

Dear all,

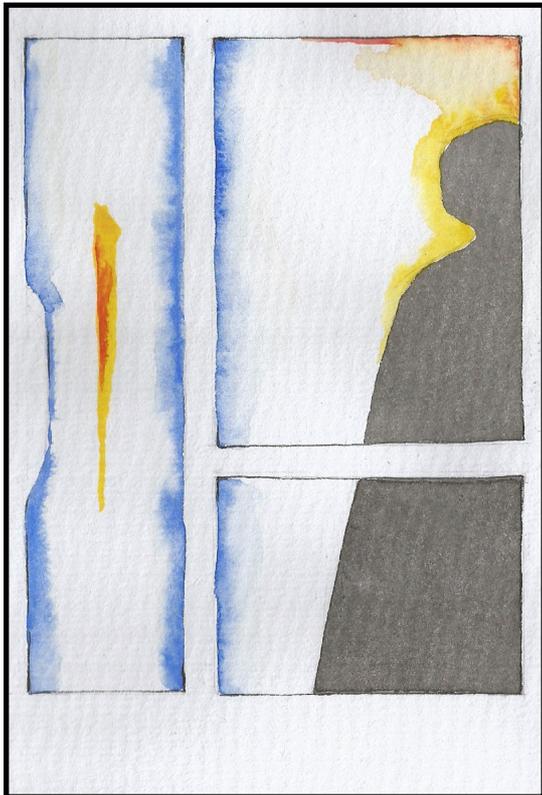
Oulton Broad Team Ministry The Parishes of St. Mark with St. Luke and St. Michael.

Welcome to the second newsletter for members of the congregations of

St. Michael's, St. Luke's and St. Mark's, which we're sending out whilst regular Sunday Worship remains suspended. This week, I've decided to jazz it up a little, and so we've got pictures and colour!

Thank-you for the feedback that was received after the first letter was distributed along with, in most instances, a Mother's Day Primrose. These were delivered by a team of volunteers who's involvement was greatly appreciated.

I hope that you're all well, and not feeling too isolated in these strange times. We are seeking to maintain contact with everyone, by email, text message, post and phone calls, at least once a week. However, if you'd value a little more contact than that, please email us at stmarks.oultombroad@gmail.com or phone the Parish Office on 01502 514774. The answerphone is being checked daily, Monday to Friday.



Harvey Bradley, from St. Mark's has sent [this beautiful watercolour image](#), which reflects a theme of waiting upon God and how we can know the Holy Spirit close at hand, despite being behind closed doors. Thanks Harvey!

Last Sunday, we had our first Sunday online Zoom Gathering. This is taking place at 10.30am each Sunday during the period that Public Worship is suspended. Zoom was a learning experience for those of us who took part, but it was great to share fellowship in a different kind of way. Singing together was a bit of a disaster (!), but we did manage to pray together and study a bible passage together too.

If you'd like to join the Sunday online gathering, download the Zoom app and register for a free account. Just before 10.30am on Sundays, you can join the online gathering by entering the following meeting ID: 588 877 574. If you have any technical problems please call or email the Office as we have some 'help guides' that can be sent out.

Rachel Hayden is developing some joint Home Group materials that we will be making available after Easter. They are based on the book of Daniel. For those who wish to take part, some individual sheets will be sent out on Mondays - for individual reflection - and then for those who wish to join it, there'll be an online 'Joint Zoom Home Group' on Wednesday evenings, starting after Easter. More information will be available in next week's newsletter.

The Staff Team are also preparing a series of Daily Reflections for Holy Week which will be available in written form, and also via online Zoom gatherings at 7.30pm each evening, Monday to Thursday, and at 3pm on Good Friday. More information will also be available in next week's newsletter.

I'm sorry that the Sunday 10.30am Online Gathering is only available for those that have the technology but,

for those that don't, you should have received copies of 'The Sunday Link' and 'Live the Word', along with this letter. These are available to us all because St. Michael's have a subscription. If you haven't received these, and would like copies, please call St. Mark's Parish Office, on 01502 514774, and we'll arrange for those to be posted to you. I hope you'll find them helpful.

Tony Hilder, from St. Luke's has written a prayer for us to use during this challenging time. Thanks Tony!

Prayer for our time

Lord we pray, in the knowledge of your love for the people of this world, that you hold the world in your loving hands. We pray, with the deep conviction from the depth of our being, that you will rid us of the virus affecting many people who have passed into your hands, those suffering and, those who are self isolating. Give those who have lost loved ones peace and comfort, and those suffering, strength, hope and rapid recovery. We pray that the actions of our leaders will be acted upon by all of the populations of countries affected. We pray in the name of our Saviour, your Son Jesus Christ. Amen

If you have internet access, there are a wealth of worship and prayer resources available online. Many Churches are streaming live worship and there are printed resources available for download. If you don't have internet access, please let us know if you'd like us to get some printed resources to you.

For those with Internet access, here are some links that you may like to try:

- *Liturgy and Prayer Resources from the Church of England*—<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>
- *Live streamed Worship from Holy Trinity, Brompton*—<https://www.htb.org/sundayonline>
- *Live streamed Worship from St. Aldate's, Oxford*—<https://staldates.org.uk/news/article/sunday-services-online>
- *The 'Time to Pray' app including Daily Prayer Liturgy and Readings*—<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>
- *The Daily Prayer Feed from the Church of England*—<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

I have a few requests to make:

- 1) Please let us know if you become unwell, as we would love to be praying for you.
- 2) It will assist us greatly if you could maintain your regular weekly giving to the Church, if at all possible. This can be done by setting aside your weekly cash donation, setting up a standing order or via BACS. The details for our Churches are: Oulton St Michaels PCC, Sort Code 20-53-06, account no. 50719323 / St Mark's Church PCC, Sort Code 09-01-54, account no. 90104282 / St Luke's Church, Sort Code 09-01-55, account no. 82303087. Thank you.
- 3) Our Parishes are part of a coordinated community response to Covid-19 restrictions. People in need are calling a central helpline and we are one of the groups who receive referrals each day. Therefore, if you are able to assist with collecting shopping or prescriptions for those in need, please contact St. Mark's Parish Office by phone or email as soon as possible.
- 4) The Foodbank is in need as much as ever. If you are able to assist, food donations can be left in the Porch at St. Mark's Church which will be open.
- 5) For St. Michael's congregation: if you would be willing to assist by making weekly phone calls to others from St. Michael's, please contact Debbie Allsopp (alan_debbie@hotmail.co.uk / 538573
- 6) If you need help, let us know.

Lamentations 3:22—*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.*

With love and prayer, your Rector, Helen.