

7/5/2020

## Letter to our church and community

Dear friends, sisters and brothers,

Welcome to all those who have joined our e letters this week. Please do have a read of the back dated ones on the website as they give a sense of the journey we have taken over the past weeks!

This is our 8th letter which we can't believe.

What now? We are sensing a continued call to prayer in our homes and we want to invite you to a Wakefield wide prayer time between Thursday 21st May and Pentecost Sunday 31st May.

(The birthday of the church) We hope you enjoy this letter, news & stories.

Do follow the resources we have put links to as they all point to a variety of opportunities.

### HOUSE

Being confined to our houses or flats makes us appreciate all the more the home as a place of sanctuary and refuge. The image of the house as a place of security and belonging, love and nurture permeates the Bible and makes it a fitting metaphor for our relationship to God and to one another. The word holds both meanings of dwelling place and household, the bricks and mortar and the people who live there. House and household are intimately connected.

The Bible reflects the history of humankind as a journey to and from the security of a dwelling place. From the garden of Eden Adam and Eve are banished into a harsh world.

From his home in Ur, Abraham and his household are called to travel in tents to an unfamiliar land.

From there the family of Jacob take refuge in Egypt, before escaping back home to the promised land.

The destruction of Jerusalem leads to exile in Babylon, before a return to rebuild homes and temple.

Jesus is uprooted at birth and takes refuge in Egypt. He comes home and then chooses to live an itinerant life staying in the homes of friends.

Worship moves from tents to temple to homes, and then from homes to churches, and now for a brief interlude in our lives, back into the home.

Throughout this story the vital importance of hospitality and welcome of the stranger is stressed.

In our relationship with God, we fluctuate between wanting to find God everywhere and wanting to put God in a box. That box can be a literal box or building, an Ark or a Temple, an Idol or an Icon, a relic or a tabernacle.

That was what the disciples wanted to do when they had just seen Jesus transfigured alongside Moses and Elijah: *Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'* Mark 9:5.

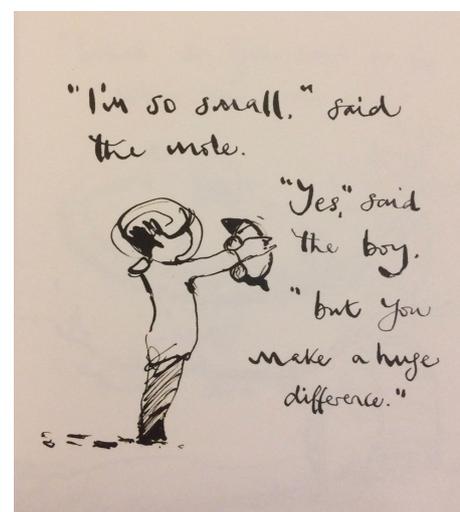
But God will not be contained: the spirit blows where it will.

The early church in Jerusalem met daily in the Temple, and in their homes: *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.* Acts 2:46-47.

In this season of lockdown we cannot welcome people into our homes, but we can begin to see our homes as centres of spiritual gravity and growth. This time has the potential to be a season where we find ourselves soul-searching. Whether we are very busy or very quiet we will find ourselves developing as disciples in our situation. May we also be responsive to those around us who are asking questions about faith: *"In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.* 1Peter 3:15.

With blessings and peace over your homes and households, *Rupert*

(Part of the series of Bible Image a Day which you can find on SandalMagnaParish facebook page)



## Foundations

She was the architect, the builder, the first brick  
The foundations, the base  
Was meant to be there  
Part of the idea, the bigger plan  
Other bricks placed around with care  
All different yet the same  
Some mishapen, some broken  
But not cast aside, used  
As they all connected  
Joined together with trowel and mortar  
Supporting each other in growth  
All part of what she was building  
Grew in height and strength  
Built with love, determination and spirit  
Shell of the house became a home  
Rooms, two floors and a roof  
An open door, an open heart.  
Never gave up, never gave in  
Despite stormy weather at times.  
It was her gift to make it last  
Beyond the build  
This was just the start  
There would be many more  
First bricks laid

Written by Dinks

## So BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

Let's Pray in our homes as Churches Together..... Over this whole situation

As a parish we are taking two of the ten days of prayer between Thursday 21st and Sunday 31st May.  
**Sunday 24th May** 7.30am-7.30am and **Thursday 28th May** 7.30am-7.30am.

This is a traditional time of 10 days of concentrated prayer from Jesus' Ascension to heaven, followed by the disciples waiting and praying in the upper room, not knowing what next? 10 days later the Holy Spirit came and filled them with love, courage, hope and energy for life in all its fullness. This we now call Pentecost ( known as the birth of the church) Do read Acts chapter 2 for the full story.

We know so many who pray and who would love to offer an hour of prayer.

You don't need to link into any technology!!

Just commit to one hour of prayer, on your own, as a couple, as a family or a household.

**Please email me [sallymartinpcf@gmail.com](mailto:sallymartinpcf@gmail.com) to tell me which part of the day you could commit an hour of prayer to. Morning/Afternoon/Evening/Night on either Sunday 24th or Thursday 28th May.**

You can sign up for more than one hour if you want. It would give me **so much joy** to receive e-mails and not have to phone people up and ask. So if you feel prompted to join this City Vision for prayer from Ascension to Pentecost please just respond and I will fill you in and let you know the big picture of all those praying by Thursday 21st May.

An hour might seem a long time but as you can see from the following encouragement of how to use an hour in prayer you can be very creative.

This has been written by a friend. It may help to create **JUST AN HOUR** in your way.

#### **TEN MINUTES: SIT IN SILENCE**

- Silence. This does not mean no noise. It means you sit comfortably and just listen to yourself, and in all that is happening to you discern the voice and word of God. It doesn't matter if your mind wanders or goes off in a tangent. Note what comes in to your mind

#### **TEN MINUTES: WRITE**

- Write down some of your thoughts from the moments of silence, or other words. Just write. This is not to share with others, it is for you

#### **TEN MINUTES: READ**

- Read something. It could be a few pages of a book...your Newspaper...

#### **TEN MINUTES: REFLECT AND PRAY**

- Read a short passage from the Bible. It could just be one verse. Reflect on this. What does this portion of scripture say to you? You may wish to write down a sentence or two to capture your reflection. Pause for a prayer. This could simply be to say the "Lord's Prayer" with full attention

#### **TEN MINUTES: LISTEN TO MUSIC**

- Listen to your favourite music. Or tune in to your favourite music station on radio, eg Classic FM or whatever

#### **TEN MINUTES: GARDENING**

- Just ten minutes to complete this special hour. A bit of weeding. Or as Jesus suggested, "consider the flowers and the birds" in your Garden. If you don't have a Garden, tend indoor plants, or just "consider" them

Perhaps construct one hour like this. Live radiantly.

Inderjit Bhogal

**This is your gift of an hour to 10 days of continual prayer.**

*A picture of what  
prayer and  
kindness do.*

*Thank you Joyce x*



How can we grow our prayer lives? Here are some ideas and resources:

2 Chronicles 7:14 Modern English Version (MEV)

"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

As people of prayer we have been encouraged to take this verse from Chronicles into our daily prayer life. **2 Chronicles 7:14.**

All over the world Christians are setting their phone alarms for **7.14 am** and **pm** to pause and pray for a few minutes using this verse as a guide. We would encourage you to join in.

*Holy Spirit, breath of God:  
Open us to the beauty of the earth  
So that we may become its servants.  
Open us to the wonder of life  
That we may recognise an angel at every corner.  
Open us the storehouse of your grace  
And we will be made new for Jesus' sake.  
Amen*

HTB at Home Catch Up: Sunday 3rd May was a beautiful hour with encouraging, honest interviews, stories and a talk by Christine Caine on the walls of Jericho. Highlighting Gods unreasonable perspective, an unusual strategy and an unbelievable result.

An excellent talk from Holy Trinity Church about prayer and its importance during this time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVqfEzsJTf4>

Pete Greig: Prayer course

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO1WlawSAkQ>

Book: "How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People

Free Prayer app

Lectio365

Really beautiful. 10 minutes of quiet reflection.

## NEWS

With Sandal Castle School in partnership with The Spring and Portobello Community Forum/Make Lunch, we are cooking and putting together hampers each week to support the most vulnerable and under pressure families in our community.

If you would like to support this work please can you donate any of the following and leave it outside **Sarah Cutts' home, Spring Bank, 238 Barnsley Road, WF2 6EL** just opposite Becketts School. If you would like to give financially please contact Cath Moxham the manager of The Spring Cafe and Shop on 07533996265, *Thank you*

Breakfast Cereal, Jam, Honey

Tinned vegetables

Tinned rice pudding, Jelly

Tomato soup

Baked beans

Tinned fish

Tinned meat

Tinned fruit

Tinned spaghetti

Hot dogs

Biscuits

Gravy granules

Pasta, Pasta sauce

Rice

Tea bags, Coffee,

Sugar,

Long life milk

Washing up liquid

Toilet Rolls

Soap and hand wash

Shampoo

Sanitary towels

Disposable razors

Shaving foam

Nappies

Wet wipes

*A big thank you to all who have contributed to this venture, please keep it going. Cath, Sarah and the team are amazing and it is working for the school too.*

## Walton responds to the Covid-19 Crisis

St Paul's has become a buzz of activity as volunteers organise and collate Food Aid parcels for the most vulnerable in the village of Walton.

COVID-19 Walton Aid is a village group comprising Working for Walton, Walton Community Library and both Churches who together are working under the UK wide guidance of Covid-19 Mutual Aid UK. It was established with advice from WMDC and our District Councillors. Through an extensive network of volunteers across the village it seeks to help the most vulnerable. To date over 100 requests for help have been responded to. These have varied from shopping trips and collecting prescriptions to having somebody at the end of a phone to talk to.

When the nationwide lockdown was extended in April Walton Food Aid was launched. Its aim is to provide essential non-perishable food items to those particularly in need as identified by the churches, Walton Primary Academy and our District Councillors. It has also sought information from the DWP, WDH and WMDC. This has been established as a short term (six week) project.



Working for Walton and Walton Community Library have equally funded the purchase of food items to get Walton Food Aid started. In addition an appeal was put out for non-perishable food items to be left at Cherry Tree Store (CTS LOCAL) or at the church on Friday Mornings from 10.30 -11.00am. The response of the village has been generous, heart-warming and humbling. At the time of writing (5 May) 50 carrier bags of food have been distributed.

For further information visit the Working for Walton or Walton Community Library webpages.

If you know of anyone that is particularly vulnerable living in the village of Walton and who might benefit from this initiative please email [info@workingforwalton.org.uk](mailto:info@workingforwalton.org.uk) or telephone Margaret Walker on 07799217904

ROBERT EDWARD CRAVEN passed away in Pinderfields Hospital on 22nd April, 2020 of the Coronavirus. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Due to the current situation there will not be a funeral service, but the family wish to thank everyone for the enormous amount of cards, letters and messages they have received.

I hope when all this is over we will be able to have something around the Tree of Life – we purchased a plot on 26.2.2015 - but we have no idea when this situation will change we just pray everything will be back to normal soon.

Love PAT

### **Funeral of a dear friend in our church family**

Joan Witts

13th May 1.40pm at Wakefield Crematorium

# Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

## Send an e-Envelope

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

**Please, please** give generously as we can't be out on the streets this year.

Really good resources from Liz Morton who is part of our church and works for the diocese as the children, young peoples and families team leader.

Church of England Faith at Home: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home>

Prayer Spaces at Home: <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/prayer-spaces-at-home>

We've also got twice weekly faith at home resources for families on our Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeedsCandY>

[Liz.morton@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:Liz.morton@leeds.anglican.org)

**With all our love and blessings,  
Sally and Rupert**



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