



# Weekly News

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

[www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk](http://www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk)

St Peter's Church, Cambridge Road, Harrogate, HG1 1PB

## St Peter's continues ...



Now we are unable to meet in the same space for worship. Nevertheless, the life and work of the body of Christ that usually meets in this place continues in the following ways:

### **Morning and Evening Prayer**

How do we stay open to God, ready to hear his call and respond to it? One way is to begin each day with Morning Prayer and to reflect on each day with Evening Prayer. Do join us on Facebook (*search for St Peter's Church, Harrogate*) at 8:00 am and 5:00pm Monday to Saturday.

### **Worship**

How do we praise God in all circumstances, expressing faith in his everlasting goodness and purposeful power? How do we remind ourselves of the deep truths that sustain us in times of uncertainty and change? Join us for Sunday worship at 9:30 am and 11:00 am via Zoom or Facebook (links should be available via our website). It may take a little while to refine the practicalities of worship online but we will get there in the end.

### **Food**

We will be continuing to offer food for those who need it. Breakfast Club continues Monday to Saturday 8:20 – 8:45 am; Sunday Lunch is at 1:00 pm at the Wesley Centre; and Food Parcels are available 4:00 – 5:00 pm daily. If you are able to offer donations, please do still bring these to Church.

### **Pastoral and Practical Care**

If you have a practical need and/or would appreciate prayer, please do be in touch with us. All our contact details are available on the back of the Weekly News as usual.

Alan Garrow, *Vicar of St Peter's Church*

# Light a candle of hope: A national call to prayer in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic

*Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a call to prayer in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. This is for all churches and people of prayer to join on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Mothering Sunday. They write:*



At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds. At 7:00 pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Whether you are continuing to worship as congregations or not, we have the great privilege and freedom to be able to call upon God, wherever we are, individually and corporately, for healing in our nation. We would pray for all in leadership at this time, making decisions about the containment of the COVID-19

virus, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions.

There are already stories being told of wonderful acts of kindness across neighbourhoods. Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour. We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

In the meantime, do please attend to all the government health advice that will be issued, and look out for resources from your specific church governing bodies. We do seem to be in unusual times, and wisdom and flexibility about worship gatherings are a key part of our Christian discipleship during this period.

We note that this call to prayer and action comes on Mothering Sunday: a time of thankfulness, remembering especially mothers who have served us, often in very costly ways. It is also a very mixed day for many. For some the remembrance is painful, and for others Mothering Sunday is a reminder of disappointment or loss. In many ways, this period under the shadow of the coronavirus will be prompting similarly diverse reactions and so it seems especially appropriate that the call to prayer is made this Sunday. At this time of uncertainty join in with the National Day of Prayer and Action, lighting a candle of hope.

'Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.' 1 Peter 5 v 7

*Archbishop Justin Welby, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, The Revd Dr Hugh Osgood,  
Archbishop Angaelos of London and Pastor Agu Irukwu.*

**Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers:**

Nicky Aitken, Pat Anderson, Ruth Bowes, Mary Burcher, Louise Emrullahu, Cathy Fuller, Pam Gardiner, Vicky Harrison, David Hipkin, Edna Hodgkiss, Caroline Kelly, Sian Lockwood, Sarah Martin, Charlie Martineau, Peggy Palmer, Alan Richardson, Frances Roxby-Proud, Colin Sinclair and Keith Ward.

**Also in our prayers this week:**

- Mon** Doctors, nurses and medical researchers  
All the staff at Harrogate Hospital
- Tues** All who are affected by coronavirus  
Those in isolation at home
- Wed** St Peter's Food Parcel Scheme  
*The Springboard Day Centre*
- Thurs** All our emergency services  
Ambulance drivers and paramedics
- Fri** Those who are guiding our nation  
All members of parliament
- Sat** Michael Hunter, one of our retired Clergy  
All those caring for other people

**Daily Readings**

*Morning Prayer is at 8:00 am and Evening Prayer at 5:00 pm daily. These are the Bible readings we will be using in Church each morning this week. Why not read them at home if you are unable to come to the service?*

- Mon** Psalm 77  
Exodus 2 v 11 - 22  
Hebrews 9 v 1 - 14
- Tues** Psalm 79  
Exodus 2 v 23 – 3 v 20  
Hebrews 9 v 15 to end
- Wed** *The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
Psalm 111  
1 Samuel 2 v 1 - 10  
Romans 5 v 12 to end
- Thurs** Psalm 86  
Exodus 4 v 27 – 6 v 1  
Hebrews 10 v 19 - 25
- Fri** Psalm 19  
Exodus 6 v 2 - 13  
Hebrews 10 v 26 to end
- Sat** Psalm 23  
Exodus 7 v 8 to end  
Hebrews 11 v 1 - 16

**The Collect for Mothering Sunday**

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**or**

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## In Memoriam Lilies



If you wish to have a loved one commemorated by name alongside the Easter Lilies in Church, please put any donation (**cash only, please**) in an envelope marked **Easter Lilies** along with the person's name. Then post it into the donations box by St Mary's Chapel before Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Contact: Sue Heapy (07540 355 305).

## A prayer about the outbreak

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need as if we  
were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us  
strength to comfort the fearful, to  
tend the sick, and to assure the  
isolated of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.

Amen

## Digital Resources

The Church of England will be providing a range of resources to enable people to continue to walk with God at this difficult time. This includes *#LiveLent* daily reflections, *prayer for the day* audio and text and Alexa and Google Home smart speaker apps. Full details at [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

## Next Week's Deadline

The deadline for the next edition of the Weekly News (29<sup>th</sup> March) will be noon on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Please send any items (including photos) to Alan Garrow **or** to Marian Chambers (addresses below)

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