

Dear friends,

These are challenging and uncertain times which are constantly changing due to the coronavirus pandemic. What was our constant, relatively unchanging life changes every day, like shifting sands. What we thought was certain is now uncertain. Working from home, social isolation, schools and universities closed, public services at church suspended across the country, food stock piling, empty toilet roll shelves to name but a few. If we look further afield there are countries in total lock down to prevent the spread of COVID 19. The statistics of those infected and the number of deaths are shocking. We are in unprecedented times. It is easy to say where is God in this?

For us as Christians, it is God who provides the stability of our life, especially in turbulent times. What remains unchanging is God's love for each one of us and nothing can separate us from that love. In many ways that is what Easter is all about.

It is in this context that we celebrate Easter this year. On Good Friday we remember the crucifixion of Christ, bearing the sins of the world and on Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection, Jesus risen from the dead. Jesus bringing new life, forgiveness for sins, eternal life and hope – hope that we need more than ever, especially now.

It is that hope that will make a difference, to our own lives, to those around us and to our world. Yes, we may feel anxious, that things are out of our control, we are facing things we have not experienced to this extent before, but we have the hope that Easter brings – hope for the future.

May the risen Christ, who called Mary by her name, reassure you that he knows you and loves you as if you were the only one.

May the risen Christ, who walked with his friends to Emmaus, interpreting the scriptures for them, guide you in your pilgrimage of life.

May the risen Christ, who breathed peace on his disciples, bring you peace and may you be a channel of his peace for a troubled world.

May the risen Christ, who met Thomas in his doubting, come to you and give you the happiness he promised to those who have not seen him but believed.

May the risen Christ, who prepared breakfast for his friends while they fished on the lake, enable you to serve others in their need.

May the risen Christ, who sent his disciples out to make disciples in the world, strengthen you as you share God's love to friend and neighbour.

May the risen Christ, who has gone ahead of us, come to you at the hour of death to take you to your eternal home.

May the Lord bless you as you keep the Easter season and fill you with his life and love, his peace and his love and enable you to serve others, particularly in this crisis that we are facing.

Every blessing,

Deborah

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### **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

#### **BAPTISMS**

We welcome into our church family:

Theodore Oliver ZUHAIR who was baptised on 15<sup>th</sup> Mar 2020 at St. Margaret's Church. His parents are Wadoud & Louise Hazineh from Whitefield.

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### **CALENDAR FOR APRIL**

**The calendar for April is very limited as public church services have been suspended until further notice.**

However, church will be open from 8.30am-9.30am (Mon-Fri) and 6.00pm-7.00pm (Mon- Thurs) for personal prayer. Please ensure that it is safe for you to do so, wash your hands/use the gel at the back of the church and ensure that you sit well away from others. If you can, pray at home during these times. Please join us in prayer from your home during those times.

The weekly service sheet will continue to be provided – they will be at the back of church and on our website and Facebook. It will be the opportunity to reflect on the readings.

Sermons will be on the website.

We will have some reflections for Holy Week on the website/Facebook

The magazine will continue to be produced and delivered.

We are going to attempt some live streaming of services.

We have a WhatsApp group for any prayer requests that you may have.

If you have any donations for porch boxes, Church will be open until 10.30am on Thursday mornings.

**If we can help in any way, please contact Revd. Deborah on 0161 773 2698 or Revd. Sue on 07761 565428.**

**Please look after yourself and each other.**

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### **ST.GEORGE'S CHURCH, SIMISTER**

**Unfortunately, all services and activities in Lady Wilton Hall are cancelled for the foreseeable future. If you are dog walking or passing any of the buildings and you see anything suspicious give Joan Knott a ring on 0161 773 6879 and I will try and get someone to check. Thank you.**

The St. George's Festival has been postponed but I am sure will resume as a great celebration in the village, hopefully soon.

**At this time in your prayers will you pray for those who are sick remembering especially:-**

Tom Porter, Joyce Roebuck, Tony Anderton, Mary and Colin Hargreaves, Rita Evans, Val Albrow, Barbara Cass, Sheila and Eric Harrison, Bob Hardy and Revd. Deborah.

All our own friends, relatives and for mankind.

**Anniversaries of death**

**There will be no flowers in church**

In April we remember - Patrick C.S. Greene, Clément Foulkes, Roy Jones, Daisy E. H. Mordin, Harold R. Clayton, Joyce Curly. Alice Collier, Ethel Barbara Segal and Elizabeth Harding.

In May we remember:-

Bernard Stansfield, Ann Anderton, Arthur Knott, Dennis Saville and Joyce Hall.

**Take care all of you and keep safe. God Bless Joan and Carol**

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## **THE CHURCHES OF ST. MARGARET AND ST. GEORGE**

### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

Dear Friends,

As you have probably heard on the news, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Church of England has suspended public worship with immediate effect. None of our regular services will run for the foreseeable future.

But that doesn't stop us being church – we are just going to have to do things differently.

**Different ways to worship and pray.**

**Different ways of caring for each other.**

**Different ways to serve our community.**

We are working to put those new things in place, but key to them all will be good communication. We will be putting information on our **parish website and Facebook page**. In addition, we will be providing information via E-mail to those who are on our family list. If you are not on the family list but want to be kept informed by E-mail, please let us know.

We are aware that not everyone has access to or uses electronic communication. It would be extremely helpful if those who have access to electronic communication can pass on information verbally (via telephone) to others. We will also be delivering information/service papers to appropriate people as far as we can.

Our church magazine production will continue, as will the delivery to those who usually receive them this way (as far as is possible). There will be regular updates in the magazine.

### **Different ways to pray and worship:**

Praying at home is an important way in which we can make a difference. Please pray for the coronavirus outbreak, those all who are ill, those who are anxious or feel isolated, for hospital and medical staff, for research scientists, for countries across the world and leaders of the nations in their decision making.

St. Margaret's Church will be open for private prayer between 8.30am and 9.30am (Monday to Friday) and from 6.00pm-7.00pm (Monday to Thursday). Only come if it is safe to do so and please take appropriate precautions to protect yourself and others. Gel will be available at the entrance and there are facilities to wash your hands. Please choose a seat that enables adequate space between you and others. Please wash your hands/use sanitiser on exit. In the event of advice from the government for 'lock down' this will cease. For those unable to come, if you can pray in those set hours at home, we can be praying the body of Christ at St. Margaret's, even though we may be physically dispersed.

We will continue to provide our weekly service sheets which will have the Sunday readings, people to pray for, hymns, updates and prayers. These will be on the website, E-mailed and where appropriate, posted through letter boxes. Digital resources will be put online over the next few weeks as well as times of radio and TV programmes which provide services.

We are also exploring other digital ways of 'doing church' and will send a separate mailing with information on that in the coming days.

This Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, has been designated as a day for prayer for the nation. It is suggested that that at 7.00pm we light a candle as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ our source and hope in prayer.

### **Different ways of caring for each other:**

We will set up 'WhatsApp' group so that we can have contact each other and offer support and encouragement.

Revd. Deborah will, over the next few months, ring everyone on the church family list to check that everyone is OK.

A team of people led by Revd Sue and Andrew Ginn will make contact (via phone) to those who fit into the groups identified as 'vulnerable'.

If you are in one of the non-vulnerable groups and are able to do simple shopping for people who are ill or in self-isolation, please do so but keep yourself safe.

**If you have concerns, worries or need help, please contact us via the parish website or by telephone 0161 773 2698.**

### **Different ways to serve our community:**

Serving our communities is an important part in putting our faith in action, particularly in times of crisis. As I am sure you are already doing, we encourage you to offer any support and help you can to those in need.

We encourage you to keep supporting porch boxes. If you have any contributions, please leave them in a bag by the church gates on Thursday morning between 8.30am and 10.30am.

By our service, and by our love, we pray that Jesus Christ will be made known at this time, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that will counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.

With our love and prayers as we enter a different phase of our church's life.

Every blessing,

Revd. Deborah

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**St. Margaret's Church REREDOS FLOWERS**



APRIL      No Flowers during Lent      Vicky Crookes  
07936 548439

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In light of the current situation it has been decided not to continue with the Clothes Swap Shoop. There will be no meeting in April. We have booked Jakes String band for the May meeting on Thursday 21st , but we will have to wait until nearer the time to see if we can continue

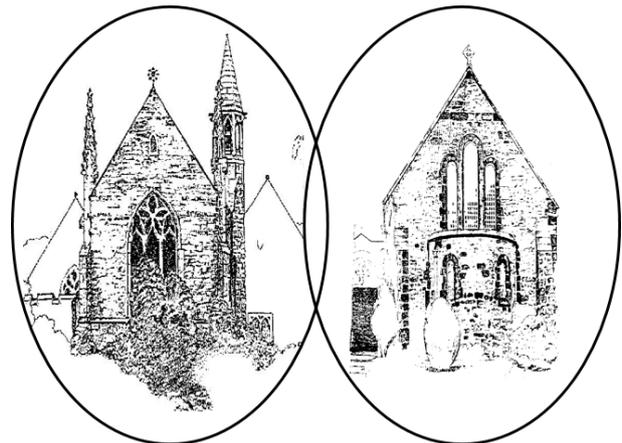
with that evening.

Our best wishes to you all and we do look forward to being able to continue with other planned events, later in the year

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**Praying when you can't come to church**

First of all... do come to church! Drop in between 8.30 and 9.30am Sunday to Thursday and 6.00 to 7.00pm Monday to Friday. Or you might choose 8.30am and 6.00pm as times to pray at home, knowing that the clergy and others will be praying then. Ask us for a copy of the prayers suggested by the Archbishops to worship at home.



Ask one of us for daily Bible reading notes, which have a reading, a reflection and a prayer for every day. We can get them for you, and the thought that other people are doing the same prayers can help us feel connected.

I've included the spiritual communion, also suggested by the Archbishops. Some people will feel bereft without regularly taking communion. They say

*The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ... The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.*

If you have access to the internet, join us on Sundays at 9.45 to watch the Eucharist live. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be a little more polished and recorded in advance. Easter Day, of course, will be a special occasion.

Look at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches> for these and other ideas.

Rev Sue

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### **An act of Spiritual Communion**

*You may wish to find a space for prayer in front of a cross, a candle, or a special place. You might choose to make your Spiritual Communion at a particular time of day, or after viewing a live streamed service.*

*Reflect on the day and on your relationships.*

- *What good things have come from God today?*
- *Where have I fallen short?*
- *What might I do tomorrow?*

*You may wish to say or pray*

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

*Read the following words from Scripture. If you have access to today's readings for Holy Communion, you may wish to read and reflect on them.*



Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

*John 6.35*

*Pray for the needs of the world, for your local community, and for those close to you. End with the Lord's Prayer.*

Our Father...

*Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.  
*Richard of Chichester*

*after the Prayer of St*

*You might then add one or more of the following prayers:*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,  
'I am with you always'.  
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.  
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,  
and keep me in your care. Amen.

O God,  
help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
Lord, in these days of mercy,  
make us quiet and prayerful;  
in these days of challenge,  
make us stronger in you;

in these days of emptiness,  
take possession of us;  
in these days of waiting,  
open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.

*Angela Ashwin*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you most humble and  
hearty thanks  
for all your goodness and loving kindness.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and  
all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,  
and that we show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness and  
righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honour and glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*Conclude with the following:*

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life. Amen.

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## **PRAYERS FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONA PANDEMIC**

### **For those who are anxious**

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **For those who are ill**

Merciful God,  
we entrust to your tender care  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **For hospital staff and medical researchers**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **For those who are ill or isolated**

O God,  
help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe that nothing can separate me  
from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## **For the government**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,  
and shaping national policies,  
that they may make wise decisions.

For the impact that the pandemic has had on our economy,  
both personally, as a country and throughout the world

## **For the Christian community**

We are not people of fear:  
we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

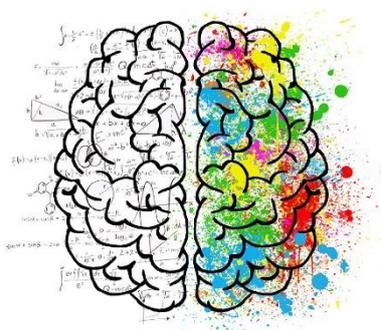
We are not people of greed:  
we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,  
giving and loving,  
wherever we are,  
whatever it costs

For as long as it takes  
wherever you call us.

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## **Keeping your mind healthy as well as your body**



The advice we have been given that involves a lot of people self-isolating is necessary to enable the NHS to cope during the pandemic, but staying inside, away from family or friends can lower our spirits or make us a prey to anxiety. I'm relaying some advice here for encouraging a healthy frame of mind.

## **Connect with people**

If you are missing seeing friends or family, put pictures on the wall.

Ring someone. If you feel that you might run out of conversation, why not agree with a friend to read a particular book, or watch a programme on TV, so that you can discuss it later.

Write letters to friends and family.

Put the radio on, especially a chatty station.

### **Keep to a routine**

Try to get up and go to bed at regular times, and eat regular meals.

Get dressed even if you don't expect to see anyone.

If you live, or are staying, with someone else, talk through how to develop a household routine so that you don't get on each other's nerves.

### **Keep Active**

Exercise is good for your body as well as your mind. Do some indoor exercises.

Spend time looking out of the window. Grow some plants or flowers on the window sill.

Put some pictures of places you love on your wall.

### **Occupy your time**

Clear out those cupboards you never quite get round to sorting out.

Take up a new hobby, or go back to an old one. Try music, writing, drawing or colouring.

Do puzzles or read books and magazines. Do a jigsaw.

### **Don't listen to too much news**

Stay informed, but don't tune in several times a day.

### **Make more use of your internet.**

I've left this one until last, because if you already use Facebook or websites you will find lots of good advice there. But this might be the moment to join Facebook, learn about eBooks or audio books, iPlayer or podcasts. It's easier than you think.

### **Don't be afraid to ask**

You need more than just food! If you need books or magazines, or help with any of the above ask someone. Many of us have plenty of time at the moment, and would love to help.

Rev Sue

### **The Leprosy Mission.**

The amount raised by individual collectors and donors at St. Margaret's and St. George's Churches in



**The Leprosy Mission**  
England and Wales

2019 was £484.88 I should like to thank all those who contributed. The sum of money has been sent to The Leprosy Mission to help eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy and to maintain the valuable medical services run by this very worthy charity.

Thank you also to Sheila Johnson and Brenda Griffiths who have patiently trimmed all the used postage stamps collected this year! Please keep putting your used stamps in the box at the back of church as The Leprosy Mission make a lot of money at their stamp sales.

Irene Kellett

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### **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

The committee wish to say thank you very much to all of you who attended the Lenten Lunch on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March where we raised a total of just over £250. As you are aware, we had to cancel the subsequent Lenten Lunches due to the Coronavirus situation.

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### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

A very big thank-you to all box-holders at both St Margaret's and St George's churches, who combined collected the fantastic amount of £876.48 over the past year. This is the highest amount collected for a very long time and The Children's Society have expressed a very big thank-you to you all. This a very worthy charity and if any of you would also like to have a box, please let me know and I will make arrangements to get one to you. A small amount every week mounts up over the year. Thank you once again.



Gail Prosser (0161 773 3715)

## **Raising Awareness of Dementia**

Not so long ago we had a service which focused on raising awareness of dementia. We will all have different starting points and different experiences of dementia. For some of us these will be at 'head' level – about facts and information. For others, our starting point will be at a 'heart' level – a particular person, specific stories of how we are affected by dementia – either now or in the past.

Dementia is a journey into the unknown for both those living with dementia and for family, friends and carers. So, what is dementia? Dementia is an umbrella term covering a range of over 100 different brain diseases. Alzheimer's is the most common one, accounting for 62% of those diagnosed. Vascular dementia is the next most common at 17%. There are currently 850000 living with dementia in the UK, with that number expected to reach one million by 2025 and two million by 2050.

There are a whole range of symptoms when someone has dementia depending on which part of the brain is affected. These include

- Memory loss, especially the short-term memory
- Planning, organising and sequencing can be affected.
- Language and being unable to recall familiar words
- Perceptions of objects can be changed,
- Mood and behaviour can be affected.

### **Memory storage bookcase**

The storage of memories is like storing books in a bookcase.

- The most recent memories are stored on the top shelf.
- Childhood memories are stored on the bottom shelf.
- Teenage memories on the next shelf up.
- Memories from middle age on the next shelf
- And retirement memories on the next shelf up.

Dementia has the effect of wobbling the bookcase and the first books that fall off are those on the top shelf, the most recent memories. As the dementia progresses it is as though the top shelves start to disintegrate so it's no longer possible to store books on them so it's natural for someone to return to the lower shelves, the earlier memories. When they return to those shelves, they

find the memories still there, the books in their expected order which accounts for the time warp conversations that we can sometimes have.

Taking the picture even further, our memories are made up of two elements – the facts - names, dates and place stored in one part of the brain, the hippocampus. There is a corresponding feelings books, which are stored in a different part of the brain, the amygdala.

The facts bookcase is flimsier than the feelings bookcase. It is much more resilient when the wobbles of dementia come along. So even when the someone can't remember the facts, the feelings remain.

**Christine Bryden lives with dementia and has written a book called 'Dancing with Dementia'. You can hear the journey from head to heart in her opening words:**

**'As we become more emotional and less cognitive**

**It is the way you talk to us,**

**Not what you say that we will remember.**

**We know the feeling, but we don't the plot.**

**Your laugh, your smile and your touch are what we connect with.**

**Empathy heals. Just love us as we are.**

**We're still here, in emotion and spirit, if only you can find us.**

Most of us have heard of Salford lad Christopher Eccleston, especially if you are a Doctor Who fan. His father, Ron, had dementia. He eventually learnt that instead of trying to pull people with dementia into your world, you have to enter theirs. He was on holiday with his parents doing the Guardian crossword with his dad. The clue was dictator, six letters and his dad answered 'despot'. As Christopher wrote it down, his dad stared at him and asked, 'are you related to me?' He said, 'yes, I am your son'. His father didn't believe him and said to his mother, 'He says he is my son, but I know nothing about it.' From that moment on, Christopher stopped insisting he was his son and became his friend.

He salvaged a loving relationship, and for him and his brothers, it could be quite humorous. But for his mother it was much more complex. From the day he was diagnosed until the final year of his life she cared for him in their house.

After he died, she said to Christopher, 'the worst day of his life was not when his father died, but when I had to put him in a home.'

Christopher describes his mother as the most caring person on the planet, but it was an emotional and physical grind. Carers are not recognised for the financial and practical support they provide. His mother did get some respite, but it was difficult because her husband always wanted her and she would suffer when they were apart, wondering if he was eating or if people were being kind. One day she asked him, 'Ronnie, do you know who I am? He said, 'I don't know, but I love you.'

So, where do we go from here? What can we do to help and support those living with dementia and their carers?

Today has been the opportunity to raise awareness.

Currently some of us have undergone the diocesan training and hope to do the additional training to become dementia champions.

We hope to become a dementia friendly church. The diocese of Lichfield have produced an audit, which looks at pastoral care, buildings, church services and community networks. The Way Forward group and anyone who is interested in dementia, including carers and those living with dementia is invited to come along as we work through the audit. It is important to listen to those with dementia and their carers. To this purpose, Bury is setting up a couple of meetings in the next week to explore what can be done by listening. Hopefully this will feed into our discussions. This will then be reported to the PCC and from this we can identify ways some practical steps towards becoming a more dementia friendly church. There will be the opportunity later in the year to become a dementia friend if you want to.

We hope to establish a group that helps to alleviate social isolation, including those with dementia and their carers.

Hopefully, in the future, there will be the opportunity to promote a dementia friendly community in our area of Prestwich.

Obviously, at this current period of time, these actions and ideas will have to be put on hold but if anyone is interested in helping in any way, please contact us.

The symbol of dementia is a 'forget-me-not flower'. There are forget-me-not flowers that are in both church gardens. May they be a reminder to us and encourage us as we seek as a church to support those with dementia and their carers.

Please pray for those with dementia.

Lord, friend of the friendless, you went out of your way to find the lonely and the lost. Grant us compassion and insight to feel what it is like for someone losing their memory, increasingly adrift in a once familiar world. Let us be the ones to hold out a hand that can anchor them to the life and friendships they know.

Grant us wisdom to see how we can help carers and the will and energy to act on that knowledge. Save us from being those who pass on the other side of the road.

Lord, you were always ready to speak out for those in need. Guide us to find out more about dementia. Give us the commitment to be dementia friends and to advocate greater understanding in our community.

May we have your courage not to back away from the familiar, but to reach out a hand of love. Amen

Rev Deborah

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### **Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? (Trad.)**

It is thought that this Easter hymn was written in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by African-American slaves in the plantations of southern America. It was first published in the 1899 edition of Old Plantation Hymns, and in 1940 was included in the Episcopal Church Hymnal. It is now commonly sung throughout the world, and has been recorded by some seriously famous singers (including Johnny Cash and Harry Belafonte) and was a favourite of Mahatma Ghandi.

This song has also been arranged for two voices by Sing for Pleasure, and it was this version that I had planned to introduce to Maggie's Music Makers this Lent. Maybe next year. Meanwhile, the text is:

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nail'd him to the tree? (Were you there?)  
Were you there when they nail'd him to the tree?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!  
Were you there when they nail'd him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (Were you there?)  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when He rose in majesty? (Were you there?)  
Were you there when He rose in majesty?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!  
Were you there when He rose in majesty?

Was any of us actually there? No. Many people were though, and some are named in the Gospel accounts: Mary, supporting her first born as he is humiliated prior to his brutal execution, Mary's sister was there as was Mary the wife of Cleophas; Mary Magdalene was there, as was Mary, mother of James and Joses, Salome, also Zebedee's wife; probably fearing for their own lives the only disciple present was the one identified as "the disciple whom Jesus loved". Simon of Cyrene was there, and forced to carry the cross for part of the journey to Golgotha. There were also the two convicted criminals crucified on either side of Jesus. How they must all have trembled.

I wasn't there. But I have been there. Back in 2017 I visited the Holy Land and literally walked the Way of the Cross. It was a long way, up steep hills and narrow, crowded streets. I trembled.

You can listen to this song and sing along here: [tinyurl.com/rvm2q8a](https://tinyurl.com/rvm2q8a)

Carol P



## MESSY CHURCH

**Messy Church is cancelled for the foreseeable future. It will resume as soon as it is safe to do so, and dates will be posted here as well as via the parish Facebook page.**

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Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.  
Amen.

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.  
Amen

ST MARGARET'S MOTHERS UNION  
TREASURER'S REPORT 2019

2019 was another successful year for our branch. We raised a total of £451.50 for Mothers Union Charities. We were able to give £300 to the Deanery for local charities and £96.50 to the Make a Mother's Day charity. Thank you again to all members of St Margaret's church for supporting our raffles so generously. A copy of the accounts spreadsheet is pinned to the Mothers Union noticeboard.

Mary Simmons  
Treasurer

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**OUR DAILY BREAD**

**APRIL 2020**

**'April showers bring May flowers. A popular rhyme: we now leave April behind but let us give thanks to God for the March winds and the April showers as we look forward to the May flowers remembering that these come from our Lord for the beauty of creation.'**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>**

Don't walk behind me, I may not be a good leader. Don't walk in front of me, I may not be able to follow. Just walk beside me, as my best friend for life.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

May we learn from each other how to give, how to receive, how, in joy, to celebrate and how, in pain, to grieve; how to fight for what is right yet not do any wrong; how to be the family to which we all belong.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

It brings such peace to think that Jesus never leaves us. "When I awake, I am still with You." **Psalm 139: 18**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>**

Be thou a bright flame before me, be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be thou a smoothly path below me, be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today, tonight, and for ever. Amen. **St. Columba.**

## Psalm this week 119: 1-24

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>



The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" **John 12:12-13**

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup>

Lord keep us safe this night, secure from all our fears; may angels guard us while we sleep, 'til morning light appears.

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

When it comes to faith – more is always better

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. **John 13:1b**. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. **John 13:12a**

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>

**MAUNDY THURSDAY: Jesus:** Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me "Teacher" and "Lord," and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **John 13:12b-14, 34**

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup>



**GOOD FRIDAY:** "Surely this man was the Son of God!" **Mark 15: 39**  
Dear Jesus, I can't begin to thank You enough for taking care of my sin when You died on the cross. I acknowledge Your sacrifice, and I believe in the power of Your resurrection. **The cross of Christ reveals our sin at its worst and God's love at its best.**

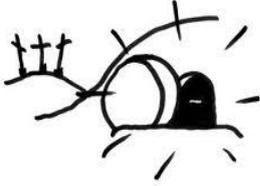
### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>

Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins, have mercy on us and help us to extend mercy and love to others. Show us how we might share Your love with others today. **Jesus was the perfect sacrifice who dies to give us life.**

## Psalm this week 119: 25-40

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

#### EASTER DAY – REJOICE THE LORD IS RISEN!



But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said! Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.’ See, I have told you.” **Matthew 28: 5-7**

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup>

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” **John 14: 6**

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

Come into my soul, Lord, as the dawn breaks into the sky; let your sun rise in my heart at the coming of the day.

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

God will show us the way, because that’s what good shepherds do. “He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” **Psalm 23: 2-3.**

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

We pray for those for whom today is like the windswept mountain: give them comfort. We pray for those for whom today is like a stormy sea: give them calm.

We pray for those for whom today is like the darkest night: give them hope.  
Amen

### **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Yesterday dissolved like spring-time snow and suddenly the world was full of hope and possibilities.

**Psalm this week 119: 41-64**

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. **Galatians 6:10**

### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Jesus answered, "All those who drink this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring which will provide him with life-giving water and give him eternal life". **John 4: 13-14.**

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

May we learn from each other how to give, how to receive, how, in joy, to celebrate and how, in pain, to grieve; how to fight for what is right yet not do any wrong; how to be the family to which we all belong.

### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord! **Psalm 84:1**

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**St. George's Day** - God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection. Amen

### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup>**

Love is giving, not taking, mending or breaking, trusting, believing, never deceiving, patiently bearing and faithfully sharing each joy, every sorrow, today and tomorrow.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Mark the Evangelist** - Almighty God, who enlightened your holy Church through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark: grant that we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the gospel, may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed. Amen

**Psalm this week 119: 65-80**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**

God has blessed you. **Deuteronomy 2:7**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Dear God, guard our friendships, encourage us, inspire us, strengthen us, and remember us that we may encourage, inspire, strengthen and remember one another. **Amen**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Lord is my light and my salvation.....whom shall I fear? **Psalm 27: 1**

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>**

God grows fragrant flowers of hope in the ashes of any loss.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>**

Human loyalty will reach up from the earth, and God's righteousness will look down from heaven. The Lord will make us prosperous, and our land will produce rich harvests. **Psalm 85: 11,12**

**In the rush and noise of life, as you have intervals, step within yourselves and be still. Wait upon God and feel his good presence; this will carry you through your day's business William Penn**

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SUNDAY HEALING ROTA *if church services resume*  
19 April 2020                      Ray                      Judith

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**Maggie's Music Makers**

For fairly obvious reasons, we are not meeting at present. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will resume weekly singing practices every Wednesday in church from 5.30-6.30pm.

Articles for future editions of our parish magazine should be emailed as an attachment (Word doc, A4, portrait, no columns) to [stmargaretsprestwich@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretsprestwich@gmail.com) no later than:

May magazine	26 April
June Magazine	24 May
July Magazine	28 June

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Large print version of the magazine. We are planning to produce a larger print version of the magazine. If text this size easier for you to read, let whoever brings your magazine know.

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#### **Simple Lenten Activities that can be done indoors**

Give up something as a family – and donate the money you save to a Lent charity

Donate an article every day – and fill a bag for donation to your favourite charity

Build a Lenten Cross – similar to an Advent Wreath, you light a candle every evening during dinner for the entire Lent season

Read Easter books

Read a bit of the Bible everyday with a family member

Make a Lamb of God mobile or toy

Make a Prayer Chain – a simple paper chain with a prayer written on each of the 40 links, remove one and read it every day

Take part in 40 Acts of Kindness (or 40 Acts of Kindness for Kids) – google to get links to this

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## And finally... SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE

### How well do you know the Bible?

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

*Noah: he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.*

What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?

*Ruth-less*

What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

*David's triumph was heard throughout the land.*

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

*Samson: he brough the house down.*

Which person was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

*Moses. Because he broke all ten commandments at once.*

Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

*When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.*

Which character in the Bible had no parents?

*Joshua, son of Nun.*

Why didn't Noah go fishing?

*He only had two worms.*

### FAMILY FORTUNES

Do you remember the TV programme 'Family Fortunes'? Here are some **actual** answers given by contestants.

Q: Name an occupation where you need a torch.

*A: Burglar.*

Q. Name a famous brother and sister.

*A: Bonnie and Clyde.*

Q: Name something that floats in the bath.

A: *Water.*

Q. Name something red.

A. *My cardigan*

Q: Name something that flies but has no wings.

A. *A bicycle with wings.*

Q. Name a famous bridge.

A. *A bridge over troubled waters.*

Q. Name something you do in the bathroom.

A. *Decorate*

Q. Name something slippery.

A *conman*

Q. Name something with a hole in it.

A. *A window.*

Q. Name a non-living object with legs.

A. *A plant*

Q. Name a part of the body beginning with 'N'.

A. *Knee*

Q. *Name something you open other than a door.*

A. Your bowels.

Do you have 'something that can make us smile' that can go in the next magazine?

