

Dear Friends

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.' (Psalm 46.1, NIV)

I don't know how life is feeling for you and your family, but for Andy and I it's begun to feel like we've settled into a new normal and we've developed new routines and ways of working.

Personally, I've found it very helpful to reflect on this experience in the light of the Easter story, and particularly the Bible's numerous accounts of the disciples having to reframe their understanding of what life is all about as they moved through what we now call Holy Week and beyond, adjusting to their own 'new normal'.

As church, we are adjusting to this current 'new normal' and it's been heartening to see many of you at our weekly Zoom service and coffee morning.

### **Worship**

Our weekly worship takes place via Zoom every Sunday at 10.30am.

This week's order of service is attached. As you will see, it is very similar to last week's (except the Collect and hymn are updated). I am also attaching the Collect and hymn as a separate doc for those who just want the updated parts.

Please click on the following link to access and join this Sunday's service:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83470866153?pwd=bGVNZ3lIQ2l4cTlVeGVxVkVPaW4wQT09>

Meeting ID: 834 7086 6153

Password: 017419

Worshipping in this way won't be everyone's cup of tea and so I highlight below, the religious broadcasts on the BBC this coming week.

### **TELEVISION:**

**Sunday 10.45am** (BBC1) ***Sunday Worship*** A service from Hereford Cathedral, filmed before the closure of church buildings.

**1.15pm** (BBC1) ***Songs of Praise*** Sean Fletcher looks back on journeys to ancient and sacred places of pilgrimage.

### **RADIO:**

**Sunday 8.10am** (R4) ***Sunday Worship*** Professor Jennifer Strawbridge, of Mansfield College, Oxford, and the Revd Dr Steve Nolan, a hospice chaplain, reflect on where to find hope in times of despair.

**3pm (R3) *Choral Evensong*** A repeat of last week's archive recording from Royal Holloway, University of London, first broadcast on 7 April 2010.

**11.30pm (R3) *Slow Radio: The cathedral*** The sounds of Durham Cathedral recorded in a single day (repeat).

**Tuesday 9am (R4) *The Life Scientific*** Jim Al-Khalili and the physicist Brian Greene discuss the composition of the universe, and the end of time (1/8).

**Wednesday 3.30pm (R3) *Choral Evensong*** An archive recording from St John's College, Cambridge, first broadcast on 2 May 2018.

The following free resources, complimenting this Sunday's lectionary themes are available from Roots on the web:

For adults

[www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome3may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome3may)

For families

[www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome3may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome3may)

### **WhatsApp Prayer Group**

Please do think about joining with others to form a small prayer group – you can meet for free using WhatsApp or Zoom. We have created two groups and they are an ideal way to meet together informally to share prayer together and offer encouragement and support to each other.

If you would like to be a part of a group, please email me and we will set up some more groups.

Remember the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:11 *“Therefore **encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.**”*

### **Bible Study Group**

Our online Bible Study Group continues on Thursday evenings (via Zoom) using the Bible Society's 'Bible Course'.

If you would prefer to join a daytime group, please let me know and I will set one up.

### **Pastoral Support**

**'Elevenses on Tuesday'** – a coffee morning every Tuesday morning at 11am by Zoom. Make your coffee, bring your cake (not obligatory!) and get comfy on the sofa. Dial in to Zoom by clicking on the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81604801282?pwd=eENQbJXbSs4dkF4TjYxQjd4REJNQTO9>

Meeting ID: 816 0480 1282

Password: 061945

We are continuing to try to ensure that congregation members receive a phone call every few days from one of our church leadership teams. Should you wish for specific spiritual support then please do be in touch with either me (my details are below) or John Le Page on 257436.

### **Looking ahead to Liberation Day**

You may well have seen the programme for Liberation Day which was published earlier this week. The Liberation Day Church Service takes place at 11.00am and is led by the Very Reverend Tim Barker, Dean of Guernsey. Hymns and prayers will be published in the Guernsey Press on May 7<sup>th</sup> and a full Order of Service can be found at [www.liberationday.gg](http://www.liberationday.gg). The service is being broad cast on BBC Radio Guernsey and on Facebook.com/LiberationGSY and [www.liberationday.gg](http://www.liberationday.gg).

It would be lovely if people could decorate their homes and front gardens with bunting and flags. Please send us photos of your decorations taken on Liberation Day and we will put them on the website.

### **An Easter Reflection on John 21.1-14**

*"Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

*Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.*

*He called out to them, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?'*

*'No,' they answered.*

*He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.*

*Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred metres. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.*

*Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead."*

Peter had wept bitterly when Jesus came out of the High Priest's house that dreadful night. From that moment Peter had to deal with the awareness that he was not the man he thought he was. Now Mary, Thomas, and the two on the road to Emmaus had experienced

personal times with the risen Christ but Peter, who had been part of an inner circle closer to Jesus, was left with his feelings of failure. Coming face to face with the one he had failed would have been painful.

But it was therapeutic and healing. There was reassurance and recommissioning; failure had not led to distrust. If anything, the realisation of his human weakness had created a new and precious bond between the man and his Saviour.

### Response

#### *You and God*

Find a quiet place and time. Read John 21 again and try to imagine that you are Peter.

- What are you thinking and feeling when he jumps out of the boat, when he sits and thinks while eating, and when he walks and listens to Jesus?
- Try to be honest with God about your failures but realise God's love for you is as strong as ever, and with him there is forgiveness.
- Give thanks for the opportunity to serve him today.
- Are there unfulfilled promises that even now could be picked up?

#### *You and others*

Contact at least five people today to encourage them, especially if they are finding it difficult to cope with the present restrictions. Could you pray with them briefly on the phone? Is there anything that you could do for them?

### Prayer

Lord you know me – who I really am – and yet you love me and died for me.  
Save me from dwelling on the times I have failed you. I welcome your forgiveness.  
Help me to realise that there is a specific work to which you have called me.  
Take me as I am, I can come no other way.  
Make me what you want me to be: ready to do your will.  
Amen

### **And Finally...**

If you need something to lift you – try watching this:

## *Blooming Beautiful!*

Whilst Trentham Gardens, in Stoke-on-Trent, can't permit visitors at the moment they wanted to ensure no one missed out on their stunning Spring Bulb Festival.

So they've put together a virtual tour for you to enjoy at home, [click here to visit their display now!](#)



Don't forget, 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.' (Psalm 46.1, NIV)"

God bless  
Gill  
Revd Gill Nobes  
Rector of St. Sampson

1 May 2020

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