



Friday Fellowship News No 28, 6 November 2020

LOCKDOWN AGAIN!

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you” (Isaiah 43.2)

“We need to hold firmly to our faith and hope in Christ at this time and care for our communities with all the love which God supplies. Thank you for all you have done already through the COVID pandemic.” So said the Bishop of Oxford in an email to all clergy this week as it was announced that we enter another period of lockdown, currently until December 2.



As Bishop Steven says, we could well be entering the most difficult phase of the pandemic. Many will be anxious and exhausted. The Church needs to be strong and, as much as we can, continue to be a light shining in the darkness in our parishes.

The government guidance is that people should only leave home for certain limited reasons, and they do not include attending public worship. The guidance makes clear that weddings will not be permitted to take place except in exceptional circumstances.

Places of worship, and that includes us, will be closed for Public Worship from 5th November. However, we shall be open from 11am till 12noon for Private Prayer Only on 15, 22 and 29 November.

Until we can worship publicly again, we shall continue to outline the Bible readings for the Sunday, and I shall record a Reflection on one of the set readings for the Sunday.

REMEMBRANCE

THIS year's Remembrance Sunday Service has also been cancelled, though on 11 November, wreaths shall be laid at the War Memorial by a representative of the church, and of the parish council on behalf of villagers.

The Royal British Legion is very concerned that this year, with shopping centres having reduced footfall, and no door to door collections for Poppies, their annual fundraiser will severely be affected.

They have therefore encouraged people to go on-line and make a donation and then display the Polly you can download and print off in your window, as a mark of respect of those who have their lives for our freedom.

The donation page for the Royal British Legion is <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate>

Lord

Enlighten what's dark in me,
Strengthen what's weak in me,
Mend what's broken in me,
Bind what's bruised in me,
And lastly, revive whatever
peace and love has died in me.

Amen.

Archbishops' Call To Prayer

This week the Archbishops wrote to all clergy in the CofE and in the letter, they said: "We are clear that we do now need to call all Christian people to pray and to do so continually over this next month. We invite you to join in this call to prayer and to keep both praying and serving our communities."



Archbishops Justin and Stephen (pictured) - you will recall the latter was Bishop of Reading in the recent past, added: "During this second lockdown we invite you to fast in a way appropriate to you as well as pray for our nation every Thursday, for its leaders, its health and essential services and all those who suffer."

You may not feel able to fast (ie leave one meal out on the day and use that time when you would have eaten to pray), but you may feel able to especially remember to pray for those affected by the pandemic on Thursdays, like we did when we stood every Thursday evening and classed all Key Workers – especially those in the NHS.

PRAYER TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

- Friday – our local MP, David Johnston
- Saturday – local businesses affected by lockdown
- Sunday – those serving in our armed forces
- Monday – those awaiting hospital appointments/surgery
- Tuesday – our local schools
- Wednesday – the lonely/isolated
- Thursday – Bible Society/TearFund/Open Doors
- Friday – Faringdon Foodbank

FARINGDON FOOD BANK

GIVEN recent redundancies and families on reduced incomes, Foodbanks are in great demand.



The Faringdon Food bank is aimed at supporting people who are in financial crisis. It works with referral agencies to issue food vouchers to those in need of food. The food bank provides emergency food on presentation of a voucher. You can get a referral voucher from your school, doctor, health visitor, advice service, children's centre, social worker, CAB, CAP, Housing Associations or any agency that is giving you support.

It provides tinned and dried food donated by the local community, and other essential non-food items such as toiletries. A typical food parcel will contain:

Cereal • Soup • Pasta • Rice • Tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce • Lentils, beans and pulses • Tinned meat • Tinned vegetables • Tea/coffee • Tinned fruit • Biscuits • UHT milk • Fruit juice • Toiletries.

If you need support, please call: 07548 535855 –this number is only accessed during operating hours or faringdonfoodbank@gmail.com

The Food Bank operates on Mon and Wed 10am to 12pm at The Pump House in Market Square.

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS / SERMON

Psalm 70, 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end and John 15: 1-13.

A Reflection will be uploaded to St Denys Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

ADVENT 2020

THIS Advent I shall be providing Weekly Morning Prayer readings & a reflection for each day, and a Sunday Advent Sermon with personal/group questions. On Thursdays xx, xx and xx Dec, and Mon xx Dec I shall also host a Zoom Discipleship group at 7pm for one hour based on that Sunday's sermon/questions.

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