

Parish Notices Sunday 17th May 2020

Please pray for:

Mon: The NHS and amazing Health Care Workers;

Tue Teachers who are continuing to keep schools open, and will have to continue through school holidays; .

Wed: National and Local Government and all those with authority; Family and friends of Vera Taylor whose funeral will be led by Tim Yates at Chiltern Crematorium today; Family and friends of Paul Marcham whose funeral will be led by Geoff Houston at Chiltern Crematorium today.

Thu: Shop workers, suppliers and all involved in the distribution of food and basic supplies; Family and friends of James Bolton whose funeral will be led by Josh Bailey at Chiltern Crematorium today.

Fri: Small business owners, those facing particular economic challenges.

Sat: Church leaders, nationally and locally - our witness in Chesham and the villages.

Clergy Contact Details

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Sadly Christian Aid's usual week of fund raising has not been able to happen in May in its usual way.

Like many charities they are suffering the effects of Covid-19 and are desperately in need of support for their work amongst the poorest areas of our world.

If you would like to donate you can do so online at :

christianaid.org.uk

Later in the year we hope to be able to have some fundraising activities.

The Parish Office remains operational. Lynette will be based there. Please contact by telephone or email but please do not come in person.

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Dear Friends,

Psalm 27 ends with those challenging words that David speaks to himself and to us, "*Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord*". He speaks to himself because he is surrounded by enemies; he speaks to us because trials are always part of the Christian life. Waiting patiently does not come naturally to most of us. In our 21st Century, Western "instant" culture, we have grown accustomed to having what we want, when we want it, and so waiting is hard.

The Prime Minister announced last Sunday a very gradual relaxation of the lockdown regulations for us as a nation, and the Bishops have followed their lead. We are now allowed back in our churches, but only those who have been delegated to do so, and only one at a time (unless in the same household). We are having to wait patiently for what we would all like: a return to gathering together for worship and fellowship.

In the waiting, some will experience greater challenges than others. We know that it is the poor and marginalised who are likely to suffer the most. I had reason to thank God for the privilege of living in such an area as ours when I was speaking to a friend who ministers amongst families living in high rise flats, in the shadow of Grenfell Tower. In our own town it is so good to support the ongoing work of Foodbank, the Community Fridge, the new FoodLife project run by Restore Hope Latimer in conjunction with local churches, and other community initiatives like the Big Friday Night Community Take Away, supplying a free meal to families of key workers and to vulnerable families, in partnership with local pubs and restaurants.

In the waiting, we need one another for mutual encouragement and support. It was great to read news from the 7 churches of the Parish last week, and we look forward to the first online meeting of the PCC this coming Wednesday. We need each other, but it is the Lord who we need more than anything else. He is our light and our salvation, He is the One who will deliver us through this pandemic, He is the One who will restore our fellowship when the time is right, and He is the One who will use us for His purposes if we are open to Him. So let's together be strong and take heart, and wait patiently for the Lord.

With love in Christ,
John Shepherd