

Welcome to Christ Church

*'Christ Church as a Living Well,
Christ Church Living Well'*



**Sunday 29th March
Passion Sunday**

What a difference a day makes. Last week's press release is already out of date as Emergency measures brought in by the government mean that all church buildings are now closed for at least three weeks.

We are sorry to no longer be able to open this sacred space as a place of refuge and solace at such difficult times but, even though we cannot meet face to face, be assured that we continue to pray for everybody in our community. Ministers and volunteers are working to ensure that the needs of vulnerable people, including those self-isolating, are met.

Our office phone will not be staffed. If you need to contact somebody urgently or would like to receive prayer for yourself or a loved-one, please contact one of the ministers listed below. For all other parish business please contact the office via email but allow for a delay.

We were meant to be launching our new **5@5** service today – well we are definitely trying new ways of being church. Thanks to all the positive feedback on last Sunday's **#candleofhope** liturgy many are continuing to light candles every evening at 7pm. We had 93 views on our Facebook page and I'm reliably informed over 4000 viewed in on Epsom and Ewell TV! Certainly, a lot more than would have come to an evening service. Every Sunday the BBC will be broadcasting a Morning Service at 9am and one of our Bishops will be posting a recorded sermon online. David's full sermon from last week is also available on our website along with other prayer resources and the new edition of CCN.

Keep in touch and stay safe.

A prayer for this time:

God of compassion be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**IF ANYONE DOES ENTER THE CHURCH PLEASE USE THE HAND GEL, OR YOUR OWN,
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ENTERING THE CHURCH,
AND PRACTICE ALL OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE.**

**If you have any flu like symptoms, however mild, please protect your brothers and sisters by
sensible social distancing or self-isolating.**

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY STAY AT HOME - IT COULD SAVE LIVES!

Something not about Coronavirus.....



Are you interested in participating in **Earth Hour 2020** taking place this Saturday on the **28th March between 20:30-21:30**. Earth Hour remains a show of solidarity with one another demonstrating our shared commitment to protecting our planet and nature, a message more important than ever in these uncertain times and another demonstration of our commitment to be an Eco Church.

Join me by turning off your lights and sharing this news **#earthhour2020**.

I shall be recording a simple liturgy of prayers for our planet and will post it on our Facebook page **Epsom Christ Church** ready to watch at 8:30pm.

Earth Hour is the world's biggest switch off event – a moment millions come together for nature, people and the planet. During these difficult times, we need more than ever to find ways to connect with each other and inspire hope for the future. Our health, happiness and future depend on nature – so this year, look after yourself, each other and our planet.

Rosemary Donovan

Worshiping at Home this week



Collect for the week

Holy God, in the Saviour's cross your boundless love meets human sin: strengthen and deliver us that we may know the victory is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.



A Reflection for the week from the Vicar:

Readings: Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

These scriptures have been a personal challenge and encouragement to me this week especially when I've been feeling frustrated. They deal with issues of life and death, to be sure, but they also all point to God's saving acts and desire for humankind to have life abundant.

St. Paul counsels, "set the mind on the Spirit." This is the mindset that leads to real life, abundant life, and lasting peace. Only when we realise that our happiness, our purpose, and our fulfilment come not in "stuff" but in the radical reorientation that life in Christ provides can we experience this reality. It's a life that looks outward rather than inward, that finds satisfaction in giving and sharing, and that is marked by gratitude rather than "attitude." Life in the Spirit takes our dried-up hopes and dreams, puts new flesh on withered bones, and restores our hope. In Christ, we are unbound from the confines of the prisons of our own making. We are not locked down we are set free.

To view our current situation in this way is an act of defiance and rebellion against the authorities that control us and to choose a Spirit mindset. It smacks of countercultural living. I'm up for it are you?

#living well: Give time to someone who needs it - a phone call or letter.

For intercessions

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ For healing in our nation and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ For our young people who have had exams cancelled that they rediscover a sense of purpose.

Please see our website www.christchurchepsom.org.uk for links to online prayer resources such as our Prayer Cycle and Rule for Life. The *living well* bookmarks give daily and hourly prayer suggestions and the **LIVE LENT** booklets focusing on Creation give a great starting point for continuing to live well with God, others and ourselves in an ecologically thoughtful way.

Lockdown Library

Please take photos of you and your families worshipping at home and either post directly onto our Facebook page or email me and I will keep make a collage of them for the next issue of CCN.

Rosemary

CC Creche and CC Kids

Here are some activities and learning that you can do at home based on our Gospel Reading this Sunday taken from John 11 v1-45. This is the story of Jesus and his friend Lazarus. This link will give you some ideas on how to tell the story and unpack it along with craft resources and activity sheets.

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/106-march-april-2020-a/lent-5/familiesathome>

I particularly like the Flower and Rock activities. I will be making the Rock as a reminder that Jesus is always with me and keeping it close in my pocket. If you don't have access to a printer, you could draw the craft idea sheets free hand. Also, as a fan of Hillsong, I can recommend 'Oceans' as a song to listen to. Close your eyes and try not to think of anything; just be! Available on YouTube via the link above.

Also, for those of you who are fans of a wordsearch, here is a link -

https://sermons4kids.com/jesus_raises_lazarus_wordsearch.htm

and a dot-to-dot and colouring page for younger children.

<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/19-RTAyE768c.htm>

CC Pathfinders and CC Youth - I will be emailing you via parents/carers about activities and staying in touch.

Jen Sadler

Prayer Chain: This group will continue to pray for any concerns with an assurance of total confidentiality. Phone Sue Matthews (724080) or Jo 726782.

Christ Church Notices

CCN April/May

Things are changing rapidly, and we have rewritten CCN twice now and obviously we cannot print and deliver but all distributors should be contacting those they can to say the new edition is available to read or download from our website.

Craig Donovan

Traidcraft Goods

Obviously, Peter is unable to bring a stall to church at this time however he is aware that he has significant stock that he doesn't want to go out of date. Chocolate, Tea, Coffee, Pasta, Washing up liquid etc. If anyone is getting desperate for supplies that they have not managed to source elsewhere Peter is content that you ring him 01372 739757 and arrange a mutually convenient time for you or your representative to collect a bag of items from his doorstep and post cash through the letter box. Do not under any circumstances take unnecessary risk this is for essential supplies only.

Church Electoral Roll

A copy of the names of all those on our Electoral Roll have been on display at the back of church if you didn't get chance to check it before lockdown and are aware there have been changes to your contact details in the past year, please email me. If you are not on the Roll, consider yourself a member of this church and satisfy certain criteria then why not complete an application form and join our role?

martin.shipton@ntlworld.com

Martin Shipton

Foodbank- The need is particularly acute

At the moment foodbank is still receiving and distributing goods. Obviously, the situation may change. You may well be able to donate via supermarkets. I am proposing to take goods at 10am. next Weds 1st April. If you would like me to take goods, please email or phone me and I can collect from you or you could bring to me at 38 C Woodlands Road.

Foodbank can only take non-perishable goods and especially needs: -

Tinned meat pies, instant mash, pasta sauce, cooking sauces, rice pudding, long life juice UHT milk, Powdered milk, sugar, noodles, nappies size 4 & 5, pump soap, washing powder, jam/honey/marmalade

Give me a ring or email re. collecting or delivery and we can exchange via the doorstep. sacsac@ntlworld.com/ 01372210492/ 07910153955

Sue Curtis

Lent Appeal 2020: supporting Mothers' Union, Sierra Leone School Bursary

Thank you to everyone that has donated so far. If you have not had a chance to donate and would like to help these children build a life for themselves starting with a solid foundation, then please send donations to Malcolm Channing 2, Eastdean Ave. KT187SN writing "Mothers' Union" on the back of any cheques. Alternatively, if you have internet banking and want to do an online transfer using reference "Mothers' Union", the account details are

Name PCC of Christ Church Epsom

Sort Code 60-08-01

Account No 17243572

Many Thanks *Sarah Chorley*

Vicar: The Revd Rosemary Donovan (*Day off - Friday*); vicar@christchurchepsom.org.uk (01372 720302)

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Curate: The Revd. David Fox-Branch (*Day off - Friday*) curate@christchurchepsom.org.uk (01372 726225)

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