

**The United Benefice of the parishes of Melbourne,  
Smisby, Stanton by Bridge and Ticknall**



# **The Easter Bulletin**

*A weekly publication for the Benefice*

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Of Easter**

**Join us for livestreamed worship on our Facebook page  
(Melbourne Parish Church) Sunday at 10.30 am!**



Well, step forward Captain Tom Moore! Surely soon to be 'Sir Tom'? I'm sure many of us have marvelled at Captain Moore's incredible achievement completing 100 laps of his garden and raising over £18 million for the NHS as I write this and all at the age of 99.

Another nonagenarian Margaret Payne, 90, has been inspired by Captain Moore and now aims to climb the equivalent of Highland mountain Suilven - 731m (2,398ft) - with 282 trips upstairs at her Sutherland home. Incredible feats of endurance.

We now know that we have at least 3 more weeks of lock down to face. Even after this, we know that life will not swiftly return to anything approaching normal – there will instead, I believe, be a new 'normal' with redefined parameters recognising all that we have endured, experienced and learned.

We remain in the Easter season for a full 50 days, mercifully so. In the resurrection of Jesus we see God's new possibilities at work even in (and certainly through) the most terrible of times. In the story of the Emmaus Road, two disciples experienced Jesus quietly feeding them on their journey along the dusty road. He walks alongside them, challenges and affirms and all this when they don't even recognise him.

Jesus continues to walk alongside us even when we don't realise that he is so doing. As ever, then, with Christian discipleship and pilgrimage, it is about realising what we need to sustain us on our journey. In these lockdown times, that is particularly difficult but also an opportunity.

I was sent a copy of a prayer booklet with my Church Times earlier this week. It includes prayers for use during the coronavirus outbreak as well as a form of prayer for Morning Prayer and Night Prayer (I'm currently exploring how to order more copies). Copies can be downloaded at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Prayer%20Book%20Digital%202%20April.pdf>

and

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>

Morning Prayer and Night Prayer are wonderful opportunities for staying rooted and grounded in the love of God – of keeping moments of calm in any storm. I warmly encourage you to try these booklets and especially the forms of prayer for use in the morning and at night. If you've never tried praying like this on your own before, it sometimes takes a while to get used to but please do persist. Please know that, although *physically* we might be praying on our own, *spiritually* you can never pray on your own as prayer is about joining in with the worship of heaven which never ceases. Also, someone somewhere will always be praying.

Over the years, I've amassed a wide collection of music both ancient and modern and I often play a hymn or song at either the end or the beginning of prayer, or sometimes both. Lighting a candle (safely!) is another good way of marking that we are turning to prayer.

Archbishop Michael Ramsey in his book 'the Christian Priest Today', something of a timeless classic, writes that for a priest prayer is 'coming before God with the people on your heart'. This is what I do each and every day, praying for you the people of our benefice.

This Sunday morning we are trying something different in that we are having a 'Songs of Praise' format. If all goes well, we might try another one in the not too distant future. Watch this space!

Please continue to take care and to know that Christ is risen – He is risen indeed. Alleluia!!

Steve

### **Bishop Libby's Easter Message 2020:**

Alleluia is the Easter refrain: 'Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.' Alleluia means 'God be praised' – and it may not seem there is much to praise God for this morning.

But for Christians the Easter story is the ultimate reminder that love conquers all – that even death cannot defeat love. 'Alleluia' can be our song even, especially, in the midst of pain and uncertainty. For the Easter 'Alleluia' is never arrogant or overbearing, it's not blind to reality but deeply rooted in it. Easter day is only possible after Good Friday. The Easter story reminds us that love conquers all – and nothing, nothing, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus

Early in his ministry Jesus outlined the characteristics of the Kingdom of God, and those who seek that Kingdom, in words that we call 'the Beatitudes'. In them Jesus turned the world's understanding of what matters on its head, affirming the blessedness of those usually overlooked or scorned.

This week the cartoonist Dave Walker has rewritten the Beatitudes. You might like to write your own, but here are his:

*Blessed are those who stay indoors for they have protected others*

*Blessed are the unemployed and self-employed for their need of God is great*

*Blessed are the ... shopkeepers for they are the purveyors of scarce things*

*Blessed are the delivery drivers and the postal workers for they are the bringers of essential things*

*Blessed are the hospital workers, the ambulance crews, the doctors, the nurses, the care assistants and the cleaners for they stand between us and the rgave, and the Kingdom of heaven is surely theirs*

*Blessed are the checkout workers and factory workers for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration*

*Blessed are the refuse collectors for they will see God despite the mountains of waste*

*Blessed are the teachers for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times*

*Blessed are the church workers (and faith leaders) for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world as they continue to signpost towards God*

*Blessed are the single parents for they are coping alone with their responsibilities and there is no respite*

*Blessed are those who are alone, for they are children of God and with Him they will never be lonely*

*Blessed are the bereaved, for whom the worst has already happened: they shall be comforted*

*Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers for one day – we pray – they will know safety*

*Blessed are all during this time who have pure hearts; all who still hunger and thirst for justice; all who work for peace and model mercy.*

Today, I do praise God for the hope that Jesus' death and resurrection offers us all.

Today, I praise God for the signs of hope overcoming the pressures, limitations, and losses we currently face.

So, today, albeit quietly, I sing 'Alleluia'

- and pray for you the grace, mercy, and peace of the risen Jesus this Easter.

### **A message from Calcutta Cathedral Relief Services:**

#### **COVID-19 Crisis: Urgent Appeal:**

The Government lockdown in India, aimed at mitigating the spread of coronavirus, will have a devastating effect on those living in poverty in Kolkata's slums and the surrounding rural districts. Most people live from hand to mouth, earning meagre incomes by doing menial jobs or running small businesses such as tea stands. With these sources of income removed, whole families who are already living below the poverty line and in dire need, will be left without any livelihood, and the means to fend for themselves. In such circumstances, it is particularly the women and children in the communities who are most at risk.

CRS is working with the Diocese on a plan for the distribution of basic aid to those most in need in the 12 city slum areas in which CRS is engaged, and in the 36 Diocesan pastorates (parishes). The intention is to bring relief to 1600 families (about 8000 people in all) by distributing basic medical supplies, and staple foods ( such as rice, lentils, sugar, milk, oil).

CRS will use their own vehicles to distribute in the slum area, and distribution in the pastorates will be undertaken from the churches by the clergy and pastorate communities.

While it will not be possible to implement the aid programme until the government lock-down ends, CRS and the Diocese urgently need to raise funds now to be in a position to move when able to do so. The budget for the programme is approximately £11,500.

**Can you support this appeal?** If so, please send your donation to the Friends of CRS. The bank details are:

CAF Bank Ltd, **Sort Code 40-52-40. Account No: 00096998.**

**Account Name:** Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service (Please identify the purpose of your donation as "Covid 19 Appeal")

Thank you very much for your support. Right Reverend Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta, Mr Rig David, Director of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service, The Trustees of the Friends of CRS Enquiries to:

[secretary@friendsofcrs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofcrs.co.uk)

## **The Big Easter Evensong**

On Easter Sunday evening we would normally have had our own Choral Evensong at Melbourne. Obviously, that was not possible this year, but instead our Church Choir was at least able to join in with many other church choirs both nationally and internationally with a lovely initiative organised by The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). They provided music and learning materials beforehand to enable us to learn the music at home and then to join in a live stream of a service of Choral Evensong at 6.00p.m. Each part of the service was led by a selection of choirs who had assembled special, virtual performances of the music so, as we each joined in, we were supported in our efforts. We all found it incredibly inspiring and indeed moving to see there were over 1700 people listening in live and participating all at the same time. It was a marvellous feat to bring this all together and the RSCM provided something that was greatly appreciated by so many.

Do take a look at the service and sing along if you wish:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2Oo1tUSQos&feature=youtu.be>

## **Easter Music**

Many thanks to those of you who have been in touch following my Easter music suggestions which I offered in the Bulletin on Easter Day. It is very good to know that they were appreciated.

I'm happy to continue this over the next few weeks so, please do contact me with any comments or suggestions for the future via [simon.e.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.e.collins@btinternet.com) or 07808 474236. So this week, as well as Easter music, I also include suggestions for St George's Day on Thursday:

### **Hymns**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5uIWEdXgF0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qu94epy2BIg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txsQvkwQliQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ezuuH7fKY0>

for St George's Day (Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=041nXAA714>

### **Choral Music**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4C-LTEQF0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUBF7kNVlbY>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_bwVEIxKp-0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bwVEIxKp-0)

for St George's Day (Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgThh7sDgNM>

### **Organ Music**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ui5\\_MP3Vws](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ui5_MP3Vws)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX0S6LkU\\_GY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX0S6LkU_GY)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-Yo\\_kQDNMw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-Yo_kQDNMw)

for St George's Day (Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATQH7bhy180>

With best wishes,  
*Simon Collins, Director of Music*

### **A pattern for daily prayer, so that, at home or at church, we can pray together:**

**Monday:** Those in great poverty or need.

**Tuesday:** Those who have asked for our prayers: Ruth Barkaway, Anne Brazier, Roo Hubbard, David Ingram, Bob Smith and Margaret Stockley. Those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage. All who are suffering from Covid-19.

**Wednesday:** Our group of parishes.

**Thursday:** The church worldwide. All Christian people. The local church. The Anglican Communion.

**Friday:** All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

### **The Departed**

In our prayers this week, we can remember those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur near this time among them John Hunt, Donald Findlay, Bryan Sharp and Harold Smith.

### **The Readings for today:**

**First Reading:** *Acts 2.14a, 22-32*

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

### **Gospel Reading:** *John 20.19-end*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

### **Additional Collect:**

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.

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