

St Mary Magdalen Church, Church of England, Knighton

Sunday 29th March 2020

5th Sunday of Lent: Passion Sunday

**Join us in prayer this Sunday morning
and through the week**

This week we continue our journey through Lent and towards Holy Week and Easter. Despite not being able to meet as a Church, we can continue to pray together, by daily using the Coronavirus Prayer (see back page) and these prayers for Passion Sunday and the week that follows:

Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

Pastoral Letter from the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England (*excerpts*)

24 March 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement it is imperative that for the health of the nation and in order for the National Health Service itself to manage the increase in those requiring medical help, the Church of England strictly observes the new guidelines on staying at home and only making journeys that are absolutely necessary, such as shopping for essential items and to take daily exercise.

Our church buildings must now be closed not only for public worship, but for private prayer as well and this includes the priest or lay person offering prayer in church on their own. We must take a lead in showing our communities how we must behave in order to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus.

We must also do all that we can to provide resources and support for those who are isolated, fearful and vulnerable. But we have to do this from our homes. It is also imperative that as the Church of Jesus Christ, called to offer hope and light in the darkness of this world's ills, we maintain a praying presence for our community, though, again, this must happen from our hearts and from our homes.

These are unprecedented times. We are all having to get used to being the Church differently. It is not easy. However, our belonging to Christ has never been measured by the number of people in church on a Sunday morning (though we long for the day when this way of knowing Christ can return) but by the service we offer to others.

We know that God is with us and we pray with you that in the midst of all this pain and sorrow we can remain focussed on the One who gives us hope. With every blessing,

+Justin Cantuar

+Sentamu Eboracensis

Praying Together through the week

During this week why not give yourself a regular pattern of daily prayer? This will help us to keep a Godly perspective on all that is happening and will reduce our anxiety and stress – and will give us an opportunity to pray regularly for those in need, those who unwell, and all our medical services.

Here are some ideas for joining others in prayer:

The Community of the Tree of Life, our own Diocesan prayer community based near the Cathedral, is praying three times a day at 8am, noon and 9pm with a short and very simple service. You can hear more by going to this page on the internet: www.leicestertreeoflife.org and also their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LeicTreeofLife/

Each Sunday morning the Diocese itself will post a short act of worship and Bible reflection on it's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/dioceseofleicester/

The Church of England also has a dedicated web page for information about a range of options for praying and worshipping together: www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online

As always the choice can be rather overwhelming! Can I encourage you to plan simply? During this Coronavirus season I personally am aiming to use Pray As You Go (www.pray-as-you-go.org/) each morning for a simple Bible reflection and setting up my day in time with God. Then as the day draws to a close, I'll aim to join the Community of the Tree of Life for their Night Prayer (see above).

Whatever you do, do take this chance to give time to God.

Adrian

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for this Sunday are:

Ezekiel 37.1-14, Romans 8.6-11 and John 11.1-45

John 11.38-45

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ 'Take away the stone,' he said.

'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.'

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face.

Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Thought for the Day....

Hinges are more than things that hold a door in a doorway. On a laptop computer or a double display board, the hinges find their place right in the middle of the 'material' either side.

The 'hinge' can find itself as the turning point of stories, dramas, tragedies...and yes, even Gospels.

In Mark's Gospel, the turning point or 'hinge' is Caesarea Philippi and Peter's Confession of Faith. This remarkable moment is 'geographically'

half way through the Gospel, and the theological thrust of the material in the second half after this hinge, this turning point, is very different from the first half.

Here, in the Johannine Gospel for today is a hinge, the geographical turning point of John's own drama. Again, the thrust of the material following the story of Lazarus is quite a contrast to the first half. Similar to the majority of miracles in Mark, all of John's 'signs' are found in the first half of his drama. Also, like Mark, Martha's Confession of Faith in John is both in the middle of the whole, the middle one of three....and involving a woman at that!

But why have a story about 'resurrection' on Passion Sunday? Surely we may think that this is a bit odd and 'stealing the thunder' of the Feast of the Resurrection in a fortnight's time.

But in conclusion of this hinge, v53 reveals a further secret and within it the reason for the choice of Gospel for today. In Chapter 11, what Jesus says about himself and does in and around the story of the raising of Lazarus brings the feelings of the chief priests and scribes to fever pitch. Like the Cleansing of the Temple in the Synoptic Gospels here John says "From that day on they plotted to take his life." (11:53).

The 'beginning of the end' rightly finds its place here on Passion Sunday.

A couple of questions to finish with...one spiritual, one theological.

Firstly, can you recognise the 'hinge points' in your life, where your faith has 'lit up' in some small or great way and helped you to determine or strengthen your way forward?

Did Jesus know he was to die and if so from when did he know?

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Good News in Tough Times

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6, 9-10)

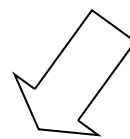
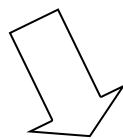
- Global efforts to heal the hole in the ozone layer are helping to reverse damage to the Southern Jet Stream: As the world has banned chemicals that destroy the ozone layer in the atmosphere, and the hole over the Antarctic has begun to heal, so too has the weather pattern known as the Southern Jet Stream begun to settle back into its regular pattern, showing that human damage to the Earth can be reversed. (Guardian newspaper 25th March)
- NHS Volunteer Appeal smashes target: An appeal this week for 250,000 volunteers to help the NHS during the Coronavirus crisis received more than 400,000 applications in just the first 24 hours. (Daily Mail 25th March)
- Spring is here! Nature spotters in St Mary's churchyard have this week confirmed sightings of two special species of bee: the Tree Bumblebee and the Tawny Mining Bee.

Staying Connected-Social Media, Facebook

We are looking at new ways to best engage our congregation and wider community. Facebook is a very effective 'platform' to share news, images, events and even live services. Both St Mary's and St Guthlac's now have Facebook pages which you are encouraged to 'like and follow'. Please have a look at the attached guidance (attached with the newsletter) on how to set up a Facebook account and join our Church page. Any problems, please email or phone Matthew who is happy to help.

LES MISERABLES VIRTUAL LENT COURSE

Please visit the St Mary's Website for the Lent Booklet
(under Coronavirus Support). *Matthew*



ENVELOPES OR STANDING ORDER 😊 😊 😊

Have you considered paying by monthly standing order
instead of envelopes?

If you would like to do this, please contact Lorna Pollard :

by telephone 0116 2704272
or e mail at stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com

EXTERNAL LIGHTING

Planning permission has been granted for replacement lamp posts, new security lighting, lighting of the statue of Mary Magdalen on the tower and refurbishment of the west and south flood lights. Further details can be found on the PCC notice board at the back of church. An application has now been submitted for a faculty. *Simon Britton*

MUSICATHON : This has now been **postponed** until Saturday 10th October, 10.00am until 4.00pm in St Mary's.

KNIGHTON PLAYERS

This year's production from Knighton Players is 'The Sword In The Stone' by Ian Jones. The performances are on **Friday 27th March** at 7.30pm and **Saturday 28th March** at 2.30pm & 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Tickets are priced at £7 for adults and £5 for children Available from Tanya Willis and Jane Wright or contact knightonplayers@ntlworld.com Profits in aid of MENPHYS (supporting Leicestershire children and young people with disabilities for 50 years). Raffle Prizes: There will be a raffle at each of the performances. Could you provide a prize please? Judi & Bernard Tel: 288 1306 or E-mail: judiandbernard@talktalk.net

MARIE CURIE ANNUAL SPRING LUNCH

The Oadby & Wigston Fundraising Group Annual Spring Lunch has been postponed until **Thursday 1st October**.

THANKS

The Social and Fundraising Group are pleased to tell you that £320 was raised for "Send a Cow" at our Lent Lunch. We are hoping that Sandra Herbert will come to a 10am Service at St. Mary's in the near future to receive the cheque for this amount. Thank you so much for your support.

CHURCHYARD FOOTPATH

I'm glad to say that the work on the Churchyard footpath has now been completed. The final section should be 'made up' in the next financial year. *Adrian*



MOTHERS UNION

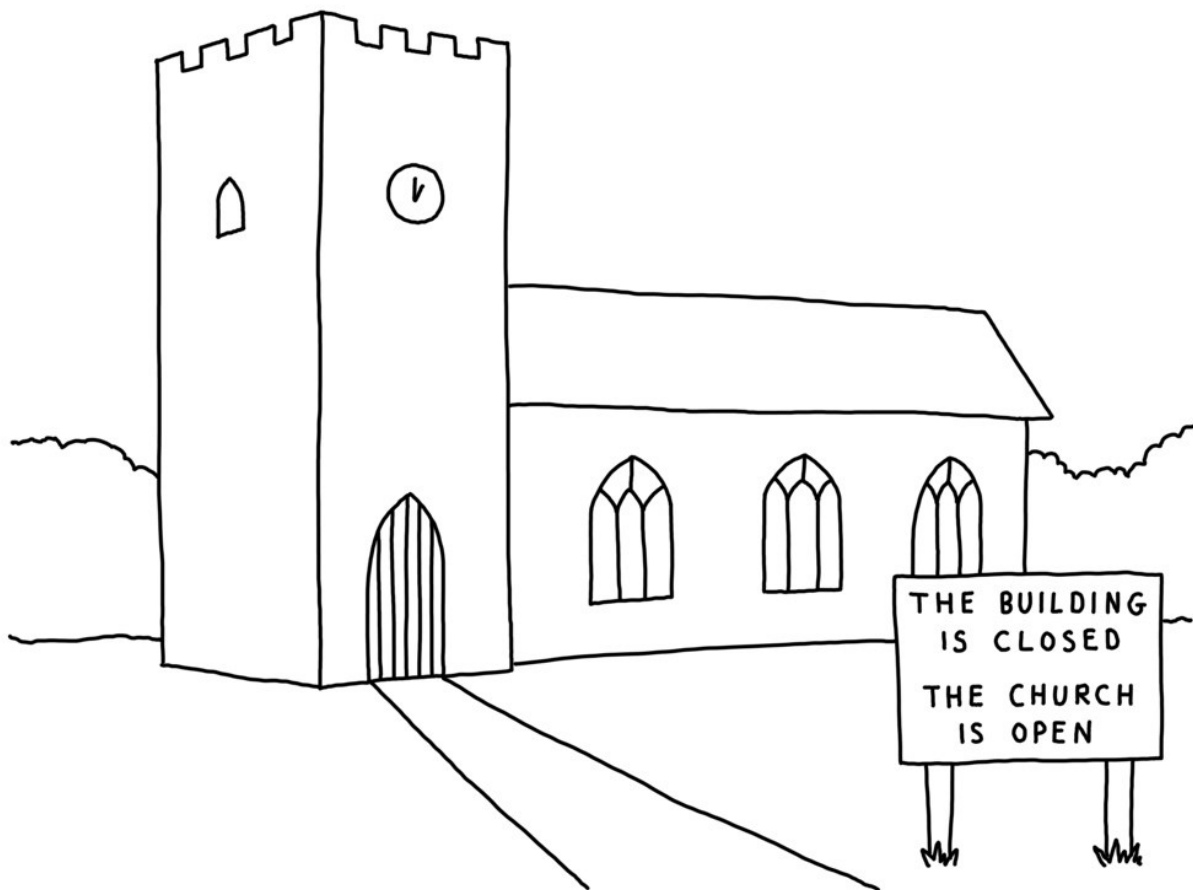
In accordance with current guidelines, there will be no Mothers Union meeting next Tuesday, March 24th, nor April 28th. We shall continue to review the situation and keep members informed.

FAIRTRADE EASTER EGGS:

The Easter eggs have arrived and we will be striving to deliver them all to you as soon as we can. If you'd rather collect from the vicarage just phone and give us a little notice. Payment on delivery or collection if possible please. *Alison R*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS:

I am sorry to have to tell you that Mrs Mary Fielder, widow of Canon John Fielder the former vicar of Knighton, has died this week. *Adrian*



CartoonChurch.com

Please send items for inclusion in the diary or notice sheet to James Gutteridge by **Thursday 12.00 noon**. Contact James on office@knightonparish.co.uk or 0116 2702705.

InSPIREd

The campaign to save our spire

InSpired - our appeal for the spire

InSpired – a progress report

Thanks to your efforts and generosity, the amount raised had risen by the end of February to £33,400, of which £25,000 is attributable to donations or gift aid.

Paul Bonnett has now submitted the first of a number of applications to funding bodies and we hope these will be successful in raising the £60,000 we have assumed may be attainable from such sources. But as I have said before, these contributions are by no means guaranteed. The outcome will not be known until some time in the summer.

The InSpired Group met recently and agreed that we should continue our efforts to raise funds locally, both from donations and events, throughout the year, as originally planned.

I shall provide more information about the activities planned in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, thank you for everything you have done so far, and please keep up your efforts.

Nigel Siesage

Contact details:

Vicar: Adrian Jones 0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414

Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (day off normally Friday)

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough 07754 961997

Email: revgough@gmail.com (day off normally Friday)

Revd Aphro McCullough: 0116 283 7887

Email: aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

Email: safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Revd Janet Gasper

Email: janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk 0116 288 9646

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Email: Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net 07515 752954

Churchwarden: Rosalind Matthew

Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge 0116 270 2705

Email: office@knightonparish.co.uk

The Parish Office is currently closed to the public. Sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. **During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.**

giftaid it Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 0116 2704272 or e mail: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

CHEQUES FOR ST MARY'S Please make cheques for St Mary's payable to **Knighton PCC**.

Please pray..... "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5.16-18)

Give thanks: for all medical staff in our hospitals, health centres and GP practices.

A prayer for the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy,
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Praying for the Parish : This week please pray for those who live on:
**Palmerstone Way, Link Road, Ryde Avenue, Shanklin Drive,
Shanklin Gardens, Shanklin Avenue.**

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit, and all those with troubling investigations and diagnoses. In particular we pray for **Ed Groves and all those with the symptoms of Coronavirus infection**, and all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

Give thanks for those who have been healed and restored: **Aruna**

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends. **Ann Hull**