

NEWSLINK 3RD April 2020

SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE

Go to our website www.christchurchpurley.org.uk and under SERVICES you will find a DIGITAL SERVICES tab. There you will find content for both these services for Sunday.

NB: If you know of someone who does not have access to the internet could you please consider printing off the service and posting it to them or through their door.

9am Morning Prayer – John 17 Ministry: Prayer Richard Slade

(Following Morning Prayer there is an opportunity for you to undertake an additional short service that the Church of England calls “Spiritual Communion”. Recognising the importance of Communion to many, this is an opportunity to commune but without the distribution of the sacrament. If you would find this helpful, you may want to set up a separate prayer station, eg with a cross and a candle, to say these simple prayers.)

10.30am T4 – Palm Sunday Jude Barber and team

PRAYER MINISTRY WORDS AND PICTURES FOR SUNDAY

The Prayer Ministry Team met virtually in a time of waiting on God for any words or pictures that he may want to share with the congregation. The team offer the following:

1. A bell ringing twice – the first seemed to be a warning, the second the sound of celebration (no timescale was given between the two).
2. “Tell my people that I love them.”
3. Picture of a bath with water running into it – maybe God is saying now is the time for cleansing for the body of Christ.
4. A left ankle needs healing.
5. Psalm 71:20-21.

Please pray about these and if any of them resonate with you please ask for prayer from friends and House Group members or contact vicar@christchurchpurley.org.uk .

HOLY WEEK

*** During Holy Week all are encouraged to follow the *Gospel of John* in movie form as follows:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lchB_CEG5VI

Up to Maundy Thursday 2 hrs 22 minutes

Good Friday Morning 2:22-2:36

Hour at the Cross 2-3pm 2:36-2:40

Easter Sunday 2:40-2:47

You may want to watch the first section in one go on Maundy Thursday before or after the short online service. Alternatively, you may choose to watch sections through the week (eg half an hour a day). The choice is yours.

Morning Prayer (a short video reflection will be posted on Facebook for each day – See Christ Church Purley Page or Christ Church Collective (closed group)):

Monday Morning Prayer	Psalm 41 , Lamentations 1:1-12, Luke 22:1-23
Tuesday Morning Prayer	Psalm 27, Lamentations 3:1-18, Luke 22:24-53
Wednesday Morning Prayer	Psalm 102, Jeremiah 11:18-20, Luke 22:54-71
Thursday Morning Prayer	Psalm 42, Leviticus 16:2-24, Luke 23:1-25
Thursday evening	Maundy Thursday short service* followed by vigil of one hour
Good Friday morning	Movie clip and some music to reflect on the trial and the cross
Good Friday 2-3pm	An hour at the cross – scripture and hymns; a reflective service to sit at the foot of the cross during Jesus' final hour
Easter Sunday	9am Morning Service 10.30am All-age service

OTHER HOLY WEEK RESOURCES

Look out for the other resources on the Christ Church website www.christchurchpurley.org.uk :

Kids @ Home – resources for Holy Week for children at home (see CHILDREN/Kids @home)

Mothers Union – resources for Holy Week event will be on Mothers Union page and on Facebook.

EASTER WEEK (ie the week after Holy Week) BONUS...

SPRING HARVEST ONLINE 13-17th March...

Spring Harvest conferences were cancelled this year. They have now announced that they will be putting conference material online through YouTube. Teaching, worship, activities and fun throughout the week after Easter.

Details can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bw_t1J2734g&feature=youtu.be

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

While we all hanker for the time when we can gather together again as church, you might like to know that the online services for the last two weeks have recorded **around 600 visitors** each week across the three services per Sunday that we uploaded!

PAM DAILEY

The service of internment for Pam Dailey will take place at Bandon Hill Cemetery at 11 am on Wednesday 8th April. Please note that under current restrictions funerals are limited to immediate close family only and at the cemetery that means no more than 6 mourners.

CHURCH CENTRE

The Church Centre is closed. If you need to gain access for any urgent reason please contact the Vicar for authorization. The Centre is being monitored through the week by staff and volunteers.

24-7 PRAYER

Grace Vineyard have set up a prayer calendar in conjunction with 24-7 Prayer. If you would like to join then there are opportunities to sign up to pray throughout the day for the next 5 weeks (possibly longer).

The link is: [24-7 Prayer International // Sign-Up // Whilstwewait](#)

If you click on the link it will ask you to sign up which will allow you to add your name to the prayer calendar and make a commitment to pray at that time. Needless to say, the quieter slots are in the middle of the night!!

LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER

The Pastoral Team have set up a system to allow members of Christ Church to stay connected. If you are in a House Group then you are encouraged to keep contact with the other members of the group. If you are not in a House group then you should receive a phone call to check out how you are and ask how you would like to be contacted and connected with others.

Everyone's situation is different so there is no "one size fits all"! But we want to make every effort not to leave anyone out.

You may have particular practical needs that you need help with, such as collecting food or medication. There are people willing to help. Let Jenny Hird know and she will pass your request onto the team.

If you are not connected in this way please do let us know by contacting Jenny Hird or the Vicar vicar@christchurchpurley.org.uk or 07704 328538.

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

Many have already reached out to people in their streets. There are many community initiatives and WhatsApp groups and Facebook groups where people are helping one another out. The Purley Food Hub continues to try to help those in need and are finding new and innovative ways to continue to operate in a safe way given current restrictions.

A new project has emerged that was already planned to begin in the summer. Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church are hosting a project run by Croydon Council which will provide, by subscription, low cost food bags as well as a wide range of Council led services to help the most vulnerable. This aspect will be limited during the current lockdown, but the low cost food service deliveries is planned to start first.

This project needs helpers to prepare the food bags and the logistics of delivery. If you are interested in helping, either in the short-term emergency situation or even in the longer term please contact Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church.

Offers of help can be made via the OLLBC church office on 020 86686260 or via email at office@ollbc.org.uk

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL CENTRE (WTC) – FREE COURSES ONLINE

WTC is an Evangelical Charismatic college. Those who went to New Wine 2 last year heard Lucy Peppiatt, the Principal of WTC, speak in the main arena in the morning.

The college have decided to make their online courses available free until 30 June 2020. If you are interested you can register at the following address:

<https://wtctheology.org.uk/wtcresource/>

Maybe find a few friends who might be interested, or in your House group, and study these online courses together?!!

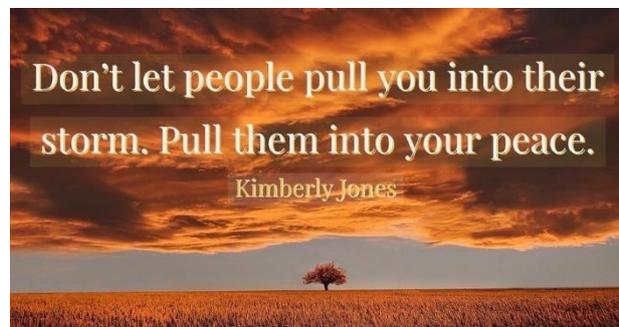
WEEKLY REFLECTION

Social media has thrown up many interesting pictures and ideas over the last week or so. I share below 4 short reflections on some that have struck me.

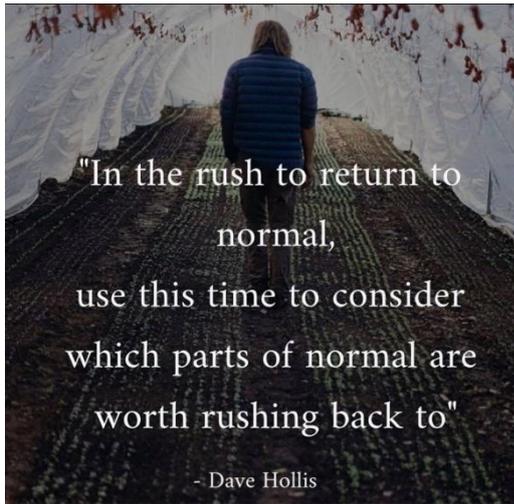


The concept of being in God's shadow has come up a lot recently. He needs to be bigger than us to overshadow us. He needs to be above us to overshadow us. He needs to be able to see what's coming, what the future holds to overshadow us. He may be passing over us, towards where we are heading, to overshadow us.

Will we join him I what he is doing when we get there?



I went shopping today. Many were in good heart but some were very jumpy. I am sure that they had good reason to avoid coming into the 2 meter zone. I certainly was trying to avoid it too. But this isolation is unreal and unnatural. It will make people jumpy in all sorts of ways. I have found shopping, when there was very little on the shelves almost amusing at times when we consider the things that even desperate people will not eat. The humble Brussel Sprout in Tesco's comes to mind, in the freezer there were several bags, even when there was no other frozen veg on offer. Thankfully the shelves are fuller now. But there is something calming about thinking about God at this strange time. Jesus offered the disciples his peace – he gave it and he left it. If we can, through prayer and focus on God, feel some peace. Maybe, just maybe we can pull some of those around us into that peace. Share the Shalom.



I like the concept of this picture. I refer above to the hankering we might have to gather again. Online is fine but its not the same as the gathered church. We would love to get back to normal as soon as possible. Not only safe from the danger of ill health but also back to the comfort of our normal life. But this new existence flags up some of the anomalies of the old life that we were not even aware of. The importance of certain roles in society that are often overlooked, or even worse looked down upon. The very simple basics we need to survive and how much else is complexity. The importance of daily God, not just Sunday God. The power that God has over circumstance and the need of the world to re-discover the God for whom they were

made. This is a temporary abnormal. The new normal when we get there will not be the same as it was. What is it of your normal that is worth rushing back to? And what have you discovered you have been missing?

Easter isn't cancelled because of a virus. I heard someone say that "this has been the lentiest lent I have ever lented". They had given up much more than they anticipated. And yet, at the beginning of this season I suggested, on Ash Wednesday, that Lent isn't necessarily about abstinence and self-reflection as about time out with God, receiving the Holy Spirit and being prepared for powerful ministry. Jesus' walk to the cross did not happen during his time in the desert. It was 3 years later. In his wake were a whole load of people who had been healed, some Pharisees who had been challenged, some disciples who had been through the best discipleship programme ever and a fickle people who would shout "Hosanna" one day and "Crucify" by the end of the working week. That this all happened is not in doubt. That this changed the world is also not in doubt. That this event that we remember annually is the source of our hope, our future and the power in our present is a certainty. What may be in doubt is how much we really believe these things. Online worship, as with any worship, has one purpose. "For true worshipers' worship in Spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Holy Week isn't cancelled. Easter glory isn't cancelled. The virus will be cancelled. But our worship, this Holy Week, this Easter – may it be imbued with the Holy Spirit of God, and may we know the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection. May we truly know it. And may it propel us into Easter season filled by his Spirit and standing on his truth. Thine be the glory. Amen.

