



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR The Third Sunday of Easter: 26 April 2020



On the journey together

One of the 'benefits' of this global pandemic has been the fact that many people are discovering parts of our community, previously not known to them. For me, there have been some rediscoveries from my childhood. I have been enjoying some 'long-ish' walks around Thorpe Marshes: I have seen some interesting birds, including Common Terns, Kingfishers and (I think) a Little Egret on St Andrew's Broad (although it was a long way away and I didn't have my binoculars that day!), and, I have been bumping into people along the way and catching up (within the parameters of the social distancing rules, of course!) The gospel reading for the third Sunday of Easter places us with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. I visited Emmaus, whilst in the Holy Land. It's quite a 'schlep' from Jerusalem (the Scriptures say seven miles!) Two of the wider group of disciples walk together and they encounter Jesus on their journey but do not recognise him at first. He recounts to them the whole story of his part in the history of our salvation from Moses and the prophets, ending in his resurrection – and, as they heard it 'their hearts were burning within them' – as he opened the Scriptures to them. Only when they reach Emmaus and break bread together within their small (at that point) community of believers are their eyes opened and they recognise him. The current Covid-19 crisis is taking us on journeys to unexpected and rediscovered places – some anxious and some full of joy. Communities are being reconnected and people's eyes are being opened to new possibilities and new hope. We might not be able to physically break bread together but in this current season of Easter and crisis the risen Christ is appearing to many, whose eyes are being opened. Let us rejoice in that risen presence among us and when we return let's make sure we do something positive with it! Alleluia to that! *Fr James*

SERVICE DETAILS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

HYMNS *All heaven declares; Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord*

READING Luke 24:13-35

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

INTERCESSIONS *Please pray for*

- **Our Ministry Team** James Stewart, Patrick Kerley, Nicole King, Taylor Wilton-Morgan (from end June onwards)
- **Our Bishops** Graham, Alan and Jonathan
- **Ecumenical** The Methodist Church: District Chairman, Julian Pursehouse
- **Anglican Communion** The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, Archbishop Michael Lewis
- **All those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic** All key workers in NHS and all other fields, particularly our schools – Dussindale Primary and Nursery (Headteacher: Louise Norgate), Hillside Avenue Primary and Nursery (Headteacher: Mr Phoenix), St William's Primary and Nursery (Headteacher: Sarah Shirrass), Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form (Principal: Penny Bignell). Also remembering Captain Tom Moore, as he celebrates his 100th birthday this week.
- **All who live** in Santa Lucia Court, School Avenue, School Lane
- **Our Civic Leaders** Members of Thorpe St Andrew Town Council, particularly our Mayor, John Fisher and Deputy Mayor, Sue Lawn; Members of Broadland District Council for this parish – Jonathan Emsell, John Fisher, Sue Lawn, Ian Mackie, Trudy Mancini-Boyle and Nigel Shaw; County Councillors – John Fisher and Ian Mackie; MP – Chloe Smith; our twin town of St Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada and their Mayor, Doug Naish
- **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, Anne Farthing
- **The recently departed** Eileen Moore, Bishop Simon Barrington-Ward, Janet Godfrey, Jean Brown, Alan Heelas
- **Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time** including Gladys Towers

ONLINE SERVICES THIS WEEK – 26 April 2020

26 April at 9.30am

LIVE on Facebook - Café Church (Easter 3)

30 April at 8.30am

LIVE on Facebook – Morning Prayer

Our page: www.facebook.com/ThorpeStAndrewParishChurch

OTHER NOTICES AND USEFUL INFORMATION

PARISH LIFE The Church of England guidelines strongly encouraged not to deliver parish magazines and other communications through letterboxes. Our magazine is largely delivered and many who receive it do not have or use computers. We have considered the endless possibilities for us here over some weeks and came to the conclusion that we would take a break of (we hope) one month, hopeful that delivery restrictions may be slackened a little. We are therefore working on a Bumper June edition. In the meantime next week's 'Weekly Communication' will be longer, to include some aspects of May's Parish Life. It will be emailed and posted out on 1 May! Bear with us in this exceptional time: we really are 'doing our best'!

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.

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) or **DO YOU NEED OUR HELP?** If you need food delivering/ medication collecting, please contact Fr James we can signpost a volunteer.

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.



ZOOM COFFEE TIME Thank you to the 20 or so people who gathered on Zoom on Thursday. The Rector's Chocolate and Ginger Cake seemed to go down well (recipe – next week!) and there was much to talk about. The plan is to enjoy a bit of Zoom time together each Sunday morning after the online service. Since I had

already promised some Zoom time to Café Churchers this week, we will meet at 11.30am this Sunday (26 April) and on following Sundays (3, 10 and 17 May) at 10.30am. A zoom invitation will be sent out with the weekly email. Not for all – but join as you wish! It was good fun on Thursday!

FOODBANK Thank you for all those who brought things in for the FoodBank. I am receiving items for the FoodBank at the Rectory, for onward transmission to the FoodBank. Please leave on the doorstep and I will add them to our collection. This is only for whilst churches are closed!

GREETINGS FROM CHLOE SMITH We received a lovely letter from our MP, thanking us for our work during this time. Full details of this will be included in next week's extended newsletter. **Thank you, Chloe!**

AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR, 31 OCTOBER 2020 (11am-3pm) Subject to restrictions operating at the time this is the replacement for all the stallholders who had booked for our Spring Craft Fair. More details later.

KEEPING CONNECTED You can keep connected by:

- Tuning into our (technology permitting) Facebook live streamed service every Sunday at 9.30am, worshipping together electronically.
- Receiving our weekly emails and other updates. Please supply your email to rector@thorpeparishchurch.org. Hard copies are being posted out.
- Finding resources/updates on Thorpe St Andrew Parish Church Facebook page and on our Parish Life website - www.parish-life.co.uk

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact our Rector,
The Revd James Stewart (Fr James)

Tel: 01603 439160 or email him at rector@thorpeparishchurch.org