

Seeking to Share God's Love

Hello! As you will know, the present situation means we are unable to meet together in public worship in our church. We will all miss each other immensely, and especially praying together. But let's keep in touch. And let's continue to pray with each other, but just in different locations. Do keep in touch with the Vicar and Pastoral Worker and Parish Nurse. And also keep in touch with any members of the Church whose contact details you know. If you are on any internet networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp etc do connect with the Church page and group. Also visit our Church Website which is being updated to provide a forum for keeping in touch. Keep praying. Keep hope alive. God is bigger than all we face. Lots of love to you. Vicar David

**10am Each Day – let's pause and pray for each other.**

Perhaps using the Prayer Sheet (we have sent out) if we can.

The Vicar will be praying with this sheet at this time in Church (alone of course).

7pm Each Evening – let's light a candle and pray for the world

If you want a Prayer Sheet let us know – we will try to get one to you.

If you are on Facebook, Church WhatsApp or other internet networks share prayer requests and updates. Share prayer requests via emails, texts, and telephone calls with each other!

Collect Prayer This Week:

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG) Prayer:

God of Mission, Who alone brings growth to your Church, Send your Holy Spirit to give:

Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, And power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, In spiritual commitment to you, And in service to our local community, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings This Week:

Sunday Lent 4 – March 22 Ephesians 5.8-14 ; Psalm 23 ; John 9.1-41

M Is 65.17-21 ; Ps 30.1-5, 8, 11-end ; Jn 4.43-end

T Ezk 47.1-9, 12 ; Ps 46.1-8 ; Jn 5.1-3, 5-16

W Is 49.8-15 ; Ps 145.8-18 ; Jn 5.17-30

Th Ex 32.7-14 ; Ps 106.19-23 ; Jn 5.31-end

F Jer 26.8-11 ; Ps 34.15-end ; Jn 7.1-2, 10, 25-30

Sat Jer 11.18-20 ; Ps 7.1-2, 8-10 ; Jn 7.40-52

Let us Pray: Please use this prayer list in your prayers.

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or for items of 'thanks', please let Rev David know.

For those affected by coronavirus and those dealing with it in the health services and governments.

For the work of Level Trust helping children in poverty in Luton

For those who are persecuted for their beliefs

The sick, including: Peggy Seng, Ann, Charlotte Townson, Idris, Gill, Betty, Ron Cannandine, Terry Philpott, Lilian Francis,

Cycle of those needing ongoing prayer: Joyce Burgess, Dorothy Kilsby, Seyan Tills

Those who are grieving for: Denis Gusset, Trevor Hutson, Alan David Jones, Seth Apique, Sheila Baker, Jack Farnham, Jean Buckle.

We give thanks: Send us your items of thanks, so we can rejoice together.

David Newbound: I want to thank God for hearing our prayers. For providing for our needs and for his constant unchanging unconditional love.

We give thanks for our world and all those in our NHS trying to keep us healthy and safe in these challenging times.

Church News:

Keep in Contact. We will be attempting to keep in regular contact with everyone in our Church Family, via email, Facebook, WhatsApp and telephone. Please advise us if you have changed any contact details. Please let us know

how you are getting on – we would love to hear via whatever channel suits you best.

Weekly Email. We will be attempting to send out a weekly email. If you would like to receive this please contact us (details below).

Website, WhatsApp and Facebook. If you use these then please ask me to join the Church WhatsApp Group to keep in contact. Also connect with our Church Facebook Page. Regularly visit our Website Page for news and updates.

Prayer. As mentioned above please use the Prayer Sheet (let us know if you haven't received one yet) to join in regular prayer.

10am Each Day (the Vicar will also be using it Church)

7pm Each Evening – Light a candle.

In addition for those who are still working join the vicar and others (not physically, but spiritually) before going to work in prayer and reading the Bible between 6am and 7am on Mon, Tue, Wed and Thurs morning. Join in for as long as you are able, even for a few minutes.

Prayer in Church 10:30-11:30am We are not able to hold public worship, but we are hoping to open the church for private prayer for this hour. Obviously this is not for those who are self-isolating or those who are vulnerable. We need volunteers to keep the church safe during this time, and can only open up when we have enough volunteers. Can you help? For now, whilst we await volunteers we will commit to it being open at this time on Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th, Tuesday 31st, Wednesday 1st April.

Deliver Easter Cards, Special Signpost Magazine and Newsheet? Subject to Government guidance at the time, we hope to deliver Easter Cards, a special Church Signpost Magazine and another newsheet, especially to those who not on the internet. We don't want people to feel isolated from our love. We aim to do this on Thursday 2nd April at Noon. We need volunteers who are not self isolating or vulnerable. Could you help please with this important work. Deliveries can be of a size to suit you, as small or large as you can manage.

Mothering Sunday. It is sad on this day that we are unable to meet up in church, and give flowers, and many families are prevented from meeting up. This will be a very different Mothering Sunday. But still, we can all give thanks for all who are, or have been, a mother to us, and for the love we have received from others.

CONTACT US:

Address: 585a Hitchin Rd, Stopsley, Luton LU2 7UL

Reg Charity No 1175152

Parish Office: 01582 729194; office@stopsleyparish.org.uk Generally open weekday mornings, 10-Noon, Mon – Thurs. But no personal visits please,

Vicar: Rev David Alexander: 01582 721911 or Mobile 07796 334300, vicar@stopsleyparish.org.uk

Director of Pastoral Care: David Newbound 07885 605977 david.newbound@btinternet.com

Parish Nurse: Debbie Newbound. phone 07879073060

Churchwarden: Ian Marshall 07968131997 ian.marshall125@gmail.com

Webpage: www.stopsleyparish.org

 Twitter: @stopsleyvicar  Facebook: St Thomas Parish Church Stopsley

Safeguarding concerns, please contact Judi Kingham 01582-619432 / 07831 850 886, or Linda Clitheroe 07780 359500

Please join the **Parish Giving Scheme** and **Electoral Roll**. **Bank Account:** Sort Code 20-53-97 Acct. 10792063

Services unfortunately there will be no public worship until further notice. But we can still join in common worship in our separate homes.

All Other Activities in church and hall have been suspended until further notice.

The Church Office is still open unless further guidance or self-isolation prevents. However, we are not receiving personal visits. Please contact via telephone or email. If we have to close the Office in the event of a shutdown email will still be checked and phone the Vicar instead.

Church AGM: We are awaiting advice from the Diocese as to what we do about the legal requirements connected to the Annual Church Meeting. But we will not be holding a public meeting on the date previously advertised.

Debbie Newbound, our Parish Nurse. There will be no face-to-face appointments at the present time, but Debbie is available for advice via the Parish Office or her designated telephone number 07879073060. We are grateful for the amazing help she is giving during this health emergency.

Luton Foodbank are in very great need at this time, especially the following items please: Rice Pudding and custard, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, cartons of fruit juice, tinned fruit, UHT milk, 500g dried rice, soup, tinned fish, tinned baked beans and tomatoes, tinned pasta, pasta sauce, breakfast cereals, 500g bags of sugar, tea bags and biscuits.

Generally it is probably best if items are placed in the containers in supermarkets. However, it may be possible to leave outside the Parish Office during Office hours – please phone first.

The **Parish Giving Scheme** office is closed due to the Coronavirus. However they will be accepting email contact: info@parishgiving.org.uk Please do not call or write to them. If you do not have email access please speak to Deborah in the Church Office for help.

Inspirational Quote: “The weaker we feel, the harder we lean on God. And the harder we lean, the stronger we grow.” *Joni Eareckson Tada*