



Sieger Koder: Seeing and Believing

St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead



www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week commencing: 26th April 2020

Easter 3

I hope that you have all had a good week under lock-down.
Here is this week's offering from St. Luke's.

This week's attachments are:

- An order of service for tomorrow morning (Word service on the theme of Journeying with Jesus)
- An order for an Agape meal

These will also all be available on our website (address at top) with the recorded service, AND with a video story for children (or adults, of course) from Ruth Humphreys – and Bobby.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this update and does not have access to the internet, please do print a copy for them.

Likewise, if you know of anyone who would like to receive this by email, please ask them to email **me (not the office for now)** to be added to the mailing list.

Please do keep us up to date with both how you are your family are faring at this time, and with you own health. You can call or email Revd. Sally or your contactor at any (reasonable!) time. Please note that the church office is now completely closed and all communication should be to the vicarage telephone and my email.

Please use the office email to respond to the Planning Tool question. For those without email, it is attached in hard copy and you may like to send a written response to me (save them up for when we meet again or ask someone to collect).

Lighting candles and prayers: I have brought a sand tray into the vicarage study and am lighting candles here for those who would like prayer that way. Do email me or call if you'd like me to light one for you or add any prayer to the prayer basket

Today's worship from St. Luke's Church

This Sunday we have another Word service and I am delighted that Michael Masango, who is rota'd for the first reading, is doing just that, and Sonya has prepared the intercessions. We hope that more people on the rota will be able to fulfil that role in the coming weeks. On our website is also a video story from Ruth Humphreys and her puppet friend, Bobby.

To access the service, and all our recorded worship, go onto our website and click on the right-hand side for 'recordings of Sunday worship', and 'order of services'. The order of service has links to hymns on YouTube so that you can pause the service and play the hymns (or sing for yourself – ask if you'd like a hymn book delivered to you). The readings and collect for this week are in the order of service.

Morning Prayer continues using Zoom at 9 am from Tuesday to Saturday. This link should get you into it daily:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77299700733?pwd=K01jTkdCZmh2WERXTldwSExsVnRZZz09>

Readings for this week are:

Tuesday	Psalm 98	Exodus 20. 1-21	Luke 1.26-38
Wednesday	Psalm 105	Exodus 24	Luke 1.39-56
Thursday	Psalm 136	Exodus 15.1-22	Luke 1.57-end
Friday (Pip & Jim)	Psalm 139	Proverbs 4.10-18	James 1.1-12
Saturday	Psalm 110	Exodus 29.1-9	Luke 2.21-40

An Agape Meal

We are not having communion services at the moment and many of us are missing that. As a way of at least eating together, we will offer an Agape meal from time to time, on a Tuesday evening, roughly when we would have had the community meal / Communion service. This will be Zoomed and you can join via the link below, or use the service on your own / as a family in your own time. You will need some bread and something to drink. The order of service is attached.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85619221036?pwd=bDVlaktTSFRkaFBjYjNtRUlZeHRpQT09>

Prayer suggestions for this week:

See also our Facebook page for daily prayer intentions

- For all those currently affected by the coronavirus outbreak and for a calm response, and for those who are now self isolating
- For those who are very sick in hospital and for those who have died,
- For the most vulnerable in our society
- For all NHS and medical staff, Police and Armed service personnel,

- For Dr. Harriett Burdett, Hannah Hirst (paramedic, TV Air Ambulance), Eleanor Kershaw (frontline nursing), Phyl Sopp (nurse practitioner), Dr Chris Moulton
- For ALL leaders who have difficult decisions to make
- For all in prison, finding life very tough with all visiting stopped
- For staff and patients at Huntercombe Clinic
- For all the volunteer counsellors at Number 22 and Youth Talk, supporting people in difficult times
- For Adam Went as he oversees care homes now under huge pressure
- For all Funeral Directors and arrangers, under huge pressure, and for families unable to attend funerals.
- For our schools as children learn at home and teachers under pressure teaching online
- Luke Darracott, living and working in Spain
- Those whose anniversary of baptism fall in April: Sophie Annabelle Hughes, Jasper Saunders Murray Craig, Arthur Dominic Marshall-Pullin, Charlotte Mary Reay, Lucy Elizabeth Traut.
- For all those who live and work in Colby Gardens
- The sick and those who care for them: Stephen Sands, John Francis, Tony Lucas, Monica Olley, and Susan Smith
- Those who died recently, and those who mourn them: Pat Lovering, Merrick Dowson, Rita Redhead, Andrew Curtis, Brian Beard, Stella Lee, Reginald Jacobs and Maureen Williams
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in April: John Rogers, Fiona Nunn, John Quinn, Penelope Lawrence, Len Reynolds, Paul Hill, Lesley Griffiths, Myra Ford, David Sherwood, Philip Agnew, Peter Brown, Vivienne Sewell, Roy Howton, Doreen Headington, John Henry, Doris Simpson, Joan Carpenter, Betty Smith, Irene Weller, Peter Petter, Elise Taplion, Josephine Aldridge, Helen Poynter, Alma Rookie, Roger Bevitt, Diana Philips, Elsie Cummings, Pamela Neville, Bertha Selby, Virginia Mzorori-Murwisi, Dorothy Main, Philip Davies, Alan Coombs, Keith Morris, Ernie Thomas, Brenda Clark, and Brian Pitts.

The church is still floodlit at night.

This week the floodlighting was sponsored by:

The Vicar...

*'in thanksgiving for a milestone birthday
(spent under lock-down rather than down-under!)*

To sponsor the floodlighting just email Revd. Sally



Diocesan worship continues to be offered via the usual link and Facebook and website.
From this week it is also available to people dialling in by phone as well.

- The number to dial each week is 01865 920930
- press zero for the short service and 1 for the full Church at Home service
- it takes a few seconds to retrieve the recording then the service will start.

This Sunday:

26 April 10am - Church at Home

Bishop Olivia presides at our 10am Church at Home service this Sunday at 10am. The order of service will be [available on the website](#) later today and the viewing link emailed to all subscribers on Sunday morning. All welcome.

26 April 6pm - Multi-Faith Virtual Prayer Event

Bishop Colin will be among the contributors at the Multi-Faith virtual prayer at 6pm on Sunday. Hosted by [The Oxford Foundation](#), the prayer event is open to all. [Register to attend on Zoom here](#).

Roots on the web this week:

www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome26apr for adults

and

www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome26apr

for families

For more worship options see our website.

Please do email me links to anything that you are finding really helpful so that we can share that with others.

This week's suggestion: **Taize worship live** (or recorded via their website) :

https://www.taize.fr/en_article27540.html

This week's news and information

A reminder that the **church is now closed completely.**

Do email prayer requests to: sally514@btinternet.com

Or requests for books, DVDs and CDs

You should know who your **contactor** is. If you don't have one do also make contact and we will set you up with someone.

RBWM libraries have a online resource to listen to classical music for free including some sacred music. You just need to enter your library card number.

<https://rbwm.nml3.naxosmusiclibrary.com/login/library/card>

Generous Giving: if you usually give to the work of the church through your bank, this is unaffected. If you give by cash or envelopes, we suggest that you put this aside somewhere safe and bring to church when we meet again. If you would like to start giving by direct debit please contact our treasurer: richard@arembe.com

You may also wish to give online / by bacs and Richard has kindly updated the details to allow for this. There are details on our website.

Virtual activities coming up: everyone is welcome to join in any of these activities:

- Tuesday 28th April, 7pm, **Agape meal** on Zoom (see above)
- Friday 1st May, 4pm, **Messy Church** on Zoom – email Sally to express interest and for a pack – link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88958893839?pwd=U3g4Rk9BTzBGWUR5RGRqTVJWUUhSUT09>
- Calendared **Bible study** 4 week series starts. 8pm, on Zoom. A study of Paul's letter to the Philippians. Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88495847133?pwd=eXEwVktCcGZqdDI3YXNiOFRRMldrUT09>
- Saturday 9th May: 9 am – 12.30 pm **Quiet Morning** on Zoom – details next week. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85442048860?pwd=OFNubi9BS3U2YjJJSTEvSUhXbXROQT09>

Mission Planning Tool: PCC members and others may be aware that the diocese has launched a new Mission Planning Tool. We had hoped to start using this at the APCM but were side-tracked by the impending crisis. I am now drip feeding some aspects of it out by a midweek sheet, inviting responses. Please do take part in this.

Faculty application: We have been kindly offered a gift of new legillum hangings in memory of May Reeve and to match the nave altar frontals. I draw your attention to the faculty application for these on the website (Under About us / Our Church Building). A copy is also on the main church noticeboard.

Online jigsaws – yes, really! Ruth has found these online jigsaws by Dave Walker, the cartoonist with the Church Times:

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/davewalker>

News from All Saints church: 'Sponsored jog on Sunday 26 April

This weekend Fr Jeremy is going to run for 2 one hour slots and 57 seconds with his dog Lilly in memory of the Reading Half Marathon race and for the 26.2 challenge that has been organised to raise some money for charities. He is going to try and raise some

money for Alexander Devine Children's Hospice and the Thames Hospice. If you would like to sponsor Jeremy, please visit the All Saints website.

<https://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/blogs/news/support-fr-jeremys-sponsored-jog-sunday-26th-raise-money-local-hospices-part-26-challenge/>

Save the date : Week of accompanied prayer— an exciting opportunity to further our relationship with God through exploring prayer. Fun and rewarding. Sunday 25th— Friday 30th October. Details to come—do put the date in your diary now. There will be opportunities to help as well as. Watch this space to see if it happens, but at least this gives you something to put in your diaries!

Inspire: The next issue will be out in the near future. You may like to spend some of your newly gained free time writing an article for Inspire. Please send articles, pictures etc to stlukes.inspire@gmail.com. Please remember this is a new email address.

A reflection from St. Paul's cathedral, sent by a friend:

Prayer is as Messy and Chaotic as Life itself

Specially-commissioned reflections from Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ on prayer during lockdown.

They say that nature abhors a vacuum. That certainly appears to be true during the lockdown. Our inboxes are full of well-meaning wishes, funny cartoons, online exercise programs and endless self-improvement suggestions. It's all a bit overwhelming.

But is there a self-help App to help us pray when we can't pray? The good news is that with prayer, self-help doesn't work. The whole point, as St. Paul says, is that we can't help ourselves, but the Spirit helps us in our weakness (Rom.8:26).

What mostly prevents people from praying is the mistaken conviction that they can't pray, based on an equally mistaken idea of what prayer is. Surely prayer should be some mystical abstraction that takes us out of the chaotic grind of daily life? Wrong. Prayer is as messy and chaotic as life itself.

A great contemplative writer once wrote, 'pray as you can, not as you can't'. That means that we bring to prayer whoever and whatever we are, whether its aching feet or a pounding head, our tiredness or our jumbled thoughts. All we need to do is to offer these to God like the little boy with the five loaves and two fish. So little to feed so many, and yet Jesus made of that a feast for thousands.

Maybe we can't even find words, or there's just a tune or a favourite poem or a desperate plea going round in our heads. That will do. Julian of Norwich says that God is grateful when we remember him. If that's true, then God will also be happy that we turned up at all, even if we don't get the satisfaction of knowing that we have been swept away in some great mystical rapture. God will be there, even if we're all over the place.

Your news

Please email news of what you are up to at home to Revd. Sally so that we can share it!

Jean TD sends some 'you couldn't make it up' from Readers Digest

Each Sunday while I'm in church, my younger daughter attends Sunday School. Recently, I asked her after we'd both finished what she'd learned about. 'nothing', she said. So I asked her, 'Did you learn about God?'. 'No', she replied, 'He wasn't even there'.

I was leading a church service and, following the benediction, I made my way to the foyer to shake hands with the congregation. as the church slowly emptied, three older women remained, presumably waiting for their lift home. Two had Zimmer frames, while the other was in a wheelchair.

One looked at me and said, 'This is critics corner, you know'.

'That's' ok', I replied, 'I can handle criticism'.

Whereupon the woman piped up, 'who said anything about criticism? I said this is arthritics corner!'.

Further information about online worship opportunities and local help information can be found on our website (under latest news).

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