

Friday 10 April 2020

Dear Friends,

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:4

In a few days we will shout with joy, "Alleluia, the Lord is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!". We will be reminded that after death comes resurrection. We preach the suffering cross of Christ and His new life. We must never forget that what may have been the place of total despair is also the place of hope.

That Easter shout will come at the beginning of the fourth week of our strict social distancing. That has become a necessary burden as the government seeks to lessen the effects of Covid-19. As I write, it seems likely that we will have to stay under this regime for a while longer.

For some, this time is proving to be a trial. Others have adjusted and are making the best of a difficult situation. Still others are working hard to bring care to the sick and the isolated and keeping society fed and organised. Children remain at home and families are feeling vulnerable and under pressure. Workers are unable to do their jobs, have been put on furlough or made redundant. NHS staff are working flat out. Supermarket and delivery staff are doing admirable work too. We also know that domestic violence is on the rise as frustrations and anger are unleashed. We must keep all of these and more in our prayers. We have the time to do so.

I know that many of you are phoning and checking that one another are ok. Please remember that we can also help if anyone needs shopping done or if you just need someone to listen.

I loved that Her Majesty the Queen said, "We will meet again" as part of her broadcast to the nation. It was a reminder that this will come to an end and that we will enjoy fellowship and worship in one another's presence again. Until then, we wait in anticipation!

Online Worship and Gathering

I know that this is not ideal or even possible for all. I am sorry that this means of communication is not available or desirable for all. On the other hand, I remain thankful that some, despite their belief that they were not technically proficient, have persevered and are now online!

However, we are doing our best and learning how to improve things as we go. It is proving to be a wonderful resource which is helping to keep many of us in touch.

We continue to use Facebook Live for much of our online presence. A reminder that you do not need a Facebook account to participate in our live worship times. You simply need to go to <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin> and look for a red symbol which says 'Live'.

We are also using an application called 'Zoom' to pray and meet together. If you need advice about this or anything about our online presence, we can help. Simply contact me.

Our online worship times will be more limited this coming week after the busyness of Easter. Ali and I had planned to be away in the Lake District for a few days. That of course will not be happening! We will take a few days post-Easter to be a bit quieter and rest more fully. Frankly, these last three weeks have been exhausting and I need to do a bit of self-care. I hope you will understand. This means that we will not do any online stuff until Thursday. In the meantime, if you have joined the St Thomas' Facebook Group, you are encouraged to share scripture, prayer concerns and encouragements there.

If you have prayer concerns or needs, please let me have them by email, text or message. I keep you in my prayers and ask that you pray for me. That I will, like the apostle Paul, *"Decide to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."*

All love In Christ,



St Thomas' Church Online Week Beginning 12 April 2020

Online Worship & Gathering

Sunday 12 April

10.30am – 'The Lord is Risen': <https://www.facebook.com/sthomasedin>

Wednesday 15 April

2-3.30pm Rooted Bible Study

Zoom Meeting – joining details are in the office email of Friday 10th April.

Thursday 9 April

@ 10am - 'Zoom' Coffee Morning

Zoom Meeting – joining details are in the office email of Friday 10th April.

Friday 17 April

12pm Midday Prayer: <https://www.facebook.com/sthomasedin>