

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



The Easter Bulletin

A weekly publication for the Benefice

26th April 2020

3rd Sunday Of Easter

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



Update – in last week’s article I referred to the new prayer booklet released by the Church of England. I’m very pleased to report that, whilst still being available as a download, it will have been published by the time our bulletin goes to print! I have ordered copies for our benefice and will look at distributing those (mostly by post) to anyone who would like a copy. Please do let me know if you would like a booklet (phone 01332 864741 or email: stephen.short71@btinternet.com) leaving your name and address including the postcode.

As the measures against COVID-19 continue, one of the key government recommendations has been that of exercise. In today’s times, we know that

the link has been more strongly made between regular exercise and better mental health. In the lockdown, exercise can be quite a challenge although living where we do, we are very blessed with the outdoor options available. I am getting to know parts of Melbourne that I never knew existed!

Celebrities have been showing us how to keep fit at home with a dazzling range of options. Joe Wicks, the 'Body Coach' has over a million people following his morning workouts. Dancers from the BBC's 'Strictly Come Dancing' have been taking it in turns to post regular keep fit videos, too, as well as Olympic athletes, footballers, rugby players, basketball players and the list goes on. I've come to the conclusion that it is very tiring watching people working out...

St Paul talks about 'running the race that is set before us' and this can be both metaphorical and literal. In the midst of this 'race' that has been set before us, Bishop Libby has rightly suggested that we are on a marathon and not a sprint.

Getting any kind of balance right now is a challenge but, as always, a wholistic approach encompasses body, mind and spirit – how we sustain ourselves.

The Emmaus Road journey we see in our Gospel set for this week sees Jesus walking alongside two disciples as they journey out of Jerusalem. Until Jesus breaks bread later in their journey, they are unaware of who this mysterious stranger is. Jesus continues to journey with us even when we don't realise that he is there, the same Jesus who says at the end of Matthew's Gospel '*And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*' In him and through him, we are given strength for the journey, a journey into eternity and light eternal.

-Steve

Lockdown

I suspect that everyone deals with this lockdown in different ways. Sandra and I are missing getting out and doing normal things, and being a 'people person' I am really missing taking the services in the benefice and meeting such lovely people. It makes such a difference to my life.

However, many of our gardens are now looking much better for the enforced stay-in. Sandra has made the flower garden really lovely, and she has dug over the kitchen garden raised beds for me to plant out shortly. I have raised runner beans which are almost ready for planting out – beware of the frost! I have tomato plants in the greenhouse and a cucumber plant is almost ready to pot up.

As for worship – Sandra and I have a communion service each Sunday in our

Conservatory and the dogs join in the singing of the hymns. I also have an Office Book from the Convent which I use for Morning Prayer and any other service like Prime, Mattins, Midday, Evensong or Vespers.

I have now been able to access Steve's services online – I am not very good at Computer skills, I am just OK with typing, but am learning slowly. I have also had time to work on my final module for my Open University degree in Humanities and am nearing the end – hopefully!

I hope that you are all finding a hidden talent to while away your time in lockdown.

May God bless you all, and hopefully we shall all be able to get together again as soon as possible.

Reverend Michael Rogers

Message from Jane Dalton:

Dear friends,

I hope you are all staying safe and well and not yet climbing up the walls.

Week four of lockdown with only fitful gleams of light at the end of the tunnel.

Still it is important to count our many blessings and keep washing our hands!

I don't know how many of you tuned in to the service on Sunday, but I thought it was great. Lots of lovely hymns of comfort and joy. Hopefully there will be another soon, although I was pretty hoarse after belting them out on Sunday morning! I think I'll request "Be Thou my vision" for next time.

I have to say that I am finding some pastimes starting to pall. I have finished all my double knitting wool so no more scarves and hats at the moment, thank goodness. I have some chunky to knit some little child's shoulder bags, but I am not very enthusiastic at the moment. Only done one so far. Having finished the kitchen table, and enjoyed doing it, I decided to embark on sanding down a little oak side table, only 15 inches square (I remain stubbornly imperial by choice!) with a very dark stain, but light oak underneath. The problem is it has to be done by hand as it has barley sugar twist legs and embellished feet, and I have used all my rougher sandpaper, which was useless on the intricate bits anyway. I have managed to get down to the light oak in the main, but am left with a fashionably "distressed" look, which, in my opinion is well named! However, I am currently trialling emery boards with slow but significant success, but, again, I only have two packets.

Still it passes the time! Once that is done as good as I can get it I shall move on to painting some shelves! On the painting theme I have dug out some of my art stuff with a view to resurrecting my efforts (it is Easter) but I may need Pentecost to get me started!

Enough wittering. I have attached a few Easter pics a friend from Bretby sent to me to brighten the season.

Keep well. Stay safe. God bless, Jane



Easter Music to listen to

Many thanks to those of you who have been in touch following my recent seasonal music suggestions to listen to during the week. I will continue to do this over the next few weeks so, please do contact me with any comments or suggestions for the future via 07808 474236 or simon.e.collins@btinternet.com . Here are this week's suggestions:

Hymns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCz-HYIxmV_E

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmmqBXU9WrU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPH7-dNrwb8>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5uIWEbXgF0>

Choral Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=389leQkiGgk>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALCpsw-O_AQ

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8wngXcoVWM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4C-LTEQFx0>

Organ Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBoxQrsBBb4>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vakVkHx_tXM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Co8w404Z3I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QTeN1CqmE4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvtekOk6mas>

I hope you are all keeping well.

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

Christian Aid Week goes digital

This year, Christian Aid Week takes place from 10 - 16 May. Since 1957, the week has brought communities together in action and prayer. Whilst the coronavirus pandemic means that Christian Aid Week 2020 will be different, churches across the diocese are being invited to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable people in new and innovative ways.

With daily quizzes and live-streamed worship, supporters can be involved from their own homes and could also take part in the 300,000 steps in May challenge which will be run through Facebook or send an electronic donation envelope - an 'e-envelope' – to friends and family.

Some groups are arranging online plant sales, while others are doing sponsored runs, cycles or walks in their daily outdoor exercise or in their own homes and gardens.

Visit the [Christian Aid Week website](#) for more information, resources and to get involved.

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 George Pass, Doris Gunn and Richard Heath.

The Readings for today:

First Reading: *Acts 2.14a, 36-41*

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.

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 24.13-35* Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning

with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Additional Collect:

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Contact us:

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