

20th May 2020

Dear Friends

We trust that this finds you all well. As we move into our 9th week of lockdown, there are the first tentative steps to ease the restrictions we have all been subject to. Understandably this an anxious time as we wonder what the impact of this might mean both for ourselves, our families and the country. Bishop Pete in his mailing this week had the following to say

.....it can be hard for us to maintain a large vision: as we are confined, it is all too easy for our vision to become small. If so, it might be worth an intentional effort in prayer this week, to call to mind the ultimate fulfilment of all God's purposes for creation, for which we will be longing with particular urgency between Ascension Day and the Feast of Pentecost, as we pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'. As followers of our Lord Jesus, we look forward to the time when God will 'wipe every tear from our eyes, when death will be no more, and mourning and crying and pain will be no more – when the home of God will be with humankind, when he will dwell with us and we will be his people' (Revelation 21.3-4). May God sustain us with that vision in these challenging days.

Thy Kingdom Come takes place 21-31 May. Could you spend an hour in the 'Upper Room' as part of our 24-7 prayer initiative through the ten days? If so, please follow the links to sign up.

https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/UserFiles/File/10_days_of_prayer/TKC/TKC-download-leaflet.pdf

There are lots of prayer resources on the website and we also have daily events – mainly at 7.30pm but also some in the mornings. You can download all the information from the website. Don't forget the Pentecost Beacon service at 4.00pm on Sunday 31 May, coming to you online with Bishop Sophie as our preacher

From Ascension (21/5) to Pentecost (31/5) there will be daily themed reflections from the Bishop's Senior Staff (and others), focusing on key aspects of the Renewed, Released and Rejuvenated. Each day, you will find a resource for evening prayers at 7.30pm on the Diocesan Facebook page.

Ali will also lead an act of Worship for Ascension Day on the website at 10am on Thursday 21st May and this will be available on the website live and after that if you are not able to watch at 10am

<https://www.allsaintstotley.church/> .

You may have read about the fire at the cathedral last weekend. Sadly, this was a deliberate attack but prompt action by the Fire Service prevented the fire gaining control. Damage was caused to the Domino Hall which is used for adult training by the Archer Project. There was water damage to the electrics, heating and the alarm systems but thankfully no damage to the Cathedral itself apart from smoke damage which will mean there will need to be a great deal of cleaning and redecoration. The Archer Project has a Just Giving page on Facebook for donations. If you would like to donate this way, search Archer Project then scroll down to the link, Support the Archer Project justgiving.com.



Many congratulations to Marjorie Snowdon who will be celebrating her 95th birthday on May 20th. Happy Birthday Marjorie from everyone at All Saints. We hope you have a lovely day.

Following an appeal by Mickley Hall (Cheshire Home) for plants to brighten up the grounds, Angela arranged to have plants delivered to them on behalf of All Saints Church. This is the reply she received from them.

Hi Angela

Hope you are well, just wanted to say a massive thank you from all the residents and staff at Mickley Hall for the donation of plants for our courtyard they certainly have brightened the place up, please pass on our thanks to the whole crew there at the church, stay safe and see you soon. Kind regards, David Tagg Volunteer & Activities Coordinator



Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week (18-24 May) which will focus on the power and potential of kindness. Our individual and collective mental health depend on kindness which is why the theme has been chosen. It is also at the heart of our Christian faith and helps to build community. Many of us know from experience, that acts of kindness can lift us in dark times and especially in our current circumstances they can be especially welcome. If you or anyone you know is struggling at the moment do try and talk to someone you trust or look at the resources available on the website www.mind-blmk.org.uk/news/mhaw2020/ Concerns about the pandemic are bringing mental health struggles into sharp focus, We all deal with things differently. There is no right or wrong way of coping, some people find it a great struggle, while some of us are very good at hiding our inner feelings. However, we all have a part to play in being kind to one another. Maybe a letter or a card, perhaps a text or a phone call? Acts of kindness are never wasted.

The following advice on the subject comes from Taj (the local pharmacist)

Unfortunately, some people do not seek help as they feel admitting to mental health illness shows weakness. My advice is that everyone is happy to get treatment for a heart condition or a bad back; so you should feel no different to getting treatment for your mind, which is another critical organ in your body.



We have many challenges ahead of us, both personally and globally but as we learn to adapt to living with this virus in our midst we are grateful for the support and dedication of our key workers and health professionals and for the thousands of people without whose efforts, our daily lives would be so much harder. We must stay alert and of course we must remain faithful in prayer, not only for ourselves but for those for whom prayer is very difficult at the moment. We include the following prayer which you might like to use.

May we who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors, remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home, remember those who must choose between preserving their health or paying their bills.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close, remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips, remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home, remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.

We hope you stay safe and well

With love

Angela and Liz