

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week commencing 12th April 2020 Easter Sunday

Jesus Christ is risen, hallelujah: He is risen indeed, hallelujah

Peter said "All the prophets testify about him (Jesus) that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through His name" Acts 10 v 43

How strange this particular holiest week of the year seems. The churches are locked just at a time when many of us feel the greatest need in the year to visit the House of God, to sense that nearness to Him within His house. We want to share even in one small part of His Passion. The Stations of the Cross, the stripping of the altar at the Maundy Thursday service following the washing of feet at the same service, the Maundy Watch; Good Friday Workshop, Good Friday Reflection or Easter Saturday Vigil. Well in some ways we can still join in some of these events through the many instances of live streaming of services which are happening in our church here in Astwood Bank, The Bridge and other places in the Churches Together in Redditch (CTiR) network. To see what's on first check on our own website (see the box below) or go to <https://ctir.church/> for a complete run down of streamed services across Redditch.

There will even be a virtual Walk of Witness on Good Friday! 'Together participants will be reflecting on the experience of Jesus' journey to the cross following Luke's gospel. Each stage of the journey will include a Bible reading, a personal reflection, a song, and prayers. Those taking part are able to go at their own pace, with ample time for personal reflection. Simply copy the link below into a web browser on your laptop, desktop, phone or iPad and join with others as we virtually walk together.'

<http://ctir.church/goodfriday>

And especially on Sunday let's give thanks to Glenn and Victoria and all those who will be posting digital worship, enabling Christians throughout the country to be together in spirit as we relive the Easter story, a story which fills us with hope and confidence that there will be an end to the chaos of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Finally, thank you to those who have contacted me following last week's Spotlight. It is appreciated.

Fr Glenn Reading - Team Vicar

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Curate: Mthr. Victoria Barlow email
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We pray for those who are sick: - Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Joyce, Margaret, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret, Margaret, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon, Pastor Robin Baker and Colin Baines.

Nightstop Foodbank: Please give as generously as you can and place items of food and toiletries in the **box provided in the porch by the west door.**

Please give notices for inclusion in next week's edition to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at
richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk
Log onto our website for more information
www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

Our website: Be sure to go onto our website www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk and under 'on-line resources' see all the material that Mother Victoria has uploaded to help us through the coming weeks. She also wishes to mention that the Holy Eucharist **IS** live streamed every Sunday at 10.30 on the Church website, (go to Virtual Church) and that she is live-streaming Compline each night at 9.20 pm, on Facebook. Victoria also states that 'In this way, there ARE services, and we can in a sense all worship together as a dispersed community.'

As **several** more patients are being admitted to the Alex Hospital, Rev David Ryan, Hospital Chaplain says "Please pray for the Alex and nearby hospitals where local people may be receiving care and treatment." He asks us to pray for patients, families, staff and the Chaplaincy team at this time of stress and distress.

Churches Together England: For a copy of the 'Churches Together England' candle poster, click on the long address below.

<https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/571088/Home/News/Latestnews/PrayersofHope.aspx>

