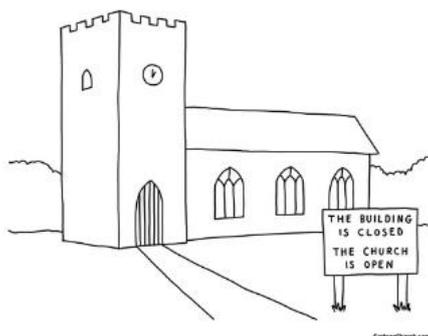


St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS SUNDAY 24th MAY

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Acts 1: 6-14; 1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11; John 17: 1-11; Psalm 68: 1-10, 33-36

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTOR:

The Rector has written a brief reflection and prayer for this Seventh Sunday after Easter – the document is attached.

SUNDAY SERVICE - Revd Val Plumb, Rural Dean for Mursley Deanery

The Rural Dean will be recording a 15/20-minute service on Sunday celebrating Ascension (Luke 24: 44-end). Below is the you tube link:-

<https://youtu.be/qgXT7nRSc9M>

RADIO 4:

Sunday Worship at 8.10am. “Living Well While Waiting”

Catherine Fox and the Bishop of Sheffield Pete Wilcox reflect on living well during this time of waiting. For people yearning for things to be 'normal' again it seems like there'll be a long time to wait. Many people's plans for the summer, including weddings and ordinations have been cancelled, so what can we do to stay positive in this period of continued hoping and uncertainty? The Miraculous Catch of Fish (John 21:1-7) leads them to suggest that old plans and hopes can be transformed by Jesus. After Jesus' resurrection the disciples had gone back to what they knew, fishing, but they didn't catch anything, until the risen Lord appeared and they caught more fish than they could cope with.

BBC TELEVISION:

Sunday Worship BBC 1 at 11.45am Seventh Sunday of Easter

To celebrate the Sunday after Ascension Day, the Very Reverend Kathy Jones leads a service from Bangor Cathedral in North Wales. The preacher is the Right Reverend Andy John, the bishop of Bangor. Interspersed with hymns recorded for Songs of Praise in March 2018, this service was filmed before the closure of all church buildings. The Order of Service can be downloaded from the BBC website: -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000jk44>

Songs of Praise BBC 1 at 1.15pm Islands of Faith

Katherine Jenkins introduces uplifting stories of faith amidst spectacular scenery as she looks back to when Songs of Praise has explored islands around our beautiful

coastline. She begins by looking back to her visit to Caldey Island off the coast near Tenby in south Wales. One of the monks there, Brother David, tells her about the rich Christian history of the island that stretches back over 1,400 years. She also discovers that one of the ways the present community of monks remain self-sufficient is by making their own chocolate – and Katherine happily volunteers to help out.

There's also another chance to see Aled Jones setting sail with Christian sailors off the coast of the Isle of Wight to find out why being out on the ocean brings them closer to God. Aled also looks back at his visit to the Isle of Sheppey off the coast of Kent, where he joined in with teenagers from the local high school as they showed Christian love in action at their award-winning dementia cafe.

With great hymns and songs recorded before the current restrictions, including a rousing modern classic from the Isle of Wight proms and a spectacular performance from Katherine Jenkins of How Great Thou Art.

OXFORD DIOCESE LIVE STREAMING:

The Venerable Stephen Pullin presides at our 10am Church at Home service this Sunday, 24th May at 10am. To download the order of service and to watch the service, live or at a later time, follow the link:-

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

Those unable to watch the service online can now call 01865 920930 and participate by telephone. There is the option to listen to the full service with worship and the Eucharist, or a shorter version without (press 0= short service, 1= full service). Once an option is selected, it takes a couple of seconds of silence before the service starts. Standard call rates apply. Please pass this message on to those who might welcome this way to be involved in worship at this time.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ONLINE:

Worship at Home Sunday Service at 9.00am for Mental Health Awareness Week.

The Duke of Cambridge urges people who are concerned about their mental health or that of others to reach out and start a conversation, in a contribution to the Church of England's national online service.

The service, led by Rev Professor Gina Radford, Vicar in Devon and a former Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England, includes a series of prayers for all those whose mental health has been affected, their relatives, friends and carers. Go to the following page:- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

REFLECTIONS FOR A CHURCH IN LOCKDOWN:

“I Will Come Into Your House”

Episode 5: Samuel Wesley's beautiful setting of Psalm 5.8 is my starting place this week. Wesley crafts a peaceful song of trust out of the middle of a Psalm which refuses to hide from life's difficulties.

“Reflections for a Church in Lockdown” is a new series of reflective podcasts and online audio by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft who says “For each edition I will be talking with someone I've come to know in my travels about their faith, their work and their story. I'll be asking what it means to them to become more Christ-like: contemplative, compassionate and courageous for the sake of God's world.”

The series aims to resource the Church during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. To listen to the podcast go to:-

<https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/podcast/i-will-come-into-your-house/>