

The Church in Warden Hill

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY AND YORK

We want to thank you for the ministry you are exercising and for the creative and imaginative ways in which you are responding to the crisis and showing the love and care of Christ to the communities we serve, particularly to the most vulnerable in our society. As we move towards Passiontide, focussing on what Jesus did for us on the cross, more than ever this is brought into stark focus.

We want to reiterate the advice we have already sent. The government is asking us to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. We call upon all our churches and church leaders, clergy and lay, to follow this advice. We are in a time of great fearfulness. The numbers of those becoming seriously ill and dying is increasing. It therefore remains very important that our churches remain closed for public worship and private prayer. Therefore, for a season, the centre for the liturgical life of the church must be the home, not the church building.

The decision to close church buildings and to prevent them being used for streaming has been a very difficult one. Some government advice suggests that we should be able to allow streaming from church buildings. Our advice, however, is that we should go the extra mile in following the clear public health advice and guidance which is to stay at home and to stay safe. The government guidelines also continue to assert that funerals can take place in church buildings. The medical, epidemiological and public health advice we have received clearly indicates that this represents an additional layer of risk that we don't need to take. Cleaning a church building after a funeral is much harder to do than a crematorium chapel. Consequently, we are continuing to ask clergy to conduct funerals at the graveside or in a crematorium chapel.

It is hugely encouraging to hear stories of how our prayers and loving actions are blessing our communities and reaching out beyond our usual congregations. Similarly it is wonderful to hear stories of innovative pastoral practice and spiritual care being undertaken in new ways. Thank you for this. We are very aware of how quickly events are changing and we will keep under review all our advice and guidance. If Government guidance changes we will consider our own guidance. Our priority is to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. Our prayers are with you all; let us all support one another.

With every blessing, + Justin Cantaur and +Sentamu Ebor

Arrangements for Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Confirmation, Banns of Marriage, etc., should be made with any one of the Clergy.

If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit please contact Clergy, Elders or Readers.

Without your information we are unable to provide pastoral care.
Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cypher

If you have anything for the Grapevine please send it to
Edna Willox (grapevine@tcivh.org.uk Tel 510773) by early Wednesday evening



The Church in Warden Hill
(Anglican & URC)

Welcome



THE GRAPEVINE 12th APRIL 2020 EASTER SUNDAY

A Message from Revd Gary

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

It seems strange not to be celebrating in our churches, or hunting for Easter eggs this year, but the Easter message of hope and new life in Christ is still the same. This year, let us take that hope and belief and ask God for healing, for ourselves so that we are better able to cope with the worries we find in our everyday lives, and for the world as it continues to adapt to, and overcome, the effects of the virus.

This Week

There will be a Sunday morning live-stream at 10am on our Facebook page or here: www.stpetersleck.org (click on the **Sunday Live!** link)

Easter Sunday Readings:

Colossians 3.1-4; John 20.1-18

Devotional Bible Readings for the coming Week

A good way to stay connected is to read the Bible and see what scripture is saying to you each day, and what you might want to pray about

Monday

Psalms 111
Exodus 12.1-14

Tuesday

Psalms 112
Exodus 12.14-36
1 Corinthians 15.12-19

Wednesday

Psalms 113
Exodus 12.37-51
1 Corinthians 15.20-28

Thursday

Psalms 114
Exodus 13.1-16
1 Corinthians 15.29-34

Friday

Psalms 115
Exodus 12.17-14.14
1 Corinthians 15.35-50

Saturday

Psalms 116
Exodus 14.15-31
1 Corinthians 15.51-58

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Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

EASTER THOUGHTS The last 3 weeks have been hugely challenging for all of us as we have found ourselves having to innovate, adapt and respond to the ever-changing world about us. We have had the opportunity to feel something of the bleakness that courses through Holy Week through being locked away and kept socially distant from each other. But we should also be aware and have a sense of the liberating power of the Holy Spirit, none more so than on Easter Day. Christ bursts forth from the tomb and nothing will ever be the same again. When we too burst forth, what stories will we tell? Perhaps stories of people growing in their faith, maybe ones about people coming to faith, or even a story about how the church has adapted and become something new? Every blessing, Revd Gary.

THIS SUNDAYS SERVICE will also be available live-stream via our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheChurchinWardenHill/> and from www.stpetersleck.org if you don't use facebook

MIDWEEK PRAYER Nick will be leading Morning Prayer (Monday to Friday 9am) and Night Prayer (Monday to Thursday 9pm). This will be live on their Facebook page www.facebook.com/pipandjims and on their website <http://www.pipandjims.org.uk/services/online/>

PLEASE NOTE: GRANDVILLES of Salisbury Avenue are now offering to supply and deliver groceries to those needing help at this time with the contact being Tina at 231700. They have reverted to selling more general supplies, bread, milk, fruit, vegetables, groceries etc instead of sandwiches and food to go. **email grandvillesdeli@gmail.com** for stock list.

BIRTHDAYS. If your birthday falls during this lockdown period, how about being like the Queen, and having an OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY later in the year? It's what I'm planning to do. Best wishes if you have missed out. Pam D.

Just a bit of good news: Margaret gives thanks for the safe arrival of a sixth great-grandchild, Jacob Peter. All well.

Website for The Church in Warden Hill is www.tciwh.org.uk

The Church in Warden Hill

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR Christians throughout the world as they celebrate Easter: many will be doing so in different ways due to church closures.

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR governments and leaders throughout the world as they tackle the spread of the virus; those who are sick; those who are worried and those who have died.

Weekly Prayer Focus

12th	Playgroup	16th	Churchwardens & Elders
13th	Brizen Centre users	17th	Church halls & users
14th	Readers Pam, Roy & Rachel	18th	S. Cheltenham team clergy
15th	The bereaved	19th	Gardeners & Litterpickers

YEMEN in April 2020 Last month marked over five years of devastating conflict in Yemen. 24 million Yemenis needed aid and protection before coronavirus began to spread; that's 80% of their population. Most of them remain on the brink of starvation. Tearfund and their partner in the region have not given up; they are making a difference. Coronavirus is yet to be confirmed in the country, but with their infrastructure devastated by five years of conflict, only half of health centres are functioning. People have been forced from their homes, and cholera and dengue fever are prevalent, so social distancing and hand-washing will not be easy in overcrowded places with little clean water. BUT they are families like ours, anxious about loved ones. Please continue to pray for the situation in Yemen and continue to add your donations to the collecting boxes.

On this glorious Easter Day we know with Jesus there is always hope. May we be instruments of his love, peace and hope in Yemen, to see restoration where there is despair, light where there is darkness and joy where there is sadness .

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia

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