**Rector’s Voice**

Well this has been rather an extraordinary week- from the prime minister’s announcements on Monday that left us questioning what that would mean for church services, to the response from the Church of England Archbishops that all services should be suspended. As Mike Campbell wrote to me in an email

“Who would have thought, when we joyfully gathered in November, that as well as getting to know folk in a new area you would be faced with having to guide us through an unprecedented national emergency such as we are currently facing?”

And I am sure none of you ever expected to live to see the day.

But it has happened.

We do not cease to be church because we can no longer gather in one place each Sunday morning. Instead we can worship at home remembering that we are still part of the worldwide church and there are countless voices raised to worship with us around the villages, the towns and cities of this country and beyond. With this in mind I have included here the Gospel reading for Sunday and the Psalm and there will be Morning Prayer booklets available for use- either in print in church to take away or as an attachment if you receive Beacon Light in an email.

**I will continue to say morning prayer at 8.30am and evening prayer at 5pm Monday- Thursday in St Mary’s Painswick and will extend this to Sunday as well.**

We are also encouraged by the Archbishops to pray at home at 7pm on Sunday and to light a candle and place it in a window as a sign of our prayers.