

and sadness, concerns and joys, there has been weekly 'singing with Matt' sessions and church members have been involved in setting up caring groups to respond to the needs of village self-isolators in each of the three villages and the daily St Philips News email. All of these have been advertised through Facebook and websites and daily emails to as wide a variety of people as we can access. There may well be other things going on that I don't know about too.

All of this has been possible because we, as a benefice of three churches, have seen a need and pulled together to make things happen. To all of you who have been involved in this, whether in a big way or small, thank you for what you have done and please keep on doing it. I clap my hands, bang my pots and shake my tambourine for you.

This has been a difficult and isolating time for many people, but at the same time, like Jesus in the wilderness, it has been a time of testing and searching out what is of central importance.

As we go forward we will continue to look at ways we can continue to respond appropriately and creatively to the situation in which we find ourselves to share the message of Jesus and his love for the world.

Blessings. Andy

Messy Church

We had a super Messy Church this week. Suitable for younger children. The video is online packed with fun things to do, a story, song and prayers for all the family. Secretly, it is a lot of fun for adults too! Thanks to the wonderful team for making it happen! <https://youtu.be/dtwpziB2Fd8>

For further information;

prayer, pastoral care, practical help or some conversation contact;

Revd Bob Bailey 0113 260 7721 rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com
Leslye Thomas 0113 281 2488 leslyeanglican@btinternet.com
Carole Cassidy 0113 281 2149 carole.cassidy39@gmail.com

Online links;

including daily reflections and Sunday worship
<http://www.barwickcofechurch.co.uk>



Notice sheet for Sunday 10th May 2020

Collect for 10th May

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Readings for 10th May

Acts 7:55-60 and John 14:1-14

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Zooming Jesus (John 14.1–14)

I like Philip! He asked the question the other disciples must have been thinking but were too afraid to ask! You can almost hear Jesus sighing as he tries to explain what is happening. Near the end of his life, Jesus is giving them the key to understanding who he is and what will happen.

This lock-down raises many opportunities and some problems I was not expecting. One of them is communication. It has been great to be in touch with people I normally would not see. At the same time Zoom (a video conferencing program) is not like being in front of someone face to face. Actually, it has been shown that understanding the body language through Zoom is very much more tiring than normal face-to-face contact. It is really easy to misunderstand what we are doing when communication is through another media. If we are honest, it is hard enough normally!

So how do we get the communication going with God? Thankfully we have been left the Holy Spirit! Over the coming weeks and especially next Sunday and in Pentecost, we will explore this more deeply. But for now we can say it is in the depth of our relationships that we find the best communication. When those relationships are soured by mistrust or failure, communication becomes difficult. Through forgiveness and nurturing relationship we grow trust.

Maybe Jesus was not sighing after all. Another way to see his rebuke of Philip is his deep desire for the closeness of relationship. He knows Philip will need it in the coming years. Philip, like us, will need the deep peace of God and the enlivening power of The Holy Spirit to see us through life. Jesus does not stop there but offers the security and peace of eternal life. Heaven is big! God's arms are open - His compassion wide. No failure or misunderstanding, not even death can separate us from God when we accept Jesus as life and the way to The Father. Bob

Sunday online service

If you can access the internet and YouTube, this week's service has some extra dimensions to it, including an interview with V.E. day veteran Margaret Boyle from Thorner and a sermon from Alan Stanley. The service will be released to the world live at 10.30am in the morning and can be accessed through the Benefice YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ID3IKfajisVxxttTBJJg>. You can always catch up with it later. There is also the opportunity to join three 'Zoom' rooms to either socialise, have a Bible study or discuss the sermon. At the end of the service we'll give people a few minutes to get a cuppa and log onto zoom and then start the post service chat rooms at 11:30am.

After the service the three 'Zoom' rooms, each with its own characteristic are:

Room 1: A serious Bible study. For those who want to go deeper and discuss what the Bible is telling us today. Alan Stanley, who is preaching this Sunday, will be our 'resident expert' with Christine Dagg enabling the discussion.

Room 2: A discussion on the sermon, but less serious or in-depth than room 1.

Room 3: A sociable 'Coffee and chat after the service' type of room. I will send through the links to each room on Friday and Saturday. Please check your emails for the links.

Prayer

One of the blessings of this lock-down has been the opportunity to pray. If you would like to pray with us via Zoom on a Thursday morning, please let Bob or Kathryn know.

Also, every Sunday evening at 9pm I have been lighting a candle outside my house and saying prayers for the families of those bereaved during this time. If you would like a prayer said for someone please let me know. Also let me know if you are happy for the name to be shared publicly so others can pray too. You might want to do the same and take a moment to pause in the week and show love and support for those suffering in such difficult times. Bob 07885 386932 / rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com.

Our prayers this week are for the friends and family of **Donald Fieldhouse**, whose Committal was Friday at Lawnswood. Especially pray for David and Karen, Laura and Adam, Emily and Evie, Luca and Giorgia, Max and Reggie, Pino and Susie.

Message from Andy

Originally sent out via email to the St Philips congregation

Every Thursday at 8pm I and my family go to the end of our drive and bang pots, drums, cymbals, clap hands and shout our appreciation of those in front-line services responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

This message is my noise-making appreciation of all those within the church who have likewise responded creatively and with passion to the strange and unusual circumstances thrown up by the situation we find ourselves in.

The first 2 weeks of lock-down felt like a tsunami of sudden chaos with everything needing to be done differently and no roadmap of where we were going or how to get there. Since then, we have begun producing weekly Sunday recorded services and daily reflections that go onto Youtube, there are phone-in services twice weekly, zoom prayer meetings, monthly Messy Church, telephone nets of caring congregations keeping in touch with each other, Whatsapp groups sharing laughter