

**St Matthias & St George Parish Church.**  
**A member of “Christ the King” team ministry.**  
**Week commencing 24th May 2020, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

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

*Jesus said to his Father: “..And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” John 17 v 3*

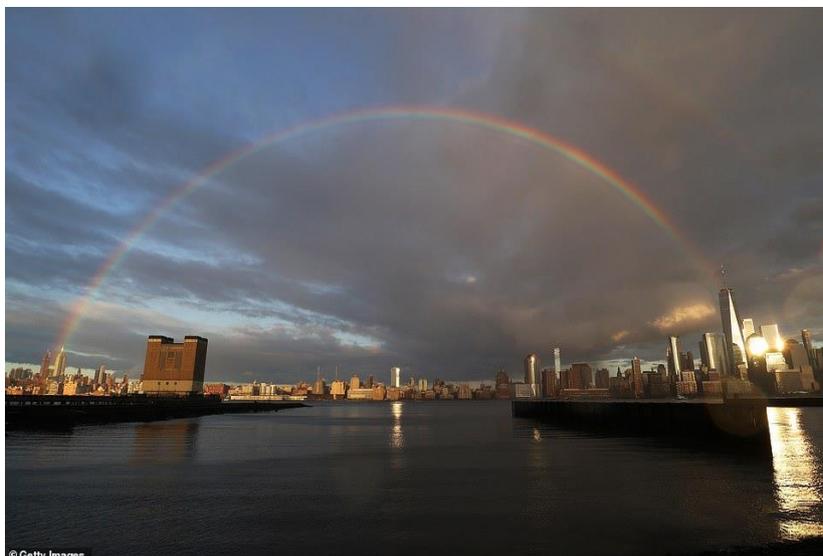
Well I’ve sent my letter to Rachel Maclean and Bishop John asking them to make representation to the Government for a relaxation of some of the lockdown restrictions relating to churches. I look forward to their reply.

In previous editions of Spotlight I’ve recommended the Diocesan Mailing as a really good newsletter relating to the diocese. Can I please urge you to go online and have a look at this week’s edition (19<sup>th</sup> May 2020). There is lots of information about ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ which from Ascension Day marks the start of ten days of prayer for more people to come to faith, culminating next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday. Although we can’t meet there are lots of **ideas & resources** in which to get involved on the [Thy Kingdom Come website](#). More about one initiative a little later.

In the Diocesan Mailing there are two pieces which have a local flavour. You **MUST** watch the Toilet Roll Challenge which features amongst others Victoria standing next to her motorbike and looking every inch the ‘Leader of the Pack’ - for those of you who remember the 1965 song by the Shangri-Las. It also features Glenn catching a toilet roll and in a demonstration of the frustrated athlete which is bursting to erupt from within his cassock he pirouette’s and passes the toilet roll in true hammer thrower style. Unless of course he was merely using the skills gained from those early years ballet classes. 😊

On a more serious note there is an article by Victoria about supporting those with hearing loss to engage with others online. By highlighting the difficulties of those who can be marginalised through hearing loss in engaging in meetings on Zoom, Facetime or virtual services online, it also gives the reader a brief insight into some of the trials and tribulations affecting those with hearing loss. Reading how Victoria has been trying to resolve issues in a very matter of fact way about things that we take so much for granted, is both sobering and humbling. Look for the heading Coronavirus (COVID 19) and scroll down to ‘[Advice on supporting those with hearing loss to engage online](#)’.

*Will local schools go back after the half-term? I imagine we’ll find out in the next few days. In the meantime, however, don’t forget there are 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.*



**Hope.** A stunning rainbow, stretched over New York City, helped lift the spirits of residents left stricken by the Coronavirus. The colourful arch appeared just hours after Governor Andrew Cuomo declared that the worst of the outbreak was 'over'.

**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.

**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.

**A final shout out and Congratulations** to Rev Barry Jones who was made a deacon in Lichfield Cathedral on 24 May 1970. **This very day 50 years ago!!** Thank you Barry for your wonderful service over that period especially as Chaplain at the Alex and the 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. Correct procedures are in place and vetting of volunteers has taken place. All the volunteers are under 70. A friendly phone call service is being offered by the group as well, which is led by a trained psychologist. **Please see details.**

#### **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'**

**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.'**

**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 **390 NHS and care-workers** who have died from the disease and for their families and loved ones.

**CTiR:** *Here are this week's prayers sent by CTiR – We pray: for those keeping the supply chain going*

*for patience for our nation as the lockdown continues*

*that people will be law-abiding as well as keeping to Government guidelines*

*that community and neighbourly links will be strengthened as a result of this crisis*

*that there will be a greater unity in our nation following this season of uncertainty*

**'Thy Kingdom Come' - May 21st to May 31<sup>st</sup>,** is the period between Ascension and Pentecost. To find out ways that we as a church, or a family group, can join the global prayer initiative for those who don't know Christ, please follow the link below

5 Ways your family and church can be involved in this year's 'Thy Kingdom Come'

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/stories/5-ways-your-church-can-be-involved-years-thy-kingdom-come>

CTiR is running a **24 hour prayer vigil** as part of the "Thy Kingdom Come" initiative. The key points are

-Tuesday 26th - Wednesday 27th May

-To sign up for one or more half hour slots, go online at <http://www.bit.ly/24signup>, or call 01527 450444 any evening between 7:00 p.m. and 10:p.m.

-Suggested prayer topics will be posted this week on the Churches Together website

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!**

(<https://ctir.church/> ) and Churches Together Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/RedditchChurches/>

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)



