

ST DENYS
STANFORD IN THE VALE



Friday Fellowship News No 2 3 April 2020

THANK you for your response to last week's FFN which seems to have been well received. If you know of anyone who would like to receive it, do ask them to send me their email and we will add them to the list. A few on our Electoral Roll are not on email, and we are endeavouring to deliver or post them a copy each week.

Thank you also for your prayers for Jean Dudley. Jean is home and is recovering well and is very grateful for your prayers. The Matthews family are also recovering and are thankful for your prayerful support.

We remain hugely grateful for the volunteers for the **Stanford20 Helpers** who are doing an incredible job of ensuring all who are isolating get their food and medicines. If, for some reason, you hear of a villager who needs help, but has lost the contact for their street, do call me on 710267 and I will link them up.

PALM SUNDAY & EASTER DAY

Lent and Easter are very different this year given the world-wide pandemic of Covid-19. But that doesn't mean that we should not focus, particularly from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, on the incredibly truths that Easter offers to each of us and ultimately, is the only certain hope for every person at this time.

As a Church Leadership Team we have been looking at ways in which we might still focus our minds and hearts around the Easter story and truths this year given the current situation, and especially as we are unable to gather together from

Good Friday, through to Easter Sunday. So here's what we hope to provide, subject to resources and logistics. **Palm Sunday:** We are endeavouring to deliver, door to door, a **Palm Cross** to all on our Electoral Roll and would encourage you to display it in your window over the coming week.

We are also encouraging anyone in the village to create an **Easter Egg**, and to hang it on the tree to the left as you enter the churchyard from Church Green (*please remember social distancing if others are present when you arrive*). We also aim to erect the large **Cross** in the churchyard, close the church from Good Friday.



Easter Sunday: If any would like to, you are invited to **decorate the cross** with flowers on Easter Sunday and, we hope, we will be able to **floodlight the church** each evening from Easter Sunday until 19 April as a symbol of Jesus' eternal light and life, shining out across our village in these dark times.

We are also awaiting news of a potential livestream nationwide evangelistic initiative which would be at 4pm on Easter Sunday and will email out details as and when known.

And finally, keep an eye out for your **email inbox** on Easter day!

DEVOTIONAL

In times like these, with the Coronavirus confirmed cases, and deaths rising, it is easy to let fear grip our hearts.



Fear of loss. Fear of the unknown. But when fear and anxiety try to invade our every thought, there is a **C.A.L.M.** that comes only from God.

Last month I preaching on Anxiety and how we can live lives of faith, not fear, based on Philippians 4: 4-8 (*you may wish to look it up this week*).

May I remind you again what those four letters stand for:-

C = Celebrate God's goodness. "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4). Turn your attention away from the problem, and for a few minutes celebrate God. This is step one. Do not hurry past it. Face God before you face your problem. Then, you will be ready.

A = Ask God for help.

"Let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6). Fear triggers either despair or prayer. Choose wisely. Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7). So ask! Having done so:

L = Leave your concerns with God.

Let him take charge. Let God do what he is so willing to do: "Guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7).

Having prayed to God for help – leave it with Him. And then

M = Meditate on good things.

"Finally, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things" (Phil. 4:8). Don't let anxious, negative thoughts take over your mind. You cannot control the circumstances, but you can always control what you think of them. **Celebrate. Ask. Leave. Meditate. C.A.L.M.**

SUNDAY LIVESTREAMS

St Aldates Church, Oxford:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgyAvKxtSel&feature=youtu.be> or, **St Ebbs Church, Oxford:** <https://stebbes.org/livestream/>

PRAYER REQUESTS

For protection for Val Alsop's Great Niece and a Godchild, both medics working in ITU.

Dan Smith – in hospital with Kidney issues.

Janet Causer in The Grange. Send prayer requests to: prayer@stdenys.org

DAILY PRAYER FOCUS

Sa - Our church family

Su - Christians remembering Palm Sunday

Mo - those advising Government

Tu - Stanford20 Helpers

We - Sylvia Hills, 109 today!

Th - Police & Ambulance staff

Fr - The isolated & lonely

FINAL NOTE

Thank you to those who have switched from envelopes to Standing Order. As Christians, we'll still want to worship God through our offerings. Those who usually give via cash, **please urgently consider:** a) Setting up a Standing Order, or b) send a monthly cq, or make a monthly Bank Transfer to St Denys account. Our Bank a/c is: Stanford PCC St Denys Church, No: 00109758, Sort Code; 30.93.18. Cq payable to Stanford PCC St Denys Church.

*With my love and prayers, Revd Paul Eddy,
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