

St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton

Sunday 10th May 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Friday 8th May was the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, marking the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Although our national celebrations and commemorations are naturally more muted than we might have wanted or planned, we thank God for the restoration of peace and international justice in 1945, and for the dedication and sacrifice of millions of service personnel across the world, and millions more on 'the Home Front' .

Prayer of Resolve from the Thanksgiving for Victory Service 1945

O Lord God, we acknowledge thee as our Father,
ourselves as thy children,
our neighbours as our brethren;

And we dedicate to thy obedience,
and to their service,
our hearts and minds, our wills and works;

Resolved to stand fast in thy faith,
to seek the help of thy Holy Spirit,
and to do battle for thy perfect kingdom,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Join us in prayer this Sunday and through the week

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
"I am with you always."

Be with us today, as we offer ourselves to you.
Hear our prayers for others and for ourselves,
and keep us in your care.

Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Post Communion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily
hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone
line for you to ring to hear
comforting hymns, daily prayers
and reflections.



Faith in Later Life **CONNECTIONS**

Peace in Tough Times

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14.27)

As the weeks of our lockdown drag on, and the challenges of this very different way of life begin to weigh heavily on us all, even if we are not directly touched by the coronavirus and its fallout, we may find that we feel distinctly 'out of sorts' and restless. Concentration may be more difficult, we may be tired all the time, we may be generally anxious even though safe, we may be moody, or just plain frustrated and annoyed.

What we lack is peace.

Jesus promises to give us peace, and one important way in which we can take hold of that peace is to put aside 10-15 minutes as the day ends.

We have a natural tendency to play back the day and its events, and the short prayer exercise called the Examen builds on this. Most importantly though, instead of making our own analysis and judgements, we ask *God* to *show us* how he has been at work in the details, the moods and the feelings of the day.

There are six simple steps to this version of the Examen, once you have found a quiet place where you won't be disturbed.

1. **Be relaxed and ask God for light;** *I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.*
2. **Give thanks for the good things of the day;** *I remember one or two events that I enjoyed, reflect that the day I have just lived is a gift from God and I am grateful.*
3. **Let go of things bothering you:** *I notice what's on my mind at the moment, what's making me feel awkward or anxious. I ask God for the freedom and peace that comes with the presence of his Holy Spirit.*

4. **Review the day:** *I carefully look back over the other events today, noticing how I feel about each and trusting God to show me what's important and what to learn from.*
5. **Face your shortcomings:** *I talk to God about the things I can see are wrong in my life and in me. I ask for his forgiveness and remember his promise of a new start.*
6. **Pray for tomorrow:** *I look forward to the day to come, asking for his guidance and entrusting myself and my loved ones to his care.*

Finally, you might like to end with a simple prayer that asks for blessing:

*May the love of Jesus enfold us,
his joy fill our lives,
his peace be in our hearts;
and the blessing of God be with us
this night and always.*

Keep safe and stay well.

Adrian

(with thanks to Rev Janet Gasper)

The Coronavirus Pandemic and our lockdown restrictions

Firstly can I say a sincere thank you to everyone who has been looking out for neighbours, keeping in touch with others and encouraging us all with bright spirits and acts of kindness during the lockdown? Can I then encourage everyone to continue carefully observing the requirements for social distancing and isolation, where appropriate? There may be some slight changes to the regulations in coming days, but the advice is that we should remain very cautious..

One change this week has been new permission from the Bishop for one authorised person, normally the vicar, to enter a church building to say prayers and celebrate the Eucharist on behalf of the whole congregation. This is something I am very glad to do, at both St Mary's and St Guthlac's, and if you follow our Sunday recording of reflective worship you may now see me speaking from inside as well as outside the church! *Adrian*

Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.

On-line worship This Sunday, 10th May, we aim once again to have a short recorded, reflective act of worship by members of St Mary's congregation on both the website and our Facebook page—do have a look and join in worship together. We also have an online service of Compline every Wednesday evening -if you would like to take part then do contact Matthew for details. You can also view the service on Facebook.

Every Sunday at 10am on the @DioceseofLeicester Facebook page there will be a short pre-recorded video providing an opportunity to engage with the Gospel reading of the day. There will be simple prayers, a reading, a brief devotional homily and a creative interpretation of the Bible story by an artist, and a closing blessing. Just follow the Diocese of Leicester Facebook page and join with others around our diocese in experiencing God's word in a slightly different way.

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/

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

'**Pray As You Go**' (www.pray-as-you-go.org/) provides a simple Bible reflection each morning, with music to help you pray.

Daily Hope: The Church of England has set up a new national phone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, readings and prayers. Just call 0800 804 8044

Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer) - Each week we are meeting virtually for Compline at 8pm on Wednesday. It has proven to be a meaningful way to have fellowship and prayer together as well as being quite good fun, especially as we find our feet with the technology and

with more people joining us every week.

You can join by just phoning up and inputting the code or using 'Zoom' online. It has been democratic with several voices joining in with a line of liturgy each. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm on Wednesday.

To join by phone only, call this number **0131 460 1196** and when prompted input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

To join by Zoom on the internet, go to this address and click 'Open Zoom' <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

Don't forget to visit the **St. Mary's website and Facebook page**. Keeping in touch within our congregation and wider community without physical contact is difficult—but easier with social media. Facebook is a helpful 'platform' which can host conversations, images, events and even live services. If you are interested in joining St Mary's 'Page' you will need a Facebook account. Matthew can help out with any problems, so please do contact him by phone or email. Also do check the website regularly for information, news, prayers and reflections.

Coffee Morning! (yes, really!) : once again everyone is invited to drop in to a church coffee morning on Thursday 14th May, from 10-11am. We will be meeting in the comfort of our own homes (with whatever type of hot beverage and biscuits that take your fancy!) and sharing in some relaxed and informal chat using our computers, laptops, phones or tablets and "Zoom". If you'd like to join us please send me a quick email and I'll send you some straightforward instructions for making the connection. Drop in at any time! *Adrian* (adrian.jones@zoho.com)

Christian Aid goes virtual: Christian Aid week begins today (10th). Unsurprisingly it looks a little different this year. You can still get involved in various different ways - to see how, visit their website: www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week or click the link in the email with this newsletter and on our website.

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible reading for this Sunday is: **John 14.1-14**

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

***Reflection: Many Rooms, One Way-* Revd Matthew Gough**

I am writing this on the edge of the Benefice in the vast expanse of Leicestershire Golf Course towards Evington. It is the first time I have been here. It is a massive place to explore which in normal times one cannot do because of flying golf balls. Thankfully today, the golfers have been grounded. This place helps me to think of Jesus talking about the generosity of His Father's House, ie eternal life having unlimited space for all.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus words are incredibly comforting to his followers as he talks off his own death. We recall them in Easter because they remind us of the eternal life Jesus promised for his followers after his death. Jesus promises to goes ahead of us and though it is unknown to us, he promises that all we need do is to know and trust Him.

The encouraging words are often used at funerals. We emphasise them because we say there is room for everyone! Many mansions, many rooms, or the greek-many dwellings. A place for all in 'My Father's House'.

However, these are not sentimental words. Later, Jesus says the only way to the Father, the only way to be assured of being in the House of the Father is through Jesus.

Jesus's inclusive offer is open to all but space for all is only through Him.

The reading follows on from last week where we heard about Jesus being both shepherd and gate.

Jesus establishes himself as the Way. This is all Truth and very Life itself. Big claims. He says the way is a person, the truth is a person, life in all its fullness is found in a person.

The person of Christ calls to each of us-to know the Father and that we

know the Father if we know Jesus. If we know Jesus then we know the way to the Father's House. We have the assurance of eternal life.

The only other time in John's gospel we hear Jesus use the term, is when Jesus cleanses the temple 'My Father's House' of the merchants getting in the way of worship. 'Turning my Father's house into a market place'. Jesus is physical and angrily makes room for the Father to be worshipped in His house. The way of Jesus is worship of the Father which requires a cleansing and removal the ungodly to make room for the Father.

What do you need to remove? What takes up space preventing you worshipping the Father? What stops us knowing Jesus.

We find room in our Father's house if we are willing to follow the Way, and the Truth that is Christ. The way to life by his truth.

Eternal life has meaning and hope that is not sentimental. Rather it is a hope built on the scars and wounds of a risen Christ.

Amen



THANKS to Barry Whitehead for our VE Day leaflet that accompanies the newsletter today.

Congratulations! to Sue and Paul Bonnett who have become grand parents. Benjamin Alan Howard was born on 30th April 2020 to Laura and Rob—all are doing well.

Changes to the way we organise ourselves: Keeping the church running during these challenging times means making some changes. We need to be more careful with how we spend our money for instance, because our income from weekly giving and bookings of the Parish Centre has fallen away. To help us deal with this, James, our Administrator, and Mark and Steph, caretaker and bookings secretary for the Parish Centre, have agreed to move onto furlough under the Government aid scheme. This will enable us to claim back 80% of their salary without any loss of income to them.

Adrian will check on the security of our buildings and deal with routine administration—please do bear with him! The newsletter will continue to be published so please send items for inclusion to the usual email address or the office by **Thursday 12.00 noon**, or contact Adrian on 0116 2702705 or 0116 270 4268.

Church Family News: This week we've been given the sad news of the death of Maureen Wood. Maureen was a member of our Sunday School team some time ago and she used to play her guitar to accompany our songs. She moved to Clarendon Park and was a member of St John's Mothers' Union. She died suddenly in her garden, Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

The funeral of Terry Oswin took place this week in Burton-on-Trent. His niece Rebekah, who lives in Uruguay, South America, joined us at Compline online this week as she and her church remembered Terry too.

Hospital Chaplaincy—As you can imagine, Hospital Chaplaincy is particularly challenging at this time. You can read an account by Mark Burleigh in Leicester here:

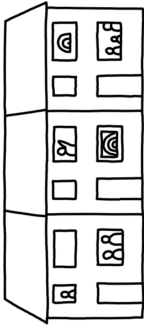
<https://leicester.anglican.org/news/hospital-chaplaincy--ministry-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-mark-burleigh.php>

Congratulations! Many happy Returns to Audrey Symons who celebrated her 95th birthday recently.

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS



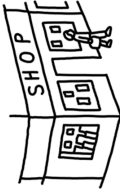
FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED



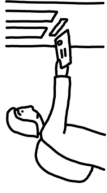
FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS



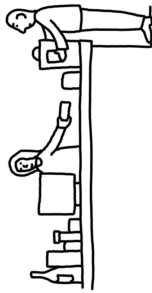
FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



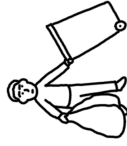
FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



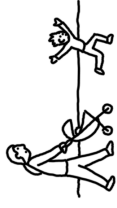
FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS,



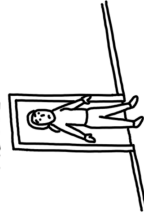
FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE,



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY- THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY

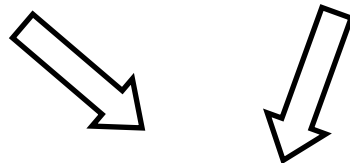


MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

Ministry Team news: During the coronavirus pandemic the Benefice Ministry Team have met regularly online using Zoom to talk and to pray. Much of our time is taken checking that everyone in the two churches is well and safe, and thinking about the best ways to help us all stay connected and worshipping together in some way. We would love to hear from everyone else directly too:

- if you feel isolated or would just like a chat then do please let us know;
- if you are concerned about someone else then again please let us know;
- please give us feedback about the 'virtual services' and the Reflections in the newsletters;
- please let us know if there is something else you would find helpful- we are particularly interested to know if you would like a recorded Eucharist to follow at home;
- and please pray for us! Leading is a strange and unfamiliar task in these strange days.

Thank you - *Adrian*



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

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



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.

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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. 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%.

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.

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 the dedication and commitment to others shown by all our shop workers, distribution and transport workers and food producers.

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.

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, Gary Joynes, Trevor Gutteridge, 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.

We give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends: **Lionel Peters, Jackie Wood, Maureen Wood.**

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11.28.

