

## Notices for week commencing 11th May

Hello all,

Greetings! Welcome to the first proper notice sheet since covid-19 lockdown. We thought it would be useful to send out weekly notices even or especially when churches are closed.

I hope you are staying safe, and staying faithful during these trying times.

*Our main notice is that we want to be in touch with church communities, and I am concerned that some are not regularly being supported. We need email addresses of all those who want to be in the loop, and referrals for church members who are struggling and want help. These are busy and demanding days, but we are never too busy to hear of those in need.*

Thank you for your willingness to help. I share your frustrations at the inability to care properly for people and property at this time.

**ZOOM WORSHIP:** Our Sunday Worship and daily prayer services are popular - we have even been joined by people from Plymouth and Telford, but our provision is aimed at regular worshippers, but not exclusively so. If you are struggling to join any of the Zoom worship—phone the parish office or send an email. See also [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com)

OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK GROUP are being launched this week. Do go there and support the churches and community. If you have any good local pictures we can use, then send them to us.

**EASTER CANDLES NOW PLACED IN OUR CHURCHES:** On Sunday last, Rev Ted visited all nine churches, placed the Easter candles in their rightful places as a sign of hope and light for us all, and recorded a simple video in each, with a prayer for all. These will be available to view on the website soon.

**MONEY:** There is no escaping this. We have no income from tourists, collections, fundraising. Even if everything were normal tomorrow, the damage have been done. Our local churches need the local church members to pray, and commit to regular serious giving to God's work. The PCCs had agreed to sustained teaching on this in Easter season—and that was before the lockdown.

A new way of giving is BRILLIANT: called the Parish Giving Scheme. Anonymous, free, does admin for treasurers to help them, gets gift aid back every month, and every penny comes back to the local churches. Several people have already signed up, and others are following. More information in future notice sheets, website and worship. Please let us all take God's work seriously and sacrificially. I am pledged to paying 10% of my regular income, and my wife pays her own amount as well. This is something for us all to aim for.

**ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION** was this year conducted by phone with wardens; thank you to the wardens for preparation and honesty. Archdeacon Nikki wrote to me saying she thought it had gone well.

And thank you to all who are doing kind acts for neighbours, and for those staying safe and limited for the sake of NHS and people's lives. Ironically perhaps, as the government reduces the severity index, and allows people to move further for exercise, the risk rises for us in our lovely attractive villages and countryside due to visitors from high-Covid areas. And remember, even if you are wearing gloves, you could be moving viruses from one location to another. Please don't push the boundaries of what is permitted: it just isn't worth it. *Coronavirus is in our communities, please take great care.*

Our churches remain closed to public worship. The earliest suggested date for reopening in some form is JULY at the time of writing.

**Prayers:** If you have any prayer requests: send them to [prayer.requests@4rivers.church](mailto:prayer.requests@4rivers.church)

Stay Safe, Stay Faithful, Stay Prayerful.

Rev Ted

01299 890100 / [office@4rivers.church](mailto:office@4rivers.church)

## Readings for Sunday

### Bible reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner',  
and

'A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

## Theme: Christ is the Cornerstone, we are to be Living Stones"

**We need to care for God's living stones here on earth—built on one eternal foundation stone—Jesus Christ.**

*Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

God's work in our parishes is not sustainable at the current levels of giving, and our Christian giving is linked to our living a full Christian life; a Christian life where we give with a generous and loving heart to God's work here and now. We need to search our hearts as God's living stones and commit to provide all that He needs from us to do His work, including our money.

The new Financial Planning team have registered all three PCCs with the Parish Giving Scheme, which is quick and easy to join. More information about how to give will be provided soon.

In the meantime, if you want to find out about the Parish Giving Scheme, contact Ted.

## Collect

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen.**

## Hymns:

All people that on earth do dwell (VE theme) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NC5FfEavPM4>

In Christ alone (Theme for the day) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91VuGOADc\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91VuGOADc_w)

Because he lives (Amen) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LwBqG7uXbY>

Now thank we all our God (VE theme) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItfKjxkXhMk>

*Want us to use a favourite hymn in the worship? Just email the office and we will try and oblige.*

## Donate to Christian Aid Week NOW!—10th to 16th May

Your donations will be used to help families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.

Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

As coronavirus continues to spread across the world, and we have already shown incredible kindness to each other and our neighbours, let's now reach out to your neighbours further away. Our giving will help protect, by supplying soap, clean water and medical supplies.



By supporting Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.

Poor communities are hit hardest by coronavirus. It's affecting families living in overcrowded refugee camps, and many vulnerable people who have no water to clean their hands.

With all our support, we can limit the impact of the virus, **with life-saving soap and water.**

### *Prayer*

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

*(from St Patrick's Breastplate)*

### **Zoom SERVICES (no services on Saturday)**

Monday 11th May	8am Morning Prayer 6pm Evening Prayer
Tuesday 12th May	8am Morning Prayer 10am ComForTed (Social) 6pm Evening Prayer
Wednesday 13th May	8am Morning Prayer 6pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 14th May	8am Morning Prayer 4pm Bible Study 6pm Evening Prayer
Friday 15th May	8am Morning Prayer 6pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 17th May	10am Sunday Spiritual 6pm BCP Evening Prayer