

Weekly News and Notices

Sunday 29th March 2020 Passion Sunday

The Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Romans 8. 6-11

So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL READING

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. Their brother, Lazarus, was sick. So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, he stayed where he was for the next two days. Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea." But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?" Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light." Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up." The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him." Thomas to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. Many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God." Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, "The Teacher is here and wants to see you." So Mary immediately went to him. Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. "Where have you put him?" he asked them. They told him, "Lord, come and see." Then Jesus wept. The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!" But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?" Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible." Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave clothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!" Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Year's Mind

Sheila Veronica Smith	Violet May Skolik
Harold Hollows	Wendy Tomes
Sheila Veronica Smith	Thomas Albert Howell
Mary Clayton	Anne Flower
Eileen Elizabeth Haycock	Robert Edwin Winfield
Grace Lancaster	Joan Sheila Hampson

Rector Rev Kathryn Hammond - 822820
rev.kathrynh@gmail.com

Associate Priest Rev Cathy Dakin - 07971101259
cathydakin@waitrose.com

PRAYER CHAIN

Please remember that we have a prayer co-ordinator who every fortnight sends around names of people to be included in our prayers. If you would like to receive this list then please contact Hayley h_a_p@hotmail.com

*Today we begin the season of Passiontide as we follow the events leading to the crucifixion. What if Jesus had stayed in Galilee and just kept on teaching and doing miracles and then retired as an old rabbi full of wisdom and compassion? It was an option – and we need to remind ourselves that it wasn't just events overtaking him that led Jesus to the cross, he actually chose the path that he took. He **CHOSE** to leave the relative safety of Galilee and his rural ministry if he'd stayed there he would probably have been safe.. He **CHOSE** to go into Jerusalem and by doing so to confront the powers of both politics and religion in their very centre.*

*Though things may be hard we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small fry compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. We can't see an end to the present crisis but it **will** end and we will look back on it and see how God has worked in our lives through it and because of it. The things of this life **WILL** pass ...but the things we can't see now will last forever.*

Our Prayers

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. **Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ AMEN**

"Every hand we can't shake must become a phone call we make," Every inch and every foot of distance we put between ourselves and another must become a thought about how we could help that other should the need arise."

PLEASE TRY TO TAKE THIS SHEET TO ANY MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY WHO AREN'T ABLE TO ACCESS IT ELECTRONICALLY.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURERS

While our worship on Sunday in church is suspended our income will reduce considerably.

Could I suggest that people may continue giving by one of the following methods

Making a monthly donation on line,

Setting up a monthly standing order.

The bank details for each parish are as follows and If you would like help in any of these procedures please contact our treasurers or Rev Kathryn

Gnosall

St Lawrence PCC sort code 30.98.00 acc no 02947405 envelopes can be left at the Vicarage

johnbridgeexpert@gmail.com or 07973778914

High Offley and Knightley

PCC High Offley sort code 524110 account 11003111 contact details katharinetom@hotmail.co.uk or 302221

Norbury

Norbury PCC 54-10-36 acc no 08607540 bratton689@btinternet.com or 284714

Envelopes can be delivered to – Wentwood, High Meadow Norbury, ST20 0PD

Adbaston and Moreton

sort code

acct no

Adbaston PCC

52-41-10

11038489

PCC Moreton

30-96-02

00082996

roger.craven.t21@btinternet.com or 823332

IF YOU MAKE A PAYMENT DIRECTLY TO THE BANK ACCOUNT PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of 23rd March, the Archbishops have written to clergy in support of the measures, requiring that churches must now close both for private worship and public services.

Our church buildings are therefore now closed for public worship, private prayer and all other meetings and activities except for vital community services until further notice.

Funerals may now only happen at the Crematorium or at the graveside and not in church buildings. Only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) – that is, spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way. Please pray for our bereaved families during this difficult time for them.

Our buildings are closed but the church is the people and our church is still here and relevant. It is lovely to see the way people are keeping in touch and caring for one another. Let's continue to do that with phone calls, letters and prayer as well as the more technical ways. And by continuing to think of Acts of Kindness we can do for others to show that we care.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

In the light of the restrictions placed upon parishes by the current COVID-19 epidemic, the Bishop of Lichfield has signed an Instrument that extends the time for choosing churchwardens at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to the 31 October 2020 and PCC and Deanery Synod members at the APCM to the same date. All those currently in these posts will continue until then.

If there is anything that you would like including on next week's notice sheet please let Kathryn have it by Wednesday, either call on 01785 822820 or email: rev.kathrynh@gmail.com

DONATIONS TO SUPPORT OTHERS

The House of Bread are continuing to accept donations of food, warm clothing, toiletries, baby and children's items and we are setting up a collecting point in the Vicarage garage in Gnosall.

The doors will be left open in the day so that no-one has to touch the handles.

Jane Swinnerton has said that she will be a local collecting point in Norbury.

