

ST DENYS
STANFORD IN THE VALE



Friday Fellowship News No 4 17 April 2020

WHILST last night's announcement that the lockdown has been extended by three weeks was not a complete surprise, I know many will be longing for some form of normality to resume as soon as possible.

I know for some introverts, lockdown has been a bit of a gift, but for extroverts, families and those completely on their own, its been very hard. As a Church Leadership Team (CLT), we've been so encouraged as we've been phoning around church members, how creative people are being to fill in the time.

For some, they've taken up a new hobby. For others, cake-making seems to be high on the agenda – though of course, it must be eaten afterwards so maybe Slimming World will be gaining a lot of new members when we are finally allowed out again!



One simple thing that seems to have helped is a Virtual Coffee Morning, or Dinner Party via Zoom. I know some families are having Virtual Quiz Nights, whilst others are joining in Virtual Choirs on-line. If you have a creative way that's helped you through this time, why not email me (vicar@stdenys.org) so I can list new ideas in next

week's FFN? In the meantime, do join us every Tuesday Morning at 11am via Zoom for the **St Denys Virtual Coffee Morning!**

Please do pray for the CLT as we seek to support all in our church, and for our weekly Zoom Meetings. Our next one is on Monday evening at 7pm.

EASTER HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to Peter Gill and Roger Callaghan for all their help in erecting the cross and the floodlighting for our Easter celebration.



We've had so many positive comments from villagers, and the light shining out over our village each evening has been much appreciated as a symbol of hope!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

A very Happy Birthday to Pam Speed, and Dan Smith is settling into St Katherine's Nursing Home well. If you have a birthday, or a special anniversary coming up, please let me know so we can include you!

WEDDINGS

Although it is not possible to hold weddings in church at present, we are starting to take provisional bookings for 2021 – so do pass the word on!

VE DAY – HOME DECORATIONS!

MAY 8TH is the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Whilst we can't have a street party and gather together, we can still commemorate this special occasion.



Why not decorate your front windows in Red, White and Blue and if you can, safely, why not have a good old British Brew in your front garden, or dress up and wave out to neighbours across the road!

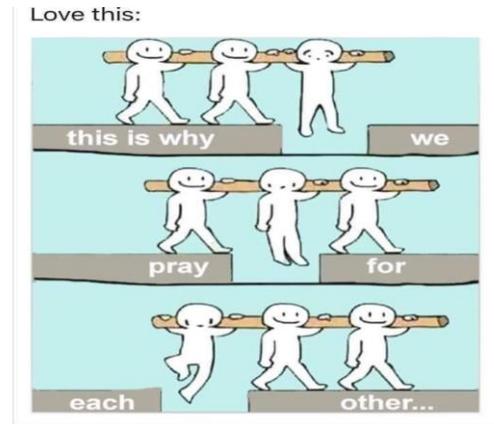
SUNDAY READINGS & MESSAGE

The Bible readings for this Sunday are 1 Peter 1: 3-9 and John 20: 19-end. I'll post a brief video with some thoughts on the Gospel reading on the St Denys Church Facebook Page, and on www.stdenys.org website.

Livestream services can be found via St Aldates, Oxford:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgyAvKxtSel&feature=youtu.be>

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



SPRING HARVEST AT HOME

Still available on Youtube



Watch from the comfort of your sofa?

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SpringHarvest>

FINANCE

A HUGE thank you to those of you who normally give in cash via the offertory bags, but have now switched to Standing Order. The CLT feels sure that as Christians, whilst our church buildings may be closed, we will all want to continue to give as an act of worship to God through these difficult days and weeks. Those who are on the Electoral Roll and do not yet give via Standing Order will shortly receive a letter with suggestions as to how they can continue to give so that we can continue to meet our financial commitments as a church.

With my love and prayers
Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar
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