



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

FROM OUR RECTOR: Alleluia! Christ is risen

It is a tradition of the church that during Lent the word Alleluia is not used. It's easy to get caught out: suddenly finding the word tucked away in a hymn or in sheer delight, exclaiming – 'Alleluia! Praise the Lord!' – and there are Alleluia police around who have a zero-tolerance policy! However, the practice has some benefits, since when we arrive at Easter there is a fervent joy in our hearts and voices when the word (which simply means God be praised) is uttered. It was the practice in the church where I did a placement in Manhattan in 2014 (Christ and St Stephen's Church) to get the children to go around the church, hiding pieces of paper with the word Alleluia on them – so that they might all be discovered as we hear the story of the stone being rolled away, that Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia! It would be easy in this current crisis, with the additional news this week that our Prime Minister is in intensive care, to think that the Alleluias this year will remain hidden. What's there to be joyful about? Surely, they ask me, Easter is cancelled? With the story of Easter comes hope and what I am hearing on the telephone and around and about (always keeping a 2 metre distance) is that people have hope, that they find comfort in their faith and so the promise of resurrection hope is all the more precious this year than ever. Let's hold on to that hope of the transforming presence of the risen Christ. **Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

I wish you a holy and blessed Easter!

Fr James



WEEKLY NOTICES

for Easter Sunday 12 April 2020

PARISH LIFE A huge thank you to Chris George, our printers, and Patience Skelton for coordinating the effort to get this out. I hope you will agree it has been well worth it. If you don't have it delivered I have some spare copies or contact Patience Skelton and we can arrange for you get a copy sent out.

CANCELLATION OF REGULAR GROUPS/SOCIAL EVENTS

For avoidance of doubt all events and services, unless being delivered online, are **CANCELLED** until further notice. This includes: Adult and Junior Choir Practices, Toddler Group, Mothers' Union, Koffee and Kompany (March, April and May meetings), Pastoral Care Group, Soup Lunch on 5 April, Easter Saturday Children's Workshop (11 April) and Murder Mystery (18 April).

PLANNED GIVING AND COLLECTIONS We have had several questions about planned giving whilst our church buildings are closed under the COVID-19 restrictions. We are not currently able to receive, nor count, Free Will Offering / Gift Aid envelopes. If you have been thinking about setting up a Standing Order, or wish to make an online payment, please contact Sally, our Treasurer, for details on treasurersa@gmail.com. When the situation with Covid-19 becomes clearer, we will give further guidance. The Anglican adage applies to this, as in all things: 'All may, none must, some should.' Please do contact me if you have any concerns whatsoever.

CAFÉ CHURCH The Facebook online service on 26 April is a Café Church, since we thought this gave us an opportunity to share in different styles of worship. If anyone in our Café Church family has any ideas to put in – please contact the Rector or our AWA (Nicole King). We will be getting a further communication out to Café Churchers next week – about other ways for us to connect.

JUNIOR CHOIR With thanks to Choir Mum, Jo Love, we are rolling our Virtual Junior Choir and we will report further on how that is going.

VIRTUAL SOUP – 9 APRIL at 12.30pm Thank to those who sent in photographs of their soup lunch experiences. We'll try this again along with other initiatives as the days roll on.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE What a huge privilege it was to join with Nicole King (our AWA) and clergy and lay ministers from across the Diocese to participate in the annual Renewal of Ministerial Vows online this year! Whilst I hope we will be back in the Cathedral next year it was a very special half an hour. You can read more here. <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/news/360-gather-for-renewal-of-vows-via-zoom/>

FOODBANK Thank you for all those who brought things in for the FoodBank. Since we are no longer able to have the church open, we will now find new ways to collect this in the days ahead.

TELEPHONING LIST Please contact Fr James on 01603 439160 if you would like to be added to our 'Phoning list. We keen to make sure that no one is separated from God's love at this time.

DO YOU NEED OUR HELP? If you need food delivering or medication collecting or indeed anything else, please contact Fr James and he will signpost you to a volunteer.

VOLUNTEERING We are sharing in the work of food delivery/shopping with our colleagues in Royal British Legion. Please get in touch with Fr James on 01603 439160 (rector@thorpeparishchurch.org).

QUIZZES ONLINE Victor Scrivens is organising some quizzes online, which should be very exciting. More information on 01603 300212.

100 CLUB From Linda Olney and Ann Cox: After discussions, it has been decided that due to the current situation with Covid-19, the monthly 100 Club draw and the renewal of membership will be suspended. This means that, when we start back, we will still have two months in hand. We hope that all members will understand the need to take this difficult decision; we will try to keep you in touch with any developments. Thank you for your continued support.

UPDATE ON SOCIAL EVENTS IN 2020

There is no certainty about when the restrictions will be lifted. I can assure you that there are people who have all of this under very active

consideration. There is the possibility of some 'virtual' events. I have explained that the Parish's top priority is the health and wellbeing of our parishioners, but the following have **not** yet been cancelled or rearranged.

- 28 June 2020 at 2.30pm Summer Concert/ at Parish Church
- 18 July 2020 11.00am to 3.00pm Summer Fete in Parish Church grounds. Sponsorship offers to Fr James, as soon as possible.
- 5, 12, 19 and 26 August Organ Recital Series. Recitals at 1.00pm.

KEEPING CONNECTED

You can keep connected by:

- Tuning into our (technology permitting) Facebook live streamed service every Sunday at 9.30am, worshipping together electronically.
- Using our Holy Week booklet
- Receiving our weekly emails and other updates. Please supply your email to rector@thorpeparishchurch.org. Hard copies will be posted out to those without emails.
- Go online to find resources/updates on Thorpe St Andrew Parish Church Facebook page and on our Parish Life website - www.parish-life.co.uk

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for

- **Our Bishops** Graham, Alan and Jonathan
- Our colleagues in the **Salvation Army** – Russell and Alison Day
- **All those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic**, particularly Boris Johnson, and all key workers in NHS and all other fields.
- **All who live** in Rockland Drive, Roundhead Court, Roundway Down
- **Those who are sick or in need**, including: Brenda Debenham, Brian Riseborough, Mark Little, Paul Carter, Monique Rowland, Jennifer Jones, Janet Fancy, Colin Hicks, Glenys Paflin, Audrey Camp, Alan Harrison, Jill Hall, Grace Howes, Peter and Gaynor Garrood.
- **The recently departed** Diane Whiskerd, Jeanette Wilkin, Eileen Moore.
- **Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time** including Claude (Don) Shaw