

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of “Christ the King” team ministry.
Week commencing 5th April 2020 Palm Sunday

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Well here we are again in spirit if not in body. Welcome to our newsletter for another week. As the full impact of Covid 19 begins to become ever more apparent for us in Britain, I urge you to think, just for a moment, of those people in places where there is poor sanitation, little healthcare, food shortages and in the cases of the cramped refugee camps in the Middle East little chance of any social distancing or self-isolation. I received an email this week from The Leprosy Mission where there is a great fear for those with Leprosy as to how they are going to survive with all the poverty and other lack of basic needs listed above which attends them, together with the isolation and opprobrium often heaped on them by their community. The email ended with the wonderful quotation from Philippians which I've included above. Perhaps you might like to read it slowly relating it not only to our own predicament but also to those in far off shores where the situation is likely to be far, far worse

I do hope that you'll find time during the coming week to read the gospel and other readings which accompany this. There are also two short homilies taken off the internet which, hopefully, you will find of historical interest at least.

Despite being unable to gather in church, we give thanks for Glenn and Victoria and all those who are putting together and 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.

If you're able to, please follow Glenn as he live streams the Eucharist at 10.30 am this Sunday or watch Victoria as she daily live-streams Compline. (See the box below)

Finally in this section, if you want to watch a Stations of the Cross video then please follow the link [Stations of the Cross: then and now - FREE Lenten Reflections \(COVID-19 Response\)](#). Click on that and a link will take you to YouTube where Father Denis McBride of Redemptorist Publications, the company which produces our weekly readings sheets, shares the Stations of the Cross in a 58 minute video.

Talking of isolation as we've been doing, at the moment I'm putting Spotlight together in total isolation so would like some contributions from you out there – however brief (You are out there aren't you?). Perhaps, for instance, you can drop me a line to let me know if you've watched any of the services.

Fr Glenn Reading - Team Vicar

Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278

Curate: Mthr. Victoria Barlow email
victoriabarlow@hotmail.com

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.**

Redditch Foodbank (RF): Revd Ian Evans, a past Curate at Christchurch, has recently been appointed the new manager of Redditch Foodbank which also has a new venue. From Monday 30th March it will be based at 24, Church Green East, Redditch, next to NatWest bank. This will be its main office and only distribution centre. Opening times will be 11-2pm Monday to Thursday and 10-

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 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.

1pm on Friday though there are plans to increase future opening times. Ian and volunteers have done a great job decorating and preparing the building. We hope to offer signposting for other agencies too. There are lots of exciting plans for expanding this project for which **we'd appreciate your prayers**. Donations are also much appreciated especially at this time helping to provide food for so many extra needs. Thank you. Julia Savage – Redditch Foodbank Volunteer.

I'm sure Julie would like this information passed on to anyone you feel would benefit from it. RP

Churches Together England: Churches Together in England is offering a poster to encourage #PrayersOfHope. CTE says, 'Download the poster by clicking on the very long address below. You can print in colour, or a black & white version if you prefer, or one to colour in. St Paul tells us to pray continually. However, it helps to know that others are also praying at a specific time, so we encourage you to pray at 7.00 pm on Sunday evening.'

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

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