**Community Notices**

**Black Bin Café: (the same day as black rubbish bins are emptied)**

This is held in Pen Selwood Village Hall every other Friday from 10.30am to 12 midday. If you have not visited this then please do go along. It is a wonderful social event and well worth a visit. **POSTPONED**

**Wincanton & District Gardener’s Association** are holding a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 28th March** in **The Memorial Hall Sun Lounge** from **10am-12:00 noon.** Books, cakes, raffle, plants. Come and support your local Gardening Club and enjoy a fun social morning! All welcome. **CANCELLED**

**Jumble Sale** in aid of St Michael’s Church, Pen Selwood, will be held in Pen Selwood Village Hall on **Saturday, 28th March** at **2pm - 4pm**. Jumble, white elephant, raffle, cakes & produce. Everybody welcome! **POSTPONED**

** Prayer Diary**

**From today’s readings:** “‘Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.’.”

**Prayer Chain:** If you would like immediate prayers for yourself or someone you know please contact one of the following (requests passed in confidence): Penny Ashton 33990 or Judy Chiplen 33834. If you wish to join the prayer chain, contact Judy 33834.

**Please continue to pray for** those of our fellowship and friends whoare ill or recovering from operations: Mollie Carr, Ann Madeley, Elizabeth Vivyan, Derek Ayers, June and Steve Beech, Gill Oaten, Valerie and Jeffrey Lee, Margaret Brown, Francis Dukes, Rebecca Legg, Ben Legg, Sam (Gill Oaten’s Great Great Nephew), Diana Paley, Mavis Paley, Anne Phillips, Brian Phillips, John Cother, Ben Sams, Robin Wickenden, Kevin, Sally and for their carers.

**Please remember** the long-term sick; the housebound & their carers.

**Please pray for those who grieve, and for the departed:** Ern Oaten

We pray for Wincanton Health Centre, for the staff in their work pressures.

*Parish Office Hours: Tues, Thurs & Fri: 9.15am - 1.15pm 38 High Street, Wincanton BA9 9JF. Tel: (01963) 824503*

*All items, for the Newsletter, to the Parish Office by 5pm Thursday at the latest. Email:* *office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk*

*The Parish Churches of St. Peter & St. Paul, Wincanton*

*and St. Michael, Pen Selwood*

**

 Parish Office: 01963 824503

Church website: [www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk)

 March 22nd 2020 4th Sunday of Lent

 ***Mothering Sunday***

Dear Friends

I heard from our archbishops earlier this week that “Public worship will have to stop for a season” in keeping with the measures to combat Coronavirus in our country. This means our usual pattern of Sunday services must be put on hold. Both our church buildings (St Michael’s in Pen Selwood and St Peter and St Paul in Wincanton) will be remaining open in the day-time, from 9am - 3:30pm in Wincanton and 9:30am - 4pm in Pen Selwood, and I do encourage you to use them for private prayer within the confines of the guidance from the Government on social isolating.

I have been compiling an ‘email’ and phone/address list over the past few days, which we will be using to keep in touch. This will primarily be by email or phone if you don’t have an email. If you do want to be added to that get in touch with Rachel in the office asap. The emails will include some recommendations for daily prayer and sources of worship on the radio and online.

On Saturday I will post on [www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk) some reflections to use on Sunday. It is also hoped Sunday can be a day of prayer and action, and I particularly recommend lighting a candle in your window and praying at 7pm, as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.

Very sadly we have had to alter the plans for Ern Oaten’s funeral on Friday 27th March, there will now be a private committal. We will be holding a Memorial Service in St Peter and St Paul in due course. Please keep Gill and her family in your prayers.

If you would like to be added to the church list of practical helpers to get shopping for people who are currently isolating get in touch with me – likewise if you need shopping doing please do the same.

These are unprecedented and challenging times, keep firm in your faith… It says in 1 Corinthians 13:7, “God’s love for us - bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” I am praying that as we abide in God’s love for us we are also channels of that love to others. Finally I was saying in Church last week – praying is really important and something we can always do.

With love in Christ, Alison

**Readings: Samuel 1: 20-end John 19: 25b-27**

**Readings for 29th March: Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 11:1-45**

***Please take a copy of this newsletter to a friend or neighbour who is not in church today so that they may keep in touch with events. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, or would like it posted to you, please let Rachel in the office know on 01963 824503 or email*** ***office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk***

**Quote of the Week:** “With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.”

 **Eleanor Roosevelt**

#### Church Diary

Mon 23rd March 9:00am Tiny Church POSTPONED

Tues 24th March 7:30pm Bell Ringing practice POSTPONED

Thur 26th March 7:30pm Choir Practice POSTPONED

***These events may be subject to alteration/cancellation due to Government guidelines.***

#### Church Notices

**Electoral Roll -** The revised Church Electoral Roll will be adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting.  If any member of the congregation not currently on the roll would like to be included, please complete an application form. Forms are available at the back of the Church and in the Parish Office.  Completed forms should be returned either to the Parish Office or to Rosemary Keep, the Electoral Roll Officer, by Monday 23rd March. For any further information, please contact either Rachel at the Parish Office (01963 824503) or Rosemary Keep (01963 33656).

**APCM Wincanton Annual Reports** - Annual reports for the APCM are now due. Please can those who compile a report, forward it to Rachel at the Parish Office by **Tuesday, 31st March**, to ensure everything is in place in good time, for subsequent distribution. **Thank you, Richard D’Arcy.** office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk.

**Churchfields Toilets** are now closed until further notice, for your information.

**Churchwarden Judy Chiplen** will not be standing for Churchwarden at the APCM. If you, or someone you know, would like to take on this role please talk to Alison, Richard or Judy for more information. Please note as a Churchwarden you do not need to be in church every Sunday, there is an excellent support group.

**Diary Dates:**

**\*\*Please Note these events may be subject to alteration/cancellation\*\***

28th March Jumble Sale in Pen Selwood Village Hall 2pm - 4pm. Jumble, cakes, raffle, white elephant, cakes and produce. **POSTPONED**.

4th April Cheese & Wine evening to say “thank you” to our covering clergy and all those who have given their support during our interregnum. Everybody is warmly invited to attend on Saturday 4th April at 7pm in St Peter & St Paul’s Church. **POSTPONED**

18th April Coffee Morning in the Sun Lounge, Memorial Hall at 10:00am followed by the APCM at 11:45am. All welcome. **POSTPONED**

**Lent Lunches -** are unfortunately cancelled due to current Government recommendations.

**Lent Study -** is unfortunately cancelled due to the current Government recommendations

**Lent Boxes** are at the back of Wincanton Church for you to take and return on Easter Sunday. All money raised from these boxes will go to our Zambia link Church.

**Contact Pool -** as in past years, a double-draw was held on 11th March to determine the winners of Contact Pool for January and February: **January -** 1st Mrs P Cooper (No.12), 2nd Mrs Dani Wood (No.44), 3rd Mr John Beaven (No.68) **February -** 1st Mrs Ruby Gorry (No.42), 2nd Mrs Rachel Feltham (No.71), 3rd Mrs Rosemary Keep (No.73) **Congratulations! Joanna Durham-Matthews.**

**Church events** - for the foreseeable future are unfortunately postponed, this includes Coffee Mornings, Concerts, Cheese and Wine evening, and the Flower Festival.  **Sincere apologies from the Fundraising Committee.**

**Update Emails -** The Parish Office will be emailing a church update frequently, which you may already be receiving. If you are not receiving these update emails, please let Rachel know your email address and you will be added to the circulation list. If you do **not** wish to receive these emails, please let Rachel know and your details will be removed.

Anybody wishing to continue their donations to the church during this time of suspended Sunday worship, can still do so by using the yellow gift aid envelopes or green envelopes and posting them through the Parish Office letterbox. Alternatively you can donate directly to the church via bank transfer, please contact Rachel in the Parish Office if you would like the account details.

**Contact Details for Rev Alison Way -** Please note my contact details are as follows:

Address: Dorset Heights, Common Road, Wincanton, BA9 9HS

Landline: 01963 33151, Work mobile: 07515 958988

Email: rector@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk, Twitter: @revalisonway