

# **THE PARISH OF TIDENHAM WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING**

**SUNDAY 5 APRIL 2020**

## **Who is my neighbour...?**

Thank the Lord for the wonders of the Internet and the abilities it gives for us to be able to connect to each other. There are tremendous opportunities for mission and ministry online and the Team here are looking to use them where we can. Thank the Lord also for those amongst us who have a real gifting in this area! I have to say I feel quite inadequate in this area and have felt significant pressure to suddenly become a web guru using all the latest tech to live stream life transforming material from my office! However, it's not my forte, but that's okay! I was reminded this last week by the Archdeacon that in the months and years to come I/we will not be remembered so much for our online services in and of themselves (unless we set ourselves on fire like that poor Vicar in Cornwall). Rather, we will be remembered for our pastoral care and our love one for another.

On that theme, a question we all need to be asking in the light of self-isolation and the cessation of church and community activity is, 'who is my neighbour?' It was a question posed to Jesus (Luke 10:29) which led him to tell the story of the Good Samaritan. Ask yourself who you could be looking out for during this time who may be isolated, lonely or struggling in some way? Instead of waiting for the phone to ring or the email to arrive perhaps why not reach out. Who is there in your usual network that God has put on your mind and heart? Why not get in touch with them if you can and see if they're okay? This is a chance for us to 'do relationship really well.'

At the end of all this there is a lot of hope and prayer that we will learn some important things in this time and not return to some of the old ways that are not so good. Not least that we will continue to have a heightened awareness of our connectedness to one another and our interdependence as communities and as the Body of Christ.

## **Holy Week**

Over these coming days Christians here in our parishes and across the world will be remembering the life changing and history changing story of Jesus Christ and the promise of new life and hope he brings to our lives and our world through His passion, death and resurrection. The message speaks very much to our world at this time. As I wrote last week, and as Tom reiterated in his Passion Sunday sermon, the God we have come to know in the person of Jesus Christ is 'the crucified God,' (Maltman) who knows the depths of suffering intimately. BUT... He is also the one who brings life and hope and resurrection. May we share in Christ's sufferings but also know the power and wonder of new life and resurrection in the days ahead (Philippians 3:10, 1 Peter 1:3, 1 Peter 4:13, Romans 8:18).

The Lord bless you and keep you.

*Rev'd David & the Parish of Tidenham Church Family*

## **PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS FOR HOLY WEEK**

### The Sixth Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen

- Palm Sun: Matthew 21:1-11 & Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11 & Matthew 26:14 to end of Chapter 27
- Monday in Holy Week: Isaiah 42:1-9, Hebrews 9:11-15 & John 12:1-11
- Tuesday in Holy Week.: Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 & John 12:20-36
- Wed in Holy Week: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Hebrews 12:1-3 & John 13:21-32

### **Maundy Thursday**

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him: may we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering and be faithful.

- Maundy Thurs: Exodus 12:1-14, I Corinthians 11:23-26 & John 13:1-17+31b-35

### **Good Friday**

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13 - to end Chapter 53, Hebrews 4:14-16 + 5:5-9 & John Chapter 18 & 19

### **Easter Eve**

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.

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

### **At this time...**

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.

### **Prayer requests from the Church and Community**

Thank you for sending in your prayer requests. Please feel free to email [tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com](mailto: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 5 April 2020**

#### Public Prayers – Thanksgivings and Intercessions

- For all the signs of spring, for the wonders of God's creation.
- For all the wonderful community support.
- For all those who are still working on the 'frontlines'.
- For the rainbows and other art going up in windows to cheer us up.
- The increase in interest in Christian Faith.
- The Alpha Course is now online and there has been a huge take up from those who wouldn't be able to attend a course, but can do so virtually.
- Hild and Paul are back safe from Spain.
- 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

- Sandra Hunt's friend, who has been in Chepstow hospital for several weeks and has recently been proved positive for coronavirus, please pray for her healing and for all her family. Thank you
- For the members of our Parish Toddler groups, especially those who are pregnant at this time and self-isolating. For those who support them.
- For all the staff and patients at Chepstow Hospital, especially those known to us.
- For all keyworkers and their families, for protection from the virus.
- For families affected by the virus.
- For all who are ill or suffering in any way, for God's healing and an awareness of His presence.
- For our Parish schools, staff, pupils and parents: Offa's Mead Academy, St John's on the Hill, Tutshill C of E and Wyedean.
- For all residents and staff of care homes, especially Castleford.
- For Hild and Paul's daughter's partner, Marcus, who is unwell following a severe asthma attack and awaiting test results. For Paul experiencing pain in both legs.
- For those who are feeling isolated, that they would know that God never leaves them. (Hebrews 13:5)
- 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.

## **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**

### **Palm Sunday 5 April 9.30am**

Revd Janice will live stream a reflection for Palm Sunday & Holy Week on Facebook (link below) followed by ...

**10.30am**, Pre-recorded service available on Parish YouTube Channel (link below) including blessing of palms and a virtual procession with Emma Philips' donkeys – Daisy, Dixie, Bellatrix and Bluebell, and a reading of the Passion Narrative from Matthew's Gospel. Come prepared with an old palm cross or a leaf, twig or branch from the garden! Words of songs and liturgy will be available to download from the website.

**TV BBC 1** - Sunday 5 April at 1.15pm, Songs of Praise Palm Sunday Service

### **Wednesday 8 April 12.00pm – 9.15pm**

The Well will be online with zoom. Short act of worship on the hour every hour following the theme of 'Jesus, the Suffering Servant'.

### **Maundy Thursday 9 April 7.30pm**

Revd Janice will lead a service of reflection on Jesus' Last Supper on YouTube (link below). You may like to come prepared with a bowl of soapy water, a towel, a mobile phone, a glass/cup and a grape!!

### **Good Friday 10 April 2.00pm**

Revd Janice will introduce a devotional video resource including poetry by Fiona Gardiner & accompanied by worship music provided by Alex White, available on YouTube and/or Facebook (link below).

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

### **Easter Sunday 12th April 10.30am**

Easter Sunday message and Holy Communion from the Vicarage available on YouTube (link below)

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.

**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](mailto:tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com).

**Volunteering to Contact others** - Tidenham Parish Council is supporting the Chepstow Covid 19 Helping Group that has galvanised many volunteers willing to deliver shopping and medications in the Parish. Contact details of the co-ordinators in each area are on the website [www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk) Also please email Clare - [tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com), if you are able to offer help to people

**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.

**The Eucharist** - The Eucharist is, sadly, no longer a public act of worship however these services are taking place in private and online. On Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday in addition to the scheduled online worship both Vicar David and Tom will be celebrating the Eucharist at home. Tom will be streaming a live Eucharist Monday-Thursday and these will be on the Parish Facebook and YouTube pages.

**The Link Parish Magazine** - Publication of the Link Parish Magazine is now on hold. The April edition is available on the Parish Website. Annual subscriptions will be carried over to 2021.

**Tidenham PCC** - In a Parish first, the PCC met virtually, on Monday 30 March. We were able to discuss the Coronavirus situation, its impact upon the Parish and our response, the required necessary works on Tidenham Tower and a new Foundation Governor for our Church School in Tutshill. Watch this space!

**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 date with family and friends gathered together.

**Baptisms** - Emergency baptisms can take place in hospital or at home, though subject to strict hygienic precautions and physical distancing as far as possible.

**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.

**Scarecrow Trail** - Tutshill Scarecrow Trail has been postponed until later in the year.

## **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](http://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-liturg-y-and-prayer-resources>

### **Tidenham Parish Contacts**

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St Briavels & Hewelsfield website		<a href="http://www.stbandhchurches.org.uk">www.stbandhchurches.org.uk</a>
Prayer requests	tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com (by 12pm Wednesday for following Sunday)	