



Wednesday 1 April 2020

April Fools' Day

Dear Friends

Our first online service on Sunday was a great success! There was a wonderful atmosphere with much laughter and joy as we greeted one another face to face. The technology takes a little getting used to and not everyone was able to see and hear everything...but, I am sure we will all get used to it, week by week.

Those comments, of course, only apply to those who have internet access. I am exploring however the possibility of connecting to our worship by telephone – and will keep you abreast of those possibilities. In the meantime, please telephone someone you know who does not have access to the internet and share this letter with them. Only the letters that are distributed with the newsletters and reading sheets are being hand delivered.

This coming Sunday marks the start of Holy Week – Palm Sunday. I will bless our Palm Crosses as part of Sunday's service and then leave a box of them outside All Saints Church and in the entrance to the hall at St Godwald's. Please collect one if you are out and about on your daily walk. Hopefully we can hand deliver some with the Easter pastoral letters too.

Another option is to make your own Palm Cross. You might like to make a cross from sticks out of the garden, or an origami cross by following these instructions <https://www.paperkawaii.com/easy-origami-cross-tutorial-halloween-origami/> or <https://www.origami-fun.com/origami-cross.html>. Please be sure to have your home-made crosses ready to be blessed and shown to one another in the service on Sunday!

This week we have two funerals and a further funeral next week. There are now very tight restrictions on the numbers able to attend (6 mourners) and this is making it very difficult for families. The details are below – please include all involved in your prayers.

John Hazelwood – yesterday at Bromsgrove North cemetery
Victor Harvey – tomorrow at Finstall Churchyard (11am)
Bryan Troth – Tuesday 7th at Redditch Crematorium (12.30pm)

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A few words about our Holy Week services. All the details are on the web site here: https://bromsgroveparish.org.uk/Groups/339141/Holy_Week.aspx. But for those without internet access, the programme is as follows:

Palm Sunday - 10.30am

Monday of Holy Week – Compline 7pm

Tuesday of Holy Week – Compline 7pm

Wednesday of Holy Week – Compline 7pm

Thursday of Holy Week – Holy Communion at 7pm

Good Friday – Walking the Way of the Cross 3pm

Easter Sunday – Communion for Easter morning 10.30am

The details for all these services including orders of service and joining instructions are – or will! – be available on the web site. If you are not on email and would like a copy of the order of service for any of these services so that you can join in quietly at home, then please get a message to me or to a churchwarden and we'll see what is possible. No guarantees that we can meet every request.

The business of the parish continues! The PCC is passing resolutions to continue to support The Listening Service and also to formally postponed our APCM until September. There is an online meeting of Treasurers, Wardens and Clergy later this week to discuss the financial situation we face. Please continue to support your churches financially through this crisis! The churches are also closely involved in the creation of a new network to ensure food reaches every household that needs it, whether those needs are through isolation or financial constraints. Thanks to Geoff Westwood at Christ Church (helped by many others!) there is also a new Parish Prayer diary which is available online at https://bromsgroveparish.org.uk/Groups/339051/April_Prayer_Diary.aspx but which is also attached to this newsletter. Please use it and send in suggestions for addition to the May diary.

Liz and I are very appreciative of all the messages of love, support and encouragement we are receiving. Thank you. This is a very difficult time for us all, but God is in the midst of it and our challenges are being swiftly transformed by creativity, love and hope.

With continuing love and prayers,

David Ford

Rector

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