

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week commencing 31st May 2020, Pentecost

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20 v 21-22

Have you managed to watch Father Glenn and Mother Victoria in the Toilet Roll Challenge in the online Diocesan Mailing yet? Or indeed 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](#)'.

A week on from me mentioning the return to schools and we're still not sure when certain local ones will re-open, other than "when it is safe to do so", which is of course the correct thing. Let's pray for those who have these difficult decisions to make and for all teachers, pupils and parents when the drift back to schools does occur.

Did you know that according to several websites '*the term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning "fiftieth"? It refers to the festival celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, also known as the "Feast of Weeks" and the "Feast of 50 days" in rabbinic tradition.*' It is also the 50th day after Easter Sunday. I have a suspicion that many of us more elderly folk will have been brought up using the word Whitsun or Whitsunday rather than Pentecost. Whit Monday, the day after Whitsun, remained a holiday in Britain until 1971 when, with effect from 1972, it was replaced with the Spring Bank Holiday on the last Monday in May. Whit was the occasion for varied forms of celebration and I remember with great fondness the Whitsun Rambles I attended in my youth. On one such event several church youth clubs caught a train out into the countryside, and I can remember our vicar calling one of the other priests to hurry up and get on the train. It caused much mirth to hear him calling 'Father Christmas, Father Christmas do get on the train!' And he had a beard, though sadly not a white one. Ah, those were the days.

Right at the beginning of lockdown I asked for people to send me in any birthdays or anniversaries that we might celebrate in this period of separation. I repeated it, but realised that I was flogging a dead horse and consequently gave up. Apart from Barry Jones' recent anniversary, it would appear that no one has had anything to celebrate! Well this is my final call, do let me know if there is anything you'd like to share with us all.

This Sunday Glenn will again be holding Morning Prayer online (10.30 am) from the vicarage garden 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
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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: 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**

Our Website: Be sure to go onto our website www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk and under 'on-line resources' see the material that Mother Victoria has uploaded to help us through the lockdown period. She also wishes to mention that 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 9.00 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.'

CTiR: *Here are this week's prayers sent by CTiR – We pray:* For God's mercy and deliverance from the Coronavirus

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.

Please pray for all patients in hospitals and members of Care Homes 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 also pray for the souls of all **NHS and care-workers** who have died from the disease and for their families and loved ones.

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

that many will seek truth during this time and find Jesus

that all around the world people will realise what really is important in life

that God's worldwide church will step up and proclaim Christ boldly

for opportunities in Redditch to show the love and compassion of Jesus and share our faith verbally

for specific friends, neighbours, family members or those on our frontline who come to mind

that we will come out of this stronger in faith, deeper in our love for Jesus and each other, hungrier to know God as we move forward, more fervent in prayer and bolder in our witness

Log onto our website for more information www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk