

**St Matthias & St George Parish Church.**  
**A member of “Christ the King” team ministry.**  
**Week commencing 10th May 2020**

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

*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” John 14 v 6-7*

Welcome to this week’s edition of Spotlight. A number of people have sent me things that they wish to go into Spotlight so it is a bit of a lengthy read; however, I do hope you’ll persevere to the end. Today we’re likely to get from the Prime Minister some information about the next phase of the precautions/restrictions that we’re to follow regarding the Corona virus. Will there be anything in it for us! Will churches be opened, perhaps with restricted access? We shall have to wait and see.

I had a lovely email from Rev Barry and Pat Jones this week which I’ll refer to again later. But in his message Barry, in true form, had a ‘rant’, his word, about the fact that in Germany ‘they are allowed to open their churches for two hours on a Sunday for private prayer - social distancing expected.’ And follows this with, ‘Come on bishops! Sort it out here!’ I could not agree more! In a follow up email Barry said ‘Their online services take place in churches in the area with just a pastor. If there can be a 200 yard queue at ASDA, can’t we organise 4 people for private prayer?’ and then says ‘Anyway, rant number 2 over!’ Perhaps we’ll get a few more ‘rants’ in coming weeks, I hope so.

*Please don’t forget about all the different art and craft activities available for young people on the church website. Just click on the ‘Sunday Stars – Activities for Easter’ page which now include some on the theme of ‘Jesus the Good Shepherd.’ Remember to take a photo of all finished articles and upload them to the website.*

One positive thing to come out of the lockdown is the innovative ways that people are communicating with one another through ‘new’ technology. There are virtual quizzes and choir practices, for example, using Apps such as Zoom and House-party on IPHones and IPads. This was a foreign language to me a few weeks ago, but now millions of us are able to speak and see one another at the same time which is wonderful. Of course one of the blessings for us is to be able to worship along with Glenn on Sunday mornings and with Victoria nightly on our own website.

But even the good old traditional telephone has its place in the current scheme of things, for now a free worship phone line called **Daily Hope** has been launched by the Church of England offering hymns, reflections and prayers. Archbishop Justin said: “With many in our country on lockdown, it’s important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are. The Daily Hope service will allow people to hear hymns, prayers and words that offer comfort and hope, especially in this Easter season’. It’s available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**, why not give it a try, after all it is free!

***This Sunday Glenn will again be holding Morning Prayer online (10.30 am) whilst Victoria continues to live-stream Compline each evening. (Please see below.)***

**Fr Glenn Reading - Team Vicar**  
Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278  
**Curate: Mthr. Victoria Barlow** email  
[victoriabarlow@hotmail.com](mailto:victoriabarlow@hotmail.com)

**We pray for those who are sick:** - Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret, Margaret, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi (Naomi is Paul & Diane Harrison’s daughter and Jon their son-in-law), Pastor Robin Baker, Colin, and Steven Taylor.

Our Website: Be sure to go onto our website [www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk](http://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 services **ARE** 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.’**

We pray for the soul of **Marjorie Perkins** who recently died from Covid 19 aged 97. Born and raised in Astwood Bank, she used to regularly attend our church. We hold her daughter Yvonne Walker and other members of her family in our prayers.

**Please pray** for all patients in hospitals throughout the country suffering from Covid 19; for all NHS staff and Chaplaincy Teams and for Care Home staff and carers in the community. We pray also for the souls of over 100 NHS and

We also pray for the soul of **Elizabeth Atkins** recently departed and hold her family in our prayers. Elizabeth was a founder member of Feckenham History Society.

Care Homes staff who have died from the disease and for their families and loved ones.

**Foodbanks: New arrangements!** It's crucial that we support foodbanks more than ever during this time of considerable anxiety for many. **Please note that our church collection arrangements have changed. Please leave any food or toiletry donations on the Vicarage doorstep. Glenn will then take them to Newstart in Bromsgrove which is still operating for vulnerable families.** You can of course leave them in the box provided in supermarkets if you prefer; these will go to the local Redditch foodbank.

**Congratulations** to Rev Barry Jones who modestly writes 'A bit of news for those interested, if anyone. I was made a deacon in Lichfield Cathedral on 24 May 1970. 50 years ago. How time flies!' Well we are interested Barry and thank you for your wonderful service over that period especially as Chaplain at the Alex and your many services you've led here, particularly during our very long interregnum.

**Astwood Bank Neighbours Scheme:** this is a group of people offering support with shopping, prescription collections and simple errands for people on the village. There are correct procedures in place and some vetting of volunteers has taken place. All the volunteers are also under 70. There is also a friendly phone call service that is being offered by the group as well, which is led by a trained psychologist. **Please see details in the flier below.**

### **Astwood Bank Neighbours Group**

#### **An offer of help in response to COVID-19:**

If you are **self-isolating** or a **key worker** and need someone

to help you in some way, then we are here to help.

Get in touch if you would like assistance with:

Shopping for groceries (subject to availability in the local shops); Collecting and delivering prescriptions;

A friendly phone call; Running local errands

**Please call us 7 days per week from 9am-5pm**

**07513 015557**

[astwoodbankneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:astwoodbankneighbours@gmail.com)

**or via our Facebook group 'Astwood Bank Neighbours'**

We are your local neighbours and not a professional body – we will do our best to help you where possible, whilst keeping ourselves safe at the same time.

We will follow current government guidelines regarding hand washing and social distancing and request that you do the same ☺

**IF YOU ARE SELF ISOLATING & NEED SOME SUPPORT, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

**We are here to help you!**

*Rather than concentrating on an individual church in May, Churches Together in Redditch (CTiR): has sent a list of prayers for us to use. As it is a long list, groups of different prayers will be listed each week. Here is this week's list:*

**We pray especially for:** The Government, its advisers, other politicians – for wisdom, discernment, unity, selflessness.

Prime Minister, Boris Johnson - for health, strength, courage, honesty, transparency.

Christians in our all national Governments - for opportunities to witness and bring godly wisdom to bear on world leaders

Those currently battling the effects of Coronavirus

Families who have lost members to Coronavirus  
Ministers around the world comforting the grief-stricken and taking funerals

Those unable to attend the funeral of a loved one

Those who are lonely, or emotionally/ mentally affected by this situation

Those struggling with other health conditions whose treatment is ongoing or has been put on hold

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](mailto:richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk)

Log onto our website for more information

[www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk)

