



WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday April 26th 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

WELCOME to the latest weekly letter as we continue our journey through Eastertide together, celebrating the Easter message of death being swallowed up in life, a message that our hurting world



desperately needs to hear. Today, our focus turns to the lovely story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It's a story that contains so much of our faith and Christian life:– the importance of our fellowship one with another (even if we need to learn new ways to express it); the perennial inspiration of the Scriptures; the need to offer and receive hospitality; and the recognition of Christ's presence whenever we break the bread of the Eucharist. I will be preaching on this passage (Luke 24.13-35) at our virtual service on Sunday, and I invite you all to read it for yourselves in preparation, as it is one of those stories that reveals something new about God and about us every time we read it.

Don't forget that I am always here for you, either electronically or at the other end of a telephone, (chaplain@scilly.church)(423911), and I know that you will all continue to uphold and support one another, especially those who are alone at this time. As ever, please let me know if there is anyone in particular you would like me to contact.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

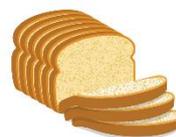
Bishop Philip and Ruth have recorded another service of worship that will go live on the diocesan website (www.trurodiocese.org.uk) from 8.00 a.m. on Sunday morning, and will be in the same format as others that you may have seen.

There will also be another all-age, interactive Facebook Live session with the Bishop on Sunday at 9.30 a.m. It will be visible on the Diocese's Facebook page live



<https://www.facebook.com/TruroDiocese/>. (and afterwards

as a recording). I'm reliably informed that Petroc the Penguin might make another appearance -



and to fully enjoy the experience you'll need some bread and chocolate (or a suitable substitute) with you at home.

Don't forget that our Parish Morning Service will be taking place via Zoom on Sunday at 11.00 a.m. As last Sunday, the code is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477892334?pwd=aWVpWXVidksralpVZm1yUjN6VDg0dz09>. Just click on this on a phone or

tablet, or ctrl+click on a desktop or laptop, and you should be there. If you feel unsure about this process, please do give me a ring and I'll talk you through it. You



will be able to join from 10.30 a.m. and chat to others before we start properly at 11.00 a.m. It was very encouraging to see so many of you last Sunday, and I hope that we may be able to welcome a few additional members this time round.

SUPPORTING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH



One of the attachments to or enclosures within this week's email is a booklet produced by the Church of England designed to provide hope, reassurance and comfort during a time of stress and challenge. Designed to be used

over a two week period, the booklet gives a reflection for each day based on a Scriptural text, together with some practical suggestions -

‘Have a Go’ to promote a healthy lifestyle during lockdown and beyond. We all need to take of our mental health and wellbeing, and I commend this resource as a helpful support along the way.



THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS

You can find the Sunday readings and prayers on one of the other attachments that I have sent to you. As well as reading the amazing story of the Emmaus Road from **Luke 24.13-35**, you may like to ponder the words from **1 Peter 1.17-23**, especially the apostle’s instruction to us to **‘live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.’** For God’s ancient people, the Exile in Babylon was probably one of the most important parts of their history, second only to the Exodus from Egypt itself. It was during the Exile that the Jews learnt about what it meant to be God’s people when all the comforts and routines of their homeland had vanished, when they were constrained against their will in a strange land, when they sat down by the rivers of Babylon and wept, wept for the loss of the joys of home, for the loss of the presence of those whom they loved, as they learned to sing the Lord’s song in a strange land. (See Psalm 137.) Perhaps these days of lockdown are a strange land for us, cut off as we are from our friends, from our usual way of life, even from our normal church worship. Perhaps this time of exile may give us the opportunity to examine again what it means to be the Church, as we learn to be God’s people once again.

THINKING IT THROUGH

Inevitably the present crisis throws up all sorts of questions for us all, questions that penetrate to the heart of our faith as Christians. I’ve read some more reflections over the past few days, and I’m



attaching/enclosing a document with two of the reflections that have spoken to me – by Krish Kandiah who is the Founding Director of ‘Home for Good’, an organisation seeking to help vulnerable children in our society, and one by Luke Bretherton who is a theologian and ethicist from the USA. You may find one or both of these helpful in your own thinking.

I’m also attaching/including my sermon from last Sunday on ‘Doubting Thomas’. One or two of you were foolish enough to ask for a copy, and others weren’t able to participate in the service via Zoom. If neither of those group includes you, there’s always the delete button!



A PRAYER FOR A TIME OF TROUBLE

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support
the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Please be assured of my love and prayers.

Perran

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