



Heacham Parish Church

**To find Heacham Parish Church on Youtube search for Heacham Parish Church and all songs and previous services.**

**June Byford died on 14th April she will have a private cremation next week and when possible a memorial service at Heacham Parish Church and her ashes interred with her late husband Eric.**

**Also Zoom church, coffee and cake wed 10am... email Veronica [heacham.vicar@gmail.com](mailto:heacham.vicar@gmail.com) if want to join**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

In this Easter season, as we gather in different circumstances, different homes and places, and maybe at different times. We remember the words from Matthew's gospel "He is not here, he has risen, just as he said".

Earlier in Matthew it says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls".

Remembering these words we welcome The Lord into our hearts and homes, we ask for the ability to learn from him as we read his Word, sing his praise and as we seek him in prayer.

So we pause, hold silence and make our own welcome, petition and praise to our Lord who will bring rest to our hearts, minds and souls.....

Thank you Lord that you speak to each one of us in our different places. Thank you Lord that you are not contained to one place, but by your Holy Spirit dwelling in each one we are able to share in the fellowship of this service. Amen

**MP Hymn 846. How can I be free from sin**

**Lead me to the cross of Jesus**

**From the guilt the pow'r the pain**

**Lead me to the cross of Jesus**

**There's no other way**

**No price that I could pay**

**Simply to the cross I cling**

**This is all I need**

**This is all I plead**

**That His blood was shed for me**

**How can I know peace within**

**Lead me to the cross of Jesus**

**Sing a song of joy again**

**Lead me to the cross of Jesus**

**Flowing from above**

**All-forgiving love**

**From the Father's heart to me**

**What a gift of grace**

**His own righteousness**

**Clothing me in purity.**

**How can I live day by day**

**Lead me to the cross of Jesus**

**Following His narrow way**

**Lead me to the cross of Jesus**

Again we pause. In the silence we make our own confession.

1 John 1:8-9 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness".

## **Reading Luke 24:13-35**

### **Thoughts on the reading from Pip Lawrence**

Let's pray

Father thank you for your word, though we are separated, we pray that you will speak to us through it. Grant us open ears and hearts, for we ask in your precious name. Amen.

Well, as my Nana Havercroft used to say, "What a palaver". This saying, always said with feeling, was reserved for occasions when things went totally pear shaped. When there was much talk over events and happenings, when things did not go as expected.

I think she would be using the expression had she been alive today. Things are definitely pear shaped at the moment. Each daily government briefing brings news and no news. We are all in a sort of no mans land. There is no sign of reprieve or exit. Nothing is as we had expected 2020 to be. At New Year we probably all expected life to roll on as normal, this year bringing its highs and lows. Maybe there were changes on our horizon, a new career, a new house, a special holiday, a wedding or possibly an operation. All kinds of hum drum and special things lay ahead along with life's usual hiccups and hazards. 2020 is not what we expected.

This morning the reading from Luke presents a similar situation. Cleopas and his companion have left Jerusalem to go to Emmaus. They leave with hearts full of disappointment, dismay and distress. Things had not turned out the way they had expected. They tell "the stranger" who draws alongside them as they talked " but we had hoped that he (Jesus) was the one who was going to redeem Israel". They explain that Jesus had been a prophet, powerful in word and deed, but had been crucified. Now things had got really strange, his tomb was empty, and their women had told tales of him being alive.

We all know the story. Jesus tells them that they are slow of heart to believe all the prophets had spoken. He explains the scriptures to them, which unhelpfully the gospel writer doesn't record. Then finally breaks bread with them and they see the stranger for who he really is, Jesus. They return to Jerusalem immediately in a very different frame of mind. They find the disciples to tell them about their journey only to discover that Jesus had been before them and the disciples were saying "it is true, the Lord has risen.

I don't know what you noticed in particular as you read this passage but I was rather struck by v17-19. "He asked them "what are you discussing together as you walk along? They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know these things that have happened there in these days?"

How often in these last days have we been still and downcast before the Lord, querying if he knows what's

happening. If we are honest I'm sure many of us will have experienced a whole range of emotions. We may have been anxious, fearful, even occasionally a bit tearful as we inhabit a new season. Things are not as we expected. The current circumstance may also be making other situations in our lives even harder than they already are. Perhaps we are perfectly fine but have concerns for our loved ones. It is important that we are really honest as we seek the Lord, we need to acknowledge where we are really at. Why, because, in to the arena of honesty and truth the Lord will step in and journey with us, just as he walked alongside two broken disciples all those years ago on the road to Emmaus.

What did they say to Jesus, v 29 "But they urged him strongly "stay with us."

We all need the Lord to stay with us right now, also as we walk into an unknown future. We must wait patiently and let the future unfold. We need to trust that Jesus will stay with us, we need to allow his peace, comfort and healing to steady and guide us as we navigate the path ahead, it's one we haven't travelled along before, few of us have ever experienced a pandemic. It won't be easy, no walk in the park. Unknowns make most of us uneasy, they rob us of all of our certainty. They take hostage our familiar and our security. But, in truth, life is pretty uncertain most of the time, none of us know what our future holds, none of can say for certain what will happen tomorrow.

The only concrete certainty we have is Jesus, he never changes, he is our solid rock, he is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we

will not fear, though the earth give way. We can trust him for all our tomorrows whether we live in a time of peace or turmoil, plenty or want, health or pandemic.

So let's ask Jesus to stay with us now and always, to bring that peace that only he can bring. Let's ask for help to ease any anxiety or fear. Let's fix our eyes on him and as the writer to the Hebrews says "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Amen.

**Let's remember what we believe....**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the  
Virgin Mary,**

**Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,  
and was buried;**

**He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose  
again;**

**He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right  
hand of the Father,**

**and he will come again to judge the living and the  
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic  
Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Let's pray together,

Loving Heavenly Father, we bring before you today all of our anxieties about the current situation. We especially

pray for those who are in the firing line. For our doctors and nurses and carers. For all who are continuing to work while many are not. We pray that you will protect each one. We ask in Jesus name. Amen.

We pray for our government. Enable them to make wise decisions. We pray that you will keep them focused on the important matters. We pray that everyone will have the equipment they need as the government tries to procure items. We pray that you will give them the wisdom to know when is the right time to change the current rules. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As your word tells us we pray for our Queen. Thank you for her faith and witness in these difficult times. We pray that you will give her wisdom and strength. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father we pray for all who are unwell, lonely, anxious or struggling. We pray that you will bring them healing and hope. Father in these days of social distancing it is often hard to help, so we ask you to show us how best we can help as we bring before you those who are on our own hearts. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father we pray for all who mourn, especially the families of those who have died of the Coronavirus. We bring before you those known to us. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Finally we pray for ourselves, help us to trust you in these trying times for we ask in your name. Amen.

We say the Lord's Prayer.

**MP hymn 16. All my hope on God is founded  
All my trust he shall renew.  
He, my guide through changing order,  
Only good and only true.  
God unknown, He alone  
Calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,  
Sword and crown betray His trust;  
All that human toil can fashion,  
Tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power, Hour by hour,  
Is my temple and my tower.**

**Day by day our mighty giver  
Grants to us His gifts of love;  
In His will our souls find pleasure,  
Leading to our homes above.  
Love shall stand  
At his hand;  
Joy shall wait on His command.**

**Still from man to God eternal  
Sacrifice of praise be done,  
High above all praises praising  
For the gift of Christ his Son.  
Hear Christ's call  
One and all;  
we who follow shall not fall.**

Blessing    The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord  
make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The  
Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.