

Prayer Focus this week:

Each Day at 6pm try praying for 15min.

To aid this read John 20.19-31 How can we face our doubt, believe and be a sent people.

- Dudley Deanery Rural Dean: Dominic Melville Lay Chair: Anne Penn. Blackburn: Bishop Julian Henderson with Bishops Jill Duff (Lancaster), Philip North (Burnley) The Church of Ireland: Vacant Brechin (Scotland): Bishop Andrew Swift The Lutheran Church in Great Britain: Bishop Tor Berger Jørgensen
- We pray for those in cramped or tense situations, Lord may you bless them.
- Pray for our leaders, national, local and church leaders as they seek to find the best ways forward in these unprecedented times.
- We pray for our young people that they can find things to occupy themselves in helpful ways.
- With FWW: We pray for all worried about their employment situation and for the self-employed that government help may be forthcoming promptly.
- Pray for all directly affected by the Coronavirus and the scientists trying to find a treatment / cure.
- Pray for all NHS staff as they are put under even more pressure.
- Help everyone to remember our neighbours who may need extra support at this time.
- With many care homes now restricting visiting pray for those in care.

This Week at St Stephen's:

Morning prayer will be streamed online Monday-Saturday.

We stream services at 10.30am and 4pm on Sunday's.

Night Prayer is streamed daily by The Bridge ay 9pm.

See thebridgeredditch.co.uk/live-streaming-services

Visit the [Holy Trinity Redditch YouTube](#) channel (simply enter the channel name into Google). Please do subscribe to the channel.

This Week's Readings (Psalm in brackets)

Mon: Exodus 15.1-21, Col. 1.1-14 (2, 19)

Tue: Exodus 15.22-16.10, Col. 1.15-end (8,20)

Wed: Exodus 16.11-end, Col. 2.1-15 (16,30)

Thu: (St George's Day)

Joshua 1.1-9, Ephesians 6.10-20 (5, 146)

Fri: Exodus 18.1-12, Col. 3.12-4.1 (57,61)

Sat: (St Mark)

Isaiah 62.6-10, Acts 12.25-13.13
(37.23-41, 148)

Information Regarding aid for those in immediate need can be found in the hlytrinityredditch.org.uk website.

Keep Safe – Be Blessed – Be a Blessing.



St Stephen's and St David's Redditch Holy Trinity Team

www.holytrinityredditch.org.uk

www.ststephensredditch.com

www.faithatwork.org.uk

Vicar: Revd. Paul Lawlor. 01527 62375

Team Rector: Revd. Richard Clark

Sunday 19th March 2020 Easter 2

We are in unprecedented times for the nations, the world and the church. We are working to "be Church" in the current circumstances

Public Worship remains Suspended until further notice. There is no access to our churches or churchyards. Very occasional visits by a single representative are being made to ensure the building is safe etc. No external general maintenance is being undertaken.

We encourage everyone to follow the Government guidance to Stay at Home, except for exercise once a day, for essential work or medical reasons or to go shopping for essentials.

Sunday Readings

Acts 2.14a,22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1.3-9

John 20.19-31

Collect

Almighty Father,

you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In our Prayers this week:

We ask for comfort and healing for those who are sick: All impacted by the Covid-19 virus, and from our community: Adrian, Yvonne, Joan, Mandy, Barry, Nick, Eileen, Toni, Noel, Jean and Steven.

We ask for strength and peace for the families of those recently deceased: We pray for all those grieving in a time when how we mark our loved one's passing is restricted.

Things we thought could never happen - A Message for Easter 2020

Who would ever have thought that we would be approaching Easter weekend with shops and businesses closed? Churches shut up, no In Real Life services taking place, schools not only closed for the Easter vacation but shut for, who knows how long.

Who would ever have thought that we would find ourselves in a time such as the one we are living now? I hope and pray that you, and those you love, are keeping safe and well. I pray too that jobs will be kept safe and that those still working in essential services are protected for this virus, which is no respecter of age, or seemingly, anything else for that matter.

Who would ever have thought we would spend an Easter weekend all shut away in our homes to keep us and others safe from a microorganism?

But rather than being locked away out of fear, I pray that we can be a people of hope.

In Jerusalem some 2000 years ago the followers of Jesus were locked away in an upper room out of fear. Not fear of a virus, but, fear of other people. Jesus had been crucified on Friday; they were afraid they would be next. They waited through the Sabbath, early on Sunday morning the women went to Jesus' tomb to wash his body.

Whoever would have thought...Whoever would have thought the body would not be there – guarded as it was?

Mary stood weeping at the tomb. Where have they taken him?

Whoever would have thought...that Jesus would appear In Real Life to her in that moment, speaking her name.

Whoever would have thought that a man could rise from the dead. That is the foundation of the Christian faith. That God, in Jesus, died and rose again. This to assure us of His love for us and to show that we can have hope for the future in Him and through Him.

In the time we find ourselves, please do keep on doing the practical stuff. Follow the advice we are getting from those striving to do the best for us, here and across the world. Pray for them, give thanks for them.

But, let us also look to what it is to be human to be able to meet In Real Life, to share and cooperate in activity.

Let us take time to look at the greater picture. What does this time say about what really is possible? Can we look to the future with hope and ambition, that future generations might say of us, practically and spiritually

Who would have thought...

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Paul Easter 2020