



Dear all,

Welcome in the name of Christ – as I begin another letter to you, I am reminded of the early church as Paul and Barnabas attempted to imagine and create what the Christian church would look like. As our church buildings remain closed, we approach another week of isolation and it just happens to be one of the most important weeks in the church calendar; Holy Week. Together we are creating and imagining a new church – one where we have no buildings, just like the early church; a church where community, friendship and connection are even more important than they have ever been before.

We will continue to use the simple form of liturgy ‘Being Church while the building is closed’ sent out to you last week for 11am Sunday and Wednesday. During Holy Week however, Reverend Liz will be gathering at 11am every day. Enclosed is an extra booklet for your Holy Week – starting at Palm Sunday and finishing together on Easter Sunday which you can use after the liturgy each day, if you would like to. A palm cross is also enclosed.

*11am
each day
during Holy
Week*

Revd. Keith Cocking blessed the crosses before they were sent to you. You may want to hold or wave the palm cross during the liturgy on Palm Sunday. On Easter Day Revd. Liz will be saying ‘Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed Alleluia’ at the beginning and end of the liturgy – please do the same if you would like to. The louder you can shout it the better!

In these dark times, when it is not possible to recall the death and resurrection of Christ in our church buildings, we have the opportunity to mark Holy Week at home. We can discover that we are now experiencing, may contribute to our own ongoing journey as God’s people. The homes in which we now find ourselves offer us a place in which our faith can be discovered afresh, where we can find ‘the Church within’.

If you have any prayer requests at this time, please phone Revd Keith (01298 74868) or email: keithcocking@live.co.uk. If you would like a phone chat regularly or are struggling to get food or essential items then please let us know, phone Jennie 01298 77856. We have a team of people from the parish who are ready to help.

A prayer for this time of change and uncertainty:

*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.*

Blessings to you,

Liz England

Team Rector, 5th April 2020