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

*and St. Michael, Pen Selwood*

**

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

 March 29th 2020 5th Sunday of Lent

My Dear Friends

We live in very challenging times, and there has been more guidance from the National Church following the changes announced by our Prime Minister on Monday. The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

**Therefore as well as public worship being suspended, St Peter and St Paul Wincanton, St Michael’s Pen Selwood and all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed.** Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in the Church building currently.

I can be contacted on 01963 33151 or 07515 958988. Sadly use of the parish office has been suspended (we will be arranging to redirect that phone line to the Rectory but that is not working yet, so please don't leave phone messages on the office phone for now). Our Administrator, Rachel Feltham will be working from home so please use email to contact her: office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk. We will not be able to print as much as we normally do because of this, so please bear with us.

**It is important to keep our focus and our determination – to** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength... Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these”.

If you are on the email list you will get the newsletter and worship resources sent to you on Friday. On Saturday, I will post on [www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk) some reflections to use on Sunday in the posts area (so you can comment more readily).

On Sunday 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.

With sincere love in Christ, Alison

**Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 11:1-45**

**Readings for 5th April: Isaiah 51:4-9a Matthew 21:1-11**

***If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically please let Rachel know on*** ***office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk***

**Quote of the Week:** “**19**We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, **20**where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered,.” **Hebrews 6: 19-20a**

#### Church Diary

Mon 30th March 9:00am Tiny Church POSTPONED

Tues 31st March 7:30pm Bell Ringing practice POSTPONED

Thurs 2nd April 7:30pm Choir Practice POSTPONED

**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

#### Church Notices

**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.

As we cannot use the parish office currently - anybody wishing to continue their donations to the church during this time can donate directly to the church via bank transfer, please contact Rachel if you would like the account details.

**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**

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.

**Zambia Link - Update from Father Chrissy Mumba in Chingola -** “Dear Rosemary, Hope you are fine together with the entire family of God, back here we are fine. Have written to confirm that we received the money you sent to us through the Diocesan office. On behalf of the parish and on my own behalf I want to say thank you so much for the Love gift may the God lord bless you all richly. Yours in Christ Jesus, Fr Chrissy Mumba”. **Rosemary Keep.**

**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**

** Prayer Diary**

**From today’s readings:** “So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’.”

**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.

***During these times of social distancing and social isolation, Rachel will be working from home, and keeping us all in touch with each other via the weekly newsletter, and messages and updates from Alison. Please do continue to keep in touch.***