

Dear Friends,

It's clear that for many people there is a real mixture of highs and lows (as there always is!). Many are struggling with not being able to see close family, or get into work, or simply have human company. Others are treasuring a slower pace of life, acts of kindness, and finding ways to treat lockdown as an opportunity rather than a restriction. It's helpful to name both things before God, both what we grieve and miss, and what we are thankful for and blessed by.

This *Sunday* will be a communion service, as usual 10.30am on the Youtube channel (<https://tinyurl.com/wgkrcpq>), so please do have bread and wine/juice ready in your home if you want to share in that.

Do join in with tonight's *Quiz*, which starts at 6.30pm on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGIHOhOPLNk>

A few bits of news:

- Thank you for your *prayers* for Caroline Turner and Elaine Beard, who are both now recovering well at home after hip operations.

- It is *Christian Aid week* from 10-16th May. The traditional door to door collections will not be possible this year, but if you would like to give then please do so direct to the Christian Aid website <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> or send a cheque to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL

- Earlier this week the Church of England set out a 3-phase approach for *re-opening church buildings,* as and when we are allowed. Phase 1 is clergy only for prayer or live streamed services, Phase 2 is small ceremonies (i.e. funerals, weddings, possibly baptisms), and Phase 3 is 'worship services with limited congregations'. We may know more next week, but it is clearly going to be months before we are back to anything like BC (before coronavirus) church.

Thy Kingdom Come, the 10 day season of prayer leading up to Pentecost, starts on Thursday 21st May. We will be joining with churches around Yeovil and across the globe to pray for God's work in our community, and to pray for people to find faith in Jesus. We won't be able to use the church as normal, but we will still pray! If you are on Facebook, please join the special group set up just for this event <https://www.facebook.com/groups/871550123255996/>. There will be a way of

signing up for 1 hour prayer slots throughout the 10 days, more details next week.

To help you pray:

- Having a routine is very important for our mental health, and having a prayer routine is good for our spiritual health. Along with our *daily prayer* podcasts at <https://anchor.fm/pjs/>, we 'd also like to recommend two other things, if you have use of a mobile phone or tablet. 'The Church of England Daily Prayer' app, and the 'Lectio 365' app, are both excellent resources for daily prayer, easy to use, and free! If you don't currently have a prayer routine, or are getting a bit stuck with your current practice, do try them out.

- The Church of England is producing a *weekly resource for families*, called 'Faith at Home'. More details here

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home/i-am-parent>

- The CofE has also set up a *24 hour free phone line* called Daily Hope. It offers prayers, music, reflections and worship services, and is especially suitable for folks who can't access services online. The number is 0800 804 8044, and attached is a poster which you could display in your window or a suitable public place

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart; and you will find rest. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

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