



Dear Friends, it is going to be a different kind of Easter, but it will still be Easter. By now we should have been preparing for our Team Service on Palm Sunday. We should be wondering if the donkeys would finally go into church or if we should bake another cake or shop for more sandwich fillings. We should be looking forward to Holy Week - to prayer and reflection - to the Seder Meal and a long night of remembering. We should be looking to the day when we rejoice. But instead we are living this strange half-life which is unlike anything we have ever known or imagined. However,

**Easter will still come Easter never leaves us.
We are an Easter people**

We are an Easter people because Christ has made us so and because of this we can rejoice in the everyday kindnesses of ordinary people who remember their neighbour when they get their shopping. We can thank God for the skills and courage of health workers and carers. We can applaud the shopworkers and delivery drivers working day and night. Easter means that we can remember that we have a future and we can make it a better one because of what this time is teaching us.

WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE AND OUR GOD IS WITH US

Yours in Christ ~ Elizabeth

**RADCLIFFE TEAM
MINISTRY**

Update 2

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Gathered and scattered
God is with us
Iona Community

SATURDAY MORNINGS and the rest...

Naturally the Church of England and the Diocese have been concentrating on safety, worship and spirituality in their guidelines and we all miss worshipping together but many of us are also missing the social side. Jean Smith sent round an email to those of who are usually at St. Thomas and St. John on a Saturday morning

Good morning everyone - Its Saturday morning and I should be sat with a cup tea and a slice of toast in church, with friends, putting the world to right. Instead I've only got a cupper, saving the bread until lunch time. Today, Beryl should have be doing the monthly draw, however, we are waiting until things are back to normal and will do the March and April draw together, so you are still in with a chance of winning.

I haven't got room for the whole letter, but here are a couple of responses - again not the whole thing

RITA *We have been talking to the girls and the grandchildren but it's not the same as giving them a cuddle. Our brown bin is overflowing with garden waste and they are not collecting this week. I am a bit early but have put my palm cross from last year in the window.*

PAULINE *It is my birthday on Tuesday and as it's a significant one Helen had arranged a surprise party, which should have taken place yesterday. She had invited people to her house, bought decorations, arranged a cake, sorted all the food and booked me in for a manicure, then she cancelled it all. Still, if I can't celebrate then I don't need to add a year on and I can stay 69 for the foreseeable future, every cloud has a silver lining.*

Jean is going to do another Saturday letter - if you want to read it and respond let me know and I will forward it on to you. Sorry for the none email users - but we will do our best to keep you in the loop.



The church that prays together, stays together

Lord of life help us hear your word of life and send it out as a light to those in darkness

Lord of peace help us feel your peace and send it as a comfort to those trapped by fear

Lord of love help us to remember how much you love us. Encourage us to spread love - yours and ours wherever we go.

Lord of love and Lord of peace
Lord of resurrection life
Be known through our lives
and through your power
Christ the Lord is risen to-day

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR Mike and Carol Hayden, Beryl Holgate

All those vulnerable people that are 'shielded' at home, and unable to go out at all. Anyone who has lost a partner in recent times and is now feeling lonely and without support.

Please pray for 2 little girls who are experiencing serious health problems

Lily-Pearl Roberts

Ella-Rose Eckersley

IS CHURCH OPEN? YES - BUT DIFFERENTLY

If you are online, you will have probably seen many options for online worship: prayers; worship; readings; meditations and more. There is something for everyone. One site I particularly liked is

i-church.org

This has 'space' for all these things and more.

The Church of England website has a great deal to offer and it is a great way of praying "together" at this difficult time.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

LENT APPEALS

Many of you took collection boxes for the Church Army at the beginning of Lent, if you have been adding money week by week please make sure that you send in the money. The Church Army provides much needed support for many disadvantaged people, including homeless people and women and families at risk of domestic violence. Send a cheque to: Church Army, Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish Street Sheffield. S3 7RZ or give an online card payment

www.churcharmy.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY is not just for handwashing!

Pauline Gaskell has just celebrated her 70th

On April 6th Marjorie Lockett will be 80 and the next day Stuart Wood will be 70. Best wishes to all of you.

PORCH BOXES

Many of us are worrying about whether or not we enough food in the fridge or cupboard, even though we know we probably have. However, a lot of people are really in need of a little extra help. Although we cannot donate actual food items at the moment, we can still support **PORCH** through a donation:

A cheque made payable to "The Porch" sent to Michael Perrin, 14 Kenmore Avenue Bury BL8 2DY

Bank transfer Account number 81643089 sort code 09-01-55

Online

<https://porchboxes.wordpress.com/>

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