

THE PARISH OF TIDENHAM (& St Briavels and Hewelsfield & Brockweir)

WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING

SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2020

I hope this briefing finds you well. Be assured that prayers continue for you and the nation at this time!

The CROSS and the RESURRECTION

If you have had reason to drive past the Parish Church car park in Tidenham you may have seen a new addition to the landscape. Robert Adams has managed to source a large wicker cross and erected it in the car park, and it's pretty striking.



With people in our communities only venturing out to carry out essential tasks I'm guessing only a small number of people will see the cross, however for those who do see it hopefully it will make a very powerful impact. Perhaps just knowing it is there will bring some comfort?

The Cross takes centre stage for Christians this Holy Week as we remember the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross. The Cross of Christ is both an instrument of torture and the means of death, but it is also the instrument of our salvation and main symbol of our faith.

The Cross speaks powerfully into these times we face. It speaks of and to suffering, isolation, desolation and the depths of despair. This was the experience of Christ and those close to him. This is also the experience of many in Holy Week 2020; being confined to one's home, unable to have physical contact with those near and dear, concerns about health, jobs and the future both personally and nationally. The Cross speaks of and to the lowest depths of the human experience.

BUT, and it's a massively important but, the Cross of Christ does not just speak of desolation, death and despair for that is not the end of the story of the Cross. Because of Easter Day and Jesus' resurrection from the dead, the Cross also speaks of hope for tomorrow, peace, reconciliation, the benefits of selfless love and new life! Out of all that was utterly terrible comes something unexpected and new. Through the Cross we see love and life conquering death, despair, fear, selfishness, pride, hostility and evil.

May the Cross and the Easter message of resurrection speak comfort, hope and life into our lives, our nation and the world this week and, despite all that is going on, may we be able to join St Augustine of Hippo in saying... *"We are an Easter people and 'Alleluia' is our song!"*

Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing! Alleluia!!!

Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you and those you love with his new life, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you now and always.

Revd David Treharne

Vicar of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir.

PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

Easter Eve/ Holy Saturday

In the depths of our isolation we cry to you, Lord God: give light in our darkness and bring us out of the prison of our despair; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Various readings. Consider Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Exodus 14:10-end, Romans 6:3-11 & Matthew 28:1-10

EASTER SUNDAY

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

- Acts 10:34-43 & John 20:1-18

A Prayer for the World at this time...

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. Amen.

Prayer requests from the Church and Community

Thank you for sending in your prayer requests. Please feel free to email tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com, please make it known whether your prayer request is PRIVATE or okay to send out to the public.

Tidenham Parish Prayers for Sunday 12th April

Public Prayers – Thanksgivings and Intercessions

For Jesus, for His death and resurrection which gives us LIFE.

For the HOPE that we have because of Jesus.

For all the signs of spring and God's amazing creation.

For all the continuing community support.

For all those who are still working on the 'frontlines'.

For the ability to be thankful despite the current situation. 1 Thessalonians 5 verse 18

The increase in interest in Christian Faith.

For the technology that enables us to be connected when scattered.

Thank you Jesus, for all that you give us and that we have you to turn to in hard times.

Intercession

For all those in the 'extremely at risk' category, for their 'shielding' and for their families.

For those who are alone at this time, that they would know your presence and have connection.

For all keyworkers, especially those with children, that you would calm their anxiety.

For those who are dying, that they would know your presence with them.

For the families of those who are dying, that you would be their source of comfort.

For all who are nursing or caring for others, that you would strengthen them.

For Marcus, in his 5th week of being unwell.

For all who are ill or suffering in any way, for God's healing and an awareness of His presence.

Wendy Moppet's cousin Pat Hales who has just been diagnosed with cancer of the eyelid and ear. She needs urgent surgery but this will be delayed because of the corona pandemic.

Wendy's son Ben Moppett, reservist Royal Marine. He has been called up and on standby to fly to the Caribbean to give Covid 19 medical support.

For those still unable to get home to be with family.

For all the staff and patients at Chepstow Hospital, especially those known to us.

For our Parish schools, staff, pupils and parents: Offa's Mead Academy, St John's on the Hill, Tutshill C of E and Wydean.

For all residents and staff of care homes, especially Castleford.

For families who are mourning at present, especially as funerals are happening in a different way. For them to be aware of God's comfort and support.

For those who have wandered away from God to return to Him.

For all of us, to draw closer to our Lord, who provides and cares for us all.

PARISH PRAYER

Where the river flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's love flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's forgiveness flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's joy flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's blessing flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's people's prayer flows, everything will live.

Where the river flows, everything will live.

Tidenham Parish. March 2020

SERVICES

Holy Saturday 11 April 9.00pm

Easter Vigil service on Zoom online. Together we will read the Scriptures, light candles in our homes, as we wait and watch for the resurrection! This will also be livestreamed via our YouTube channel

Link - <https://zoom.us/j/303911416?pwd=ODlhSWd0a1krMStleTlwQisydkJOZz09>

<https://zoom.us/j/303911416?pwd=ODlhSWd0a1krMStleTlwQisydkJOZz09>

Easter Sunday 12th April 10.30am

Easter Sunday message and Holy Communion from the Vicarage at 10.30am available on the Parish YouTube channel, 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' (link below). The Parish Facebook page will also have a link or you can find a link from the Parish website.

TV BBC 1 - Sunday 12 April at 1.15pm, Songs of Praise Easter Sunday Service

All live streamed services will be available online as recordings if you can't make the publicised times.

Children & Families - Jane Penny is producing worship resources suitable for families and children which will be available on Facebook.

PARISH NEWS UPDATE

Despite not being able to gather publicly while our church buildings remain closed, our life together as a church family hasn't stopped. We now focus on what it means to be a Christian community while we cannot gather together for worship.

Ah my dear Lord, the church (building) is locked
but let my heart be open to your presence;
there let us make, you and I,
your Easter garden; plant it with flowers,
and let the heavy stone be rolled away.
by Alan Amos

Easter Garden - For those of us who have gardens you could make a little Easter Garden or create one inside your home.

Self-Isolating - If you find yourself in the position of having to self-isolate or know of anyone else in the church family who is, please let us know by emailing - tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com .

Volunteering - As well as supporting the Chepstow Covid 19 Helping Group that has galvanised many volunteers willing to deliver shopping and medications in the Parish, we are hoping to partner Gloucester Diocese with 'Feeding the 5000' a scheme to provide frozen home-style meals to those in need, either free or at very reasonable cost. Please email Clare - tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com if you can help with deliveries or collection of meals from Bream, or would like to help with co-ordinating the scheme and also if you know anyone who may be able to benefit from these meals.

Contact details of the COVID-19 Helping group co-ordinators in each area are on the website www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Pastoral Care of the Church Family - We encourage YOU to keep in touch with one another and support one another through this time where possible. Who might you be able to phone this week? Remember, if anyone from the church rings you it is the CHURCH ringing you. However, if you are aware of someone who is particularly struggling please contact a member of the Team.

Good News - There are some good news stories out there. Do let us know if you have any to share!

Stay safe online - Please don't disclose any personal or financial information, be aware of grooming, stay safe and enjoy the important online connections.

Funerals - Funerals can only happen at the Crematorium or at the graveside involving immediate family members (if permitted), a very distressing situation. The Parish is able to offer a Memorial Service or Service of Thanksgiving at a later with family and friends gathered together.

Weddings and Baptisms - Emergency baptisms can take place in hospital or at home, though subject to strict hygienic precautions and physical distancing as far as possible. Weddings are currently unable to take place. Please pray for those couples due to get married in the near future.

Financial Giving - Thank you to all those who have reviewed their giving and either started standing orders or made one-off donations. This has gone some way to helping alleviate the potential deficit of approx £1,000 per month without weekly services and offerings. If you are able to give online then the Parish of Tidenham bank details are - Sort code: 309189 Account number: 00304754 - Standing Order forms are available from Ewen Hamilton, Parish Treasurer email: ewen.hamilton@outlook.com . Please contact Ewen or Clare for any assistance.

TIDENHAM PARISH ONLINE LINKS AND CONTACTS

Parish Website: This has information, documents and links to other sites. <https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>

Facebook page – all welcome to join and post comments. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

YouTube channel: 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' with videos and resources to assist you in your devotions. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckRjOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

Life Group meetings via Zoom – please contact relevant people if you'd like to join in

- Wednesday 10.30am. DTRevd@aol.com
- Wednesday 8pm. fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
- Wednesday 8pm. janice-hamilton@outlook.com
- Thursday 1.30pm. Jane cfmtidenham@btinternet.com

Other Online local resources

Daily Prayer via Zoom with CYTUN Monday to Friday at 8.45 for 9am start <https://zoom.us/j/122778377>

Cytun Churches Together Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/206786133181081/>

Chepstow's Virtual Café Online via Zoom Every Saturday at 2pm. Find the link on CYTUN Facebook page

Tidenham Parish Council www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk has useful links and information

For the latest Church of England Covid 19 guidance which covers all kinds of issues including weddings, baptisms and funerals. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

There are also some really helpful resources for prayer and worship on the Church of England website. Click on this link... <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/568755/Home/Coronavirus/Coronavirus_guidance_and.aspx

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St Briavels & Hewelsfield website		www.stbandhchurches.org.uk
Prayer requests		tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com (by 12pm Wednesday for following Sunday)