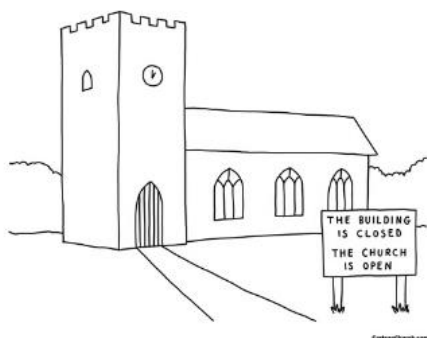


St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS SUNDAY 19th APRIL:-

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTOR:

The Rector has written a brief reflection and prayer for this Second Sunday after Easter – the document is attached.

SUNDAY SERVICE - Revd Val Plumb, Rural Dean for Mursley Deanery

Below is the link for the Rural Dean's 15 minute service on Sunday:-
https://youtu.be/yIWZ3kVx_Us

EASTER PILGRIM:

Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu are inviting the whole Church to take 40 days this Easter season to explore the Lord's Prayer as the world endures the coronavirus pandemic.

Each day for the 40 days of Easter, from Easter Sunday 12th April to Ascension Day, Thursday 21st May there is:

- A short Bible reading that explores part of the Lord's Prayer and what it tells us about the Christian vision for human life,
- An invitation to reflect on the reading,
- A prompt to pause and consider what this might mean for you, your life and your discipleship,
- A suggestion of how to pray,
- Full audio for each day's entry, with a daily hymn.

Pilgrim Journeys: The Lord's Prayer is available as a free app with new content from Bishop Steven for 2020. Alternatively sign up for a daily email or listen to the daily reflections. To find out more follow the link below:-

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/easter-pilgrim>

RADIO 4:

Sunday Worship at 8.10am. Meeting in the Lockdown

Immediately after the crucifixion the disciples were in 'Lockdown.' Fearing for their very lives, perhaps there's some sense of parallel with our current situation, locked away as we all are out of fear of something much less tangible but just as much a threat. They were surprised by the appearance of the risen Christ. How do such Resurrection narratives speak to Christians today as we all continue to face existential threats as

individuals and as a society? A virtual service from Holy Trinity Platt in South Manchester with speech and music recorded in isolation.

Readings: Luke 24: 36-49; Zephaniah 3: 14-20

BBC TELEVISION:

Sunday Worship BBC 1 at 10.00am

The Reverend Canon Leigh Richardson leads the service for the second Sunday after Easter from St Davids Cathedral in Pembrokeshire. With hymns sung by the Songs of Praise congregation recorded in July 2019, the programme was filmed before the closure of all church buildings was announced.

Songs of Praise BBC 1 at 1.15pm Strawberry Field

Filmed before the current restrictions, Aled Jones explores the theme of inclusion by visiting Strawberry Field in Liverpool to discover how the Salvation Army is putting faith into action and embracing its link to John Lennon, who played there as a child.

When the Beatles released Strawberry Fields Forever in 1967, many assumed the lyric was simply the product of John Lennon's imagination, but the song harked back to a place that was very special to Lennon's childhood. Strawberry Field was a Salvation Army children's home in Woolton, Liverpool, occupying a grand Victorian house with beautiful grounds. John lived with his Aunt Mimi around the corner and often used to jump over the walls to play in the gardens. It was a place of sanctuary for him.

The children's home closed in 2005, and the Salvation Army felt there was an opportunity to do something new and creative with the site, especially as 60,000 Beatles fans a year were turning up just to take photos by the iconic red gates. Last year they opened a new Strawberry Field centre – a training hub for young people with learning difficulties. There is also a visitor exhibition exploring the site's links to John Lennon and gardens for spiritual reflection. Aled meets Salvation Army major Kathy Versfeld to hear more about the history of Strawberry Field and its famous visitor, and how the centre is now offering a Christian welcome and a place to reflect for the many visitors who come. Aled also meets trainees on the Strawberry Field 'steps to work' programme, which helps adults with learning difficulties to build skills and find work.

Aled also meets Rev Alex Clare-Young, a young minister in the United Reformed Church, who believes part of his calling is to share his story as a transgender Christian. Alex talks openly about his journey from an unhappy childhood - he was told to leave his church as a teenager - to his transition and call to ministry.

And James Lusted meets trailblazing preacher Anna Herriman. Anna is training to be a local preacher in the Methodist Church, and when she qualifies she will be the first female in the role to use British Sign Language in the pulpit. James hears her testimony and her thoughts on how important it is for churches to be inclusive and accessible. With great hymns and modern worship songs from churches across the UK, including Liverpool's magnificent Anglican cathedral.

OXFORD DIOCESE LIVE STREAMING:

The next Diocesan service will take place online at 10am on Sunday 19th April.

To watch the service live, or at a later time, follow the link:-

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

CHURCH OF ENGLAND LIVE STREAMING:

For information about possible worship opportunities, follow the link:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/stories-and-features/how-church-england-adapting-plans-holy-week-and-easter-meet>