



22 March 2020

ST PETER & ST PAUL ECKINGTON

Service Information & Weekly News

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

All public worship is cancelled until further notice. Coffee mornings are also cancelled until further notice. Please check the website for updates.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

was Mon 23 March : 7:30pm Tower Room

POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

LENT COURSE **CANCELLED**

ECKINGTON SINGERS HOLY WEEK MEDITATION

'OLIVET TO CALVARY'

was Tues 7 April 7:30pm **CANCELLED**

LETTER FROM REV. ANDY..

Dear all,

I email you all with great sadness. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have decided that as of today (13:30, 17 March) public worship should be suspended.

Their website says: "In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice. Churches should be open where possible but with no public worship services taking place. Prayers can be said by clergy and ministers on behalf of everyone and churches should consider ways of sharing this with the wider community."

Obviously, this means that there will be no services this Sunday. The APCM scheduled for Monday has also been cancelled.

As some of you will know already, I'm working on a system designed to make sure that we keep in touch with each other. If you're happy to receive updates from me, and also to pass these updates on to others, could you please let me know. Please also pass on this information to any who you know.

I'm already working on ways that we might be able to worship from home. These are in the very early stages at the moment.

The situation locally, nationally and internationally is constantly and quickly evolving. I am also aware that many people are extremely concerned.

Over the next weeks and months, we will need to do our utmost to look out for our neighbours and friends. I am reminded of the parable of the sheep and the goats from Matthew 25. Following on from hard times, the people asked Jesus, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

In these difficult times, please be aware of those who may need help. Whilst we certainly shouldn't visit people who are in isolation, we can give them a ring. We can get supplies for them and leave them by the door. We can hold the world, our communities and individuals in our prayers.

And, when we're struggling and need help ourselves, we need to ensure that we shout too!

Even in troubling times, may God bless us and use us to further His Kingdom.

I shall write more formally with more information in the very near future.

With every blessing,
Andy

THIS WEEK PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Our world, our community, congregation and clergy.

And for Dinah, Eddie and Nora, Bernard, Mavis, Brian, Harold, Peter, Diane, Helen and Chris, and Steven.

Please also pray for those suffering from Covid-19 and all who are caring for them, both in hospital and in their homes.

If you would like us to pray for you, please send your request to:

weekly.news@eckingtonchurch.org.uk

CONTACTS FOR OUR CHURCHES

ALL THREE CHURCHES

Rector: Rev. Andy Walker 01246 432196

our.lector@eckingtonchurch.org.uk

Curate: Rev. Dave Walker 07802 374763

curate@staccd.org.uk

Reader: Bertie Walker 01246 432196

ST PETER & ST PAUL

Churchwarden: Linda Sales 0114 247 8706

To book funerals, baptisms, etc: 07784 056643

admin@eckingtonchurch.org.uk

ST JOHN - RIDGEWAY

Deputy Churchwarden:

Richard Langrick 01142 489602

METHODISTS WITH ST LUKE

Methodist Minister: *Awaiting new contact info.*

WEBSITE

For reports and photos of previous events and service updates visit: www.eckingtonchurch.org.uk

Send comments or info to Don at

web.articles@eckingtonchurch.org.uk

WEEKLY SHEET

If you have comments or information for the next weekly sheet please contact Sue at:

weekly.news@eckingtonchurch.org.uk

The deadline is: 5pm on Wednesday.

Inclusion is not guaranteed as space is often limited.

COLLECT FOR TODAY

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus Ch 2 v 1-10

¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She

named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

NEW TESTAMENT READING 2 Corinthians Ch 1 v 3-7

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, ⁴who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. ⁶If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

GOSPEL READING Luke Ch 2 v 33-35

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

PSALM FOR TODAY : PSALM 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.