

News from St. Mary's – 21st March 2020

Church is changing, but it is not closed.



This Sunday is Mothering Sunday, a day when we remember our mothers, fathers, stepmothers and carers to name but a few of the special people we want to show we care about.

This year we will not be able to get together in church and because of health restrictions you may not be able to meet together as families.

We cannot meet in our churches as services and gatherings cannot go ahead but we will still bundle up bunches of daffodils for you to collect for someone important to you. Normally these would be given out but as we are not able to distribute them ourselves, we would hope you will come and take a bunch yourselves.

This Mothering Sunday, the Archbishop of Canterbury will lead a national broadcast on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship and 39 local BBC radio stations. The service will include prayers, hymns and a short sermon. The service will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship at 08.10 am and all local radio stations in England at 8:00.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer. At 7:00 pm on Sunday, we are asked to light a candle in the windows of our homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer, the light that cannot be extinguished. I will be doing so and also lighting a candle in the church whilst praying for all those vulnerable people.

As you light your candle, please pray for all in leadership at this time, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions. I will light a candle at this time every day and you may wish to join me at that time when I shall be saying the service of late evening prayer. You can find this online at the Church of England Web site <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> or can download the app from <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/daily-prayer> for your smartphone or iPad. I will also still be carrying out Morning Prayer at 08:30 each day but especially as we did on a Saturday morning, but not in church.

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Thank you, God, for the love of our mothers:
thank you, God, for their care and concern;
thank you, God, for the joys they have shared with us;
thank you, God, for the pains they have borne for us;
thank you, God, for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

And a Blessing

Praise God who loves us.
All Praise God who cares.
May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:
May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.
May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.

On a more practical note the Foodbanks that we as a church have been supporting for over two years are really struggling to meet the increased demand from those in greatest need. There is a box available at the back of Church for any donations to the Food Bank, we are supporting through our churches those in Shipston and Coventry. They especially need:

Tinned meat/fish, cooking sauces, tinned tomatoes, beans, vegetables dried (not fresh) pasta & rice, UHT milk, Coffee, Custard, Fruit, Milk, Puddings, Rice Pudding, Soup tins & packet, Sugar, Shower Gel, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste & Anti-perspirant, nappies, sanitary products, soap, soap powder, toilet rolls the list goes on but these are the primary items.

If you could possibly help by purchasing just one extra item each week on top of your usual shopping this would really help families which are much less fortunate than ourselves. We have been asked that all food items have use by or best before by dates which have as long a shelf life as possible. **Many thanks for your kind support.**

Could you please let me know you have received this by responding to revgeorgeh@outlook.com. If you would prefer not to receive future mails, please similarly email revgeorgeh@outlook.com

Suggestions about what should be included in the newsletter will be welcome.

If you can think of anyone else who would like to receive newsletters from St Mary's, please let me know, or share this one.

I'm not able to share the email names with you due to GDPR regulations so if you chat to neighbours or friends and they haven't received it but might like to do so please ask them to email me.

If you know anyone who does not use email then please let me have their phone number and address if they wish to be contacted and we will make additional arrangements.

If you know anyone who needs a visit, or prayer or support, please contact me on 01295 680201 or email revgeorgeh@outlook.com

Finally stay healthy and as a professor from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has written:-

'Don't think about changing your behaviour so you won't get it. Think about changing your behaviour so you don't give it to anyone else.'

Blessings,

George

Rev. George Heighton

Vicar of Brailes, Rector of Sutton-under-Brailes, Priest in charge of Tysoe, Oxhill & Whatcote

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