



...linking the Beacon Parishes during the lockdown

Sunday 12th April 2020 - Easter Sunday
Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

All public worship is suspended and due to government lockdown regulations our churches have to remain locked for the time being.

Rector's Voice

Christ is risen, Alleluia!
He is risen indeed alleluia!

This is not the Easter Sunday we had anticipated when we planned the rotas back in February. This year the empty tomb is echoed in our empty churches. But just like the first disciples hid away in their homes afraid of the authorities so we are hidden away in our homes concerned about the enemy, a virus, and wishing to do the best for everyone by staying isolated. That doesn't stop us, though, celebrating the wonderful truth of the resurrection. There will be opportunities to join with others either online, listening to the radio or by sharing in the worship on TV. Details later in the Beacon Light.

Easter Sunday is of course one of the days when we are all expected in normal circumstances to receive Holy Communion. This is not possible this year and although some priests have continued to celebrate the Eucharist and partake of the bread and wine in memory of Christ's death, I have made the decision not to until I can do so with you, my fellow pilgrims.

May you all have a joyful Eastertide.

Readings for Easter Sunday

Collect:

God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Psalm 118.14-24

The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the
righteous:
'The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.'
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death. Open
to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Gospel according to Matthew 28.1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So, they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

"Go and tell my brothers in Galilee – They will see me"
In Johns Gospel we read that Mary said- "I have seen the Lord."

I have seen the Lord- and the question is left hanging, have you?
Some years ago, I visited the Holy Land. In the Holy Land I saw the Lord
I saw him in a new way
Walking where he had walked
Sailing where he sailed
Sitting where he sat
In each place I saw Jesus again
Jesus in a new light a deeper understanding of the Gospel.
In these present days life has changed – possibly forever. Just as the disciples would never be the same again after the resurrection of Jesus so our lives should be changed forever after the virus is conquered. But we are left with the question that Mary begs us -
I have seen the Lord- where have you seen the Lord in these days of isolation?

I hope you have enjoyed the sense of togetherness in prayer as we have shared the evening services for Holy Week.

From Bank Holiday Monday I will be taking a week's holiday at home. But there will still be opportunity to pray together should you wish to take them up. Weekly on a Thursday morning at 9.30am a small group from Sheepscombe continue to meet at a distance by praying

a form of Morning Prayer in their homes. If you would like to join them and would like a copy of the service sheet please email Margaret Todd matodd2016@gmail.com

Also, to continue our time of prayer together at 6.30pm I suggest all who would like to light a candle, say the Lord's Prayer and pray for all those who are in need especially those affected by Covid19.

Opportunities to share in worship on Sunday morning are:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/>

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship

BBC1 11.25am Sunday Worship

BBC1 1.15pm Songs of Praise

On line resources to join in Morning prayer etc:

https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsBelvedere/?hc_location=ufi

https://www.facebook.com/greenwaychurches/?hc_location=ufi

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Weekdays: 9.45am Daily Service - Radio 4 (Long Wave)

3.30pm Wednesday Choral Evensong - Radio 3

Beacon People

- Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Marjorie Bettley, Ursula Daws, William Daws, Andrea Linsell, George Martin, Peter Minall , Ken Morgan, Michael and Jean Ward.**
- At this time we pray for all suffering with coronavirus and those who are treating them, remembering especially all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes.
- Pray for all who are living through this lockdown in circumstances less fortunate than ours – those who have no gardens and families in small flats; those two have no home.
- We also remember before God all who have died recently as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

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.

Sources of help during the lockdown:

St. Mary's Pastoral Link system: Anyone who is self-isolating or unable to get out, we can help you by getting shopping, prescriptions etc. over the coming weeks. Please contact Delyth Allen (St. Mary's Pastoral Link Coordinator) on 813182 or 07854262517 or email delyth_allen@hotmail.co.uk

Painswick COVID-19 Community Support: If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 or painswick.covid19@gmail.com

If you know of similar contact details for our other villages, please let us know.

Notices

PSALMS has taken the difficult decision to furlough some of its current staff, till the end of May. PSALMS will continue to run, but with a smaller staff ,In the Beacon area the following will be continuing and be led by Ben White:

- * Virtual Club Pulse every Monday (5:30-6:30pm)
- * Bible Study every Weds (10:30am)
- * Daily Challenges
- * Mentoring (Only be Volunteers and PSALMS Ministers still working)
- * Occasional Area-wide events such as Quizzes and Fb live questions

Ben White will also be available to contact if any problems, questions arise

ben.white@psalms.uk.net

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As of last Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the Church of England have stated that **we should not be doing any work in churchyards**. They must be left unkempt until further notice. You will find further details on the Church of England website. This means that Margaret will not require any equipment to assist in keeping St. Mary's churchyard up together.

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Foodbank is continuing to provide food and supplies to those in need. We fed a record number of people in March, over 7-800 people were recipients of food parcels . For the time being we would advise that all food donations go through the supermarkets. This will minimise the risks for those giving, for volunteers who transport food and also lessen the load on our warehouse volunteers. We are currently in a healthy position, so please don't feel any obligation to give financially at this time. Please pray for our trustees, staff and volunteers, for good health, clear thinking and unity as we continue on.

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## **Contacts**

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Benefice Office: - *Currently closed due to lockdown regulations*  
Website: [www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

Information for next week's Beacon Light Online to [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com) by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest**, please.