

NewsLink

18th May –25th May 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages



LORD hear our prayer

Sabeel, Wave of Prayer.

I found this image of hands lifted up in supplication from Sabeel's Wave of Prayer very moving....

This week we experience the beginning of a very slow release from lockdown but very little has changed for us yet as the church.

Yes, as you will have heard, I can now enter our churches to pray alone and to streamline services alone or with my immediate family present to help. However, there are health and safety guidelines to be considered before that happens so for now, our churches remain closed.

We continue supporting each other, grateful for technology that enables us to communicate, and grateful for a slight relaxation of the rules governing our exercise and travel, and the opportunity for some to actually meet a friend, a family member or perhaps a grandchild whom we have been missing.

We will all gather again one day and I certainly look forward to that time. In the meantime, we need to hold each other in our hearts and prayers and keep people safe and well as we play our part in fending off the virus.

The Easter Pilgrim daily reflections have been focusing on the words of the Lord's Prayer and I discovered this prayer that picks up on the theme on 'may your will be done.....'

A prayer based on a passage from Luke's Gospel.

Luke 24:44-53

Lord Jesus Christ, in you we see awesome power. You triumph over death and bring forth new life. You stand over all earthly powers. You are the head of the church. Yet, we often fail to acknowledge this power in our lives.

We see violence in the world.

We see injustice in our communities.

We see hunger and need among our neighbours.

We see longing for something more.

We see failures and faults in our lives.

In all these things, we feel powerless.

Forgive our hesitance to call upon you.

Forgive our propensity to rely upon ourselves.

Forgive our reluctance to acknowledge your power.

Speak your words of power again.

May your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Thy Kingdom Come 2020 will be rather different this year but let's see how we can be involved.

There are plenty of ideas on the website

www.thykingdomcome.global. To start us

thinking here are some of their suggestions for us to be involved in between Ascension Day and Pentecost.



Here are five, easy, accessible ways for our churches to do TKC this year:

Prayer and Care

As we pray for those we know and love to become followers of Jesus, how could we demonstrate this also in deed (in keeping with social distancing guidelines in respective countries?)

24/7 Prayer / Continuous Prayer

Why not consider hosting a continuous virtual prayer event? It could be held for 24/1, 24/7 or 240 hours of prayer 24/10! You may wish to connect with other churches locally from different denominations or even connect with churches in different parts of the world. For example, if you are a church based in the UK, could you team up with a church based in Australia and take it in turns to do continuous prayer – 12-hour shift patterns?

Pray Together at regular times

Praying for people to come to know the love, hope and peace found in Christ is at the heart of Thy Kingdom Come. Could we all commit to saying the Lord's Prayer at a particular time of day.

Light up the World in Prayer

Jesus Christ is the light of the world and we are called to be the light of the world as we bear His image.

Could you encourage as many Christians as possible in your town or village to commit to lighting up the world in prayer during these 11 days?

On the Thy Kingdom Come website, there is a 'Light up the world' in prayer section with a whole suite of resources to equip you / your church to encourage others to pray and shine their light.

Digital resources

We have a number of digital resources to equip churches to participate in Thy Kingdom Come.

This includes the [Prayer Journal](#) with reflections, Bible verses and actions, particularly suitable for young people, and the [Family Prayer Adventure Map](#) - which includes additional Augmented Reality bonus features that can be accessed through a new bespoke Family Prayer Adventure app.

The award-winning Thy Kingdom Come app, will also be available in May, in 6 languages.

More about this next week from the ministry team but do explore the website. There are many creative ideas to explore.

Stay safe, stay well and God bless you
Ann, Rector

Benefice Online Service and Resources

The link to this Sunday's service, 'God's promises to us' is now available below. This will take you to the Benefice Youtube channel <https://youtu.be/SSFil47Sw64>

It will also be available on the Benefice Website www.nboachurches.co.uk

Each week we will also publish your photos, Bible verses that have spoken to you, reflections and poems in Newslink or on the website. So please do send these to Ann Keating by the Thursday of each week.

If you know someone who can not access Newslink online and who would prefer a hard copy, please send their name and postal address to Ann Keating. We will post a copy to them by Royal Mail in keeping with the C of E guidelines for safe distribution.

Funeral

Heather Amery, former family connections at Turleigh
Date: 21 May at 13.00, Haycombe Crematorium
Tessa will be taking this

And sadly.....

Many residents in South Wraxall will remember Diana Shaw Stewart, formerly Young, of South Wraxall Lodge. Sadly her son James Young died in Somalia and the family are arranging for him to be interred in our churchyard where his father Simon and brother Mark are buried.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

A poem sent in by Bob Williams written 18 years ago by Michael Rosen to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the NHS. Particularly poignant & relevant today.....

These are the hands

These are the hands
That touch us first
Feel your head
Find the pulse
And make your bed.
These are the hands
That tap your back
Test the skin
Hold your arm
Wheel the bin
Change the bulb
Fix the drip
Pour the jug
Replace your hip.

These are the hands
That fill the bath
Mop the floor
Flick the switch
Soothe the sore
Burn the swabs
Give us a jab
Throw out sharps
Design the lab.
And these are the hands
That stop the leaks
Empty the pan
Wipe the pipes
Carry the can
Clamp the veins
Make the cast
Log the dose
And touch us last.

Inspirational songs on Youtube...

Please pass this on to children or grandchildren. It's a song full of hope!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=GAVCHH6ZO2s&feature=emb_logo

And from Daphne Cox:

<https://youtu.be/3O0phIqGkiM>

This was initially sent by a friend in Cornwall, it has been timely and already used in our area.

Reflections on Covid-19. From Revd Bernard Hughes

Bernard has sent in an interesting reflection on his experiences as a hospital chaplain when the AIDS epidemic started and comparisons with the COVID pandemic now. Unfortunately it is too long to reproduce in full here but you can read it on the Resource section of the Benefice website www.nboachurches.co.uk

Christ Church Plant Stall from Gillian Ellis-King

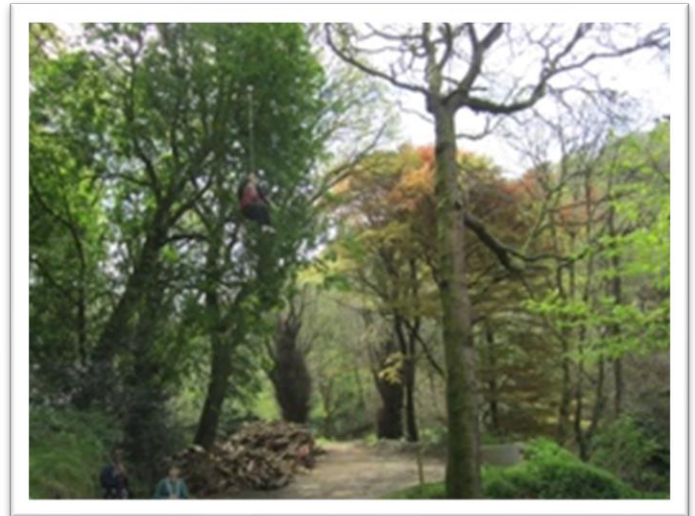
Thank you so much to all who have supported our email/.phone Plant Stall and delivery service!! We have also had lots of socially distanced customers at our 'farm gate' stall on Newtown/Belcombe. We have so far raised a very grand total of £615 for the Future for Christ Church community project 😊 And have also had a lot of supportive comments about the proposed project too 😊 There may be some more plants to come once it warms up again. Gillian 866503.



Lee Abbey

This weekend should have been our Benefice Retreat at Lee Abbey, but sadly we are unable to gather there due to the lockdown but here are some happy memories of our lovely stay last year. Thank you to Denise Davies, Ann and Daphne for sharing their photographs.

If you have any written reflections of your time there last year please do send them to Ann for inclusion next month.



Who is this on the zip wire?



Some of us will recall the prayer *Disturb us Lord*. This is a prayer that Denise Leigh often returns to and the following Rilke prayer, *The Perfect Medicine*, for her, says the same thing as *Disturb us Lord*....., but differently. See what you think.....

Prayer: Disturb us Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

The Perfect Medicine

You see, I want a lot.
Maybe I want it all:
the darkness of each endless fall,
the shimmering light of each ascent.

So many are alive who don't seem to care.
Casual, easy, they move in the world
as though untouched.

But you take pleasure in the faces
of those who know they thirst.
You cherish those
who grip you for survival.

You are not dead yet, it's not too late
to open your depths by plunging into them
and drink in the life
that reveals itself quietly there.

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Do check the website as resources are added regularly and check Instagram and Facebook for all our latest news.

Sent in by Stephen Pike

The text on the church notice board read:
"WHAT IS HELL LIKE?"

underneath were the words
"COME AND HEAR OUR CHOIR"

From the Church Times

