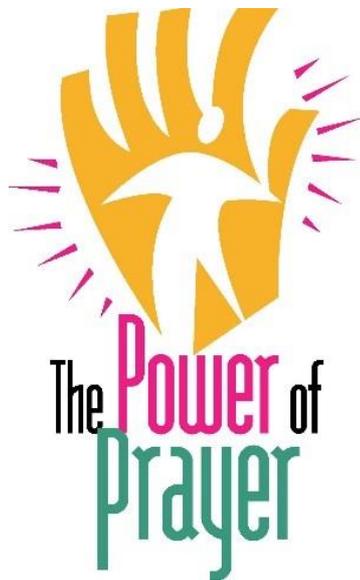
St Thomas' Website - www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/)

St. Thomas' Facebook - www.facebook.com/stthomasaldrige/

Rev's Ramblings

31st May 2020

So ... we're beginning very slowly to come out of lockdown. What will that mean, I wonder? Both to us, our country, our world? It brought to my mind some words from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Message, which I found both comforting and challenging. Towards the end of his message Archbishop Welby says:



"Yet in the resurrection of Jesus God lights a fire which calls us to justice, to live in humble generosity, to transform our societies. After so much suffering, so much heroism from key workers and the NHS, so much effort, once this epidemic is conquered here and round the world, we cannot be content to go back to what was before as if all is normal."

There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful.

We must dream it because it is the gift of God. Then we must build it in partnership with God. In the new life of the resurrection of Jesus, we dare to have faith in life before death. We hope, because of the resurrection."

The sentence I've highlighted is the one I made a note of at the time. It made me think about what we need to do as Christians in this time of "resurrection of our common life". Perhaps this week we can begin to pray about what God wants our individual role to be, and our role as a church. I think the passage I've quoted from Justin Welby is a good basis for us to use as our prayer – so ... over to you, prayer warriors!!

Blessings

Sue Quibell

Mission Focus

Prayers For The Watts In Madagascar

(Thank you to Colin and Sue Goodall for sharing this)

News from Ted and Rachel this week informs us that there are still no apparent cases of the virus in Mandritsara. Whilst giving thanks for the Lord's protection they write ...

"Many of you will have read about the potential implications of the virus in countries where living conditions and financial circumstances make social distancing impossible, where access to healthcare is already limited and where food insecurity and poverty are major problems."

They go on to ask that we pray with them for God to have mercy on the nation of Madagascar as statistics show the virus is spreading more rapidly in recent days. Please pray for all at the Good News Hospital - for wise decisions in uncertain times, for energy to care with compassion and for perseverance in making the gospel known.



Digital Resources For Online Worship and Prayer

There are lots of options to keep us going! ...

Live Family Worship: Join the Drake Family on Wednesday's and Saturday's at 4pm for their live Family Worship session. Nick and Becky Drake are the people behind the songs such as 'Creator God', 'City on a Hill' and 'Big Family of God' if you know them. Their sessions comprise of some live acoustic songs, an interactive, family participation story and prayer, lasting about 30 mins. Well worth a watch, and the previous videos can be viewed at any time at: <https://www.facebook.com/worshipforeveryone/> Look at Facebook & Website

Faithlife: Please use this facility for spiritual teaching, where you can view some online services and listen to sermons that you may have missed or listen again to those that challenged you or that you enjoyed <http://faithlife.com/stthomas> Follow the instructions below to go direct to our sermon site, Look out the button on the bottom right, it's blue like a tray with an arrow on it. The option then comes up down load audio, or download video. If you download video you will get pictures too. Any problems let me know and we'll see what we can do. I'm hoping to expand our options as time goes on. God Bless. **Roger Woodhall**

1 click on <http://faithlife.com/stthomas>

2 scroll down to choose message or sermon you want

3 click on blue button on right hand side, looks like a tray with an arrow in to it

4 choose either download audio or download video from little blue box

5 wait for it to download then press the play button in middle of screen.

The Church of England Website: Please look at this website as it provides a variety of helpful tools for online worship and prayer. Please copy or type the following link in your search engine:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches> Then click **Digital Resources** (*found in the middle/left of your screen*). You should see lots of options, such as - apps for prayer, audio services, online streaming and a link to BBC Radio 4 Live Lent.

BBC Radio 4 Daily Services: Pentecost Sunday, 31st May, 8.10am. Stephen Gibson leads an Elim Pentecostal service from City Church Cardiff in which Dominic and Catherine de Souza reflect on Pentecost during Lockdown.

BBC One TV, Sunday Worship: Pentecost Sunday, 31st May at 11.00am (*Please note service times can fluctuate from week to week*). The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Rev Richard Jackson, leads a service for Pentecost Sunday from the city's historic cathedral, with hymns recorded by Sons of Praise in 2017.

NOTICES

Praying Together: At this time of world crisis when we are not meeting together to worship or pray to the Lord we can still do this as individuals (couples or families) at home at the times some of us would be meeting together.

Monday 6.30pm-7.15pm – is when Space to Pray usually meet. **Wednesday 7.30pm-8.00pm** – is when the Revival Prayer Meeting usually takes place. Their members will be praying at home so why not set aside these times to join together 'in spirit' as we ask the Lord to intervene in our world and in our nation. We could also pray on **Fridays between 12 noon-1.15pm** when Jan's prayer group would be meeting and also on **Sundays when church would be meeting**. There is always so much to pray about but even more at this time, so let's come together in Spirit and show the Lord that we are serious in our requests. Let's also just keep reminding ourselves of God's promises to us and remember that He is still Sovereign over all. Peace of the Lord be with you. **Liz Spiers**

Prayer Circle: The Prayer Circle was originally set up many years ago to pray for those amongst us who were ill or suffering bereavement. Over the years we have prayed for many other things including job loss, even sick pets, as well as for people to come to know Jesus – God is concerned with every aspect of our lives, nothing is too big or too small for Him. This service is here for you, so if you have any worries about anything at this time, do get in touch and we will pray for you. We are a group of about a dozen St Thomas' members who are willing to pray for you or your loved ones each day. Prayer requests are contained within the Prayer Circle, Sue Quibell and Jeremy Bakewell, on a confidential basis and not shared with the wider congregation. Please get in touch with Liz Spiers on 01922 453944 or email Liz at Lizspiers55@blueyonder.co.uk who will share your request and start praying. **Liz Spiers, Prayer Coordinator**

Tom's Toddlers and Footprints: Please keep a look out on website for our new prayer activity which will be coming soon! <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/>
Hannah Evans, Children and Families Worker.

Why Did God Allow Coronavirus? Please look on our website for ways to help children with this very difficult question. There are 2 versions, depending upon the age of your child and how much you want to explain this. You may find this to be helpful in your household over the coming week, or in advance of the question at a later point. **Hannah Evans, Children and Family Worker**

NOTICES

Helping Children Say Goodbye: Please look at our website for an attachment, called '*Saying Goodbye*'. I hope this is something that you will not need to use, but it is shared as another 'up your sleeve'/'just in case pocket' (Peter Rabbit fans!) It's a support for if you should have to help your child in this way. We found this quite useful for Emily in understanding how she was feeling and happy things to remember, whilst coming to terms with the death of our elderly neighbour from Covid-19. **Hannah Evans, Children and Family Worker**

Children's Home Grown Faith Activity: Last Sunday's Activity can be found on our website at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4121/>, look out for "*Childrens Worship Activity (13)*". In this activity we looked at the second part of John 14, where Jesus explains that we will be given the gift of the Holy Spirit, a holy helper, after Jesus ascends to Heaven. There are lots of activities to pick and choose from to suit the ages and likes of your family, and the pdf includes live hyperlinks to you tube if you just click on where it is underlined in blue. Don't forget to keep a look out for the next update coming soon! **Hannah Evans, Children and Families Worker.**

Thomas Project, Request For Craft Items For Children: The Thomas Project would like to give out bags of crafty items to children during the lockdown. These bags will be given out to families through Foodbank. If you have any spare new craft items you can donate we'd be really grateful. We need new things only please, crayons, paper, playdough, books etc for ages 3+ years up to 12 years. Donations can be left at the project on Wednesdays 10am to 1pm or Fridays 3pm to 6pm. The Food Bank will still be open during the usual hours on Wednesdays and Fridays.

St Thomas' Church Office: Hannah and Genette are currently working from their homes. Please see the end page for contact details.

NOTICES

Domestic Abuse, IRIS: IRIS is a social enterprise established to promote and improve the healthcare response to gender based violence. IRIS stands for Identification and Referral to Improve Safety, is a specialist Primary Care domestic abuse support service operating in Walsall within Black Country Women's Aid (BCWA). We all need to keep people experiencing domestic abuse and their children safe!



Coronavirus and Domestic Abuse Support

If you are struggling with your situation at home, **speaking to your GP could help**. They can refer you to a **specialist service** to support you.

You can also call Black Country Women's Aid directly for support in Walsall:

Call: **0121 552 6448** (24 hours)
Text/WhatsApp: **07384 466 181**
(Mon – Fri 9am -9pm)



ALL REGULAR WEEKLY GROUPS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED

CONTACT INFORMATION

Clergy:

- Rev Jeremy Bakewell 07790 986575
- Rev Sue Quibell 07889 885545 if you want would like to talk please feel free to phone on the numbers above.

Church office

- Office hours are usually **Monday to Thursday from 9 am till 12 pm**. Genette Andrews is currently working from home and will be happy to help, you can contact her on the following temporary number:
- Telephone 07702 822546 / Email: **office@stthomasaldridge.org.uk**
(Please be mindful that messages may not be seen or heard on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays)

Children and Families Worker: Hannah Evans

- Hannah is currently working from home and can be contacted on the following numbers:
- Telephone 01922 693298 or mobile 07921 387241 / Email: **hannahevans@stthomasaldridge.org.uk**
(Please be mindful that messages may not be seen or heard on Mondays, Saturdays or Sundays)

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Vera Russell

- Telephone 01922 616383 or 07806 519301 / Email: **vjrus@gmail.com**

Prayer Coordinator: Liz Spiers

- Telephone 01922 453944 if you wish to discuss any prayer needs, including ongoing prayer ministry and details of the Prayer Circle.

Wardens

- **Clive Thomas:** 07811 341212 or email **clivethomas62@yahoo.co.uk**
- **Sue Grundy:** 07772 925069 or email **susan.grundy@yahoo.com**
- **Andrew Dickson:** **07989 143388** or **andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com**
- **Vera Russell:** 07806 519301 or email **vjrus@gmail.com**

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is *everybody's* responsibility. If you have concerns about how somebody might be treating you or another person, please do not hesitate to contact **Sue Grundy (for children) on 07772 925069** or **Sue Quibell (for adults) on 07889 885545** (see poster in church foyer for other numbers and information). **A copy of our safeguarding policy is available from the church foyer and church office.**

Fabrics and Health and Safety – Andrew Dickson may be contacted via 07989 143388 or andrewjdickson999@hotmail.com directly, if you notice or need help with any such issues.

Cooper and Jordan School Applications: Parents should be aware that we follow the school's admission policy on attendance and in accordance with Diocesan guidelines 'regular attendance' at **worship** constitutes a minimum of at least **two services per month**. The guidelines further suggest that regular attendance should have been for at least two years before application. Please see the Welcome Desk to ensure your attendance is recorded. **New information: Supporting letters are now being done in batches when we receive the list of applications from C&J. The letters are then sent directly back to C&J but feel free to check with our office that your child's name features in the list.**
Thanks, Genette.

Gift Aid: The Government adds 25% to each 'Gift Aided' donation at no cost to you. If you don't have a regular Gift Aid arrangement, but would nevertheless like to Gift Aid a donation today, please use one of the brown Gift Aid envelopes available from the leaflet rack, or do ask a Steward to find one for you. Please see our Treasurer, **Ron Heaton** for more information if needed.