

Dear all,

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

Welcome to Newsletter no. 9 since Public Worship was suspended by the Church of

England. Where has the time gone?! I do hope that you're all well, and coping ok despite the challenges. Here are some things to reflect upon, written by Jill Hunting one of our Lay Readers:

'Thy Kingdom Come' – An Invitation to Prayer *'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven'* are familiar words. Perhaps over these past weeks you've been praying 'The Lord's Prayer' more (hopefully not less?). These words were as, John Belham says, given to us by Jesus, not *'as a literary masterpiece to be viewed and admired,'* but as *'a pattern and basis of prayer for real people in a real world.'*

As I write (VE Day and wondering what the government's 'roadmap' for moving forward from lockdown will be), the world has at times felt more 'surreal' than 'real'. As I entered our local shop this morning another regular customer held open the door for me, promptly turning his back, not out of rudeness but because of social distancing.

The Lord's Prayer gives us our own 'roadmap', one that remains unchanged despite all the twists and turns of history. John Belham likens it to a *'whole house of prayer with many rooms to explore'* each room opening up to us a different aspect of God's world, *'for which we are called to pray'... thanksgiving, intercession, forgiveness, protection, praise...' Hope. The phrase 'Thy Kingdom come' reminds us of 'the awesome holiness of God'.*

You may also be familiar with **'Thy Kingdom Come'** as the title of our Archbishops call to prayer from Ascension to Pentecost. These are momentous days in our Christian calendar, sadly the former now often neglected, its supernatural elements don't sit well with contemporary rationality. Ascension marks Jesus'



ascent to heaven, opening the way further to our commissioning to bring his Father's Kingdom to glory 'on earth as in heaven'. That's a daunting task, but start where you can Jesus seems to say when he responds to his disciples' request for teaching on prayer. The Lord's Prayer is entrusted to us all, leading us forward in whatever situation we find ourselves to bring to a broken, troubled world comfort, healing and 'Hope'.

Our Call to Prayer In response to the Archbishops' call to prayer, **we're holding a Day of Prayer on Ascension Day 21st May**. Although we can't come together, we can be united in prayer, from 'dawn to dusk', in our homes. To help 'unite' us we're asking you to let us know when you'll be praying, whether for 20-30 minutes – 1+ hour, between 6am – 10pm – or earlier/later for larks and owls! Please let us know a.s.a.p. **(Phone Jill Hunting 518200 or text 07961 643971)**. Please give your name as well as time, also if there are specific area(s) you'll be praying for e.g. NHS, keyworkers, care homes, hospices, those who are unwell (including mental health), Foodbanks, volunteers, the bereaved, those fearful about jobs, those without gardens or technology, the lonely, isolated, the community and our world.

Prayer resources for 'Thy Kingdom Come' can be found at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> or if you'd like some resources sent out to you please contact the church office on 514774.

Remember also to send any contributions to **our project to collect together our lockdown experiences/reflections, etc.** I've heard some of you have been 'colouring in' – we'd love to see your pictures – and a challenge to the children, 'don't let the grown-ups become better at colouring or drawing – Join in!' **Please send contributions to Jill Hunting** (126 Higher Drive, Lowestoft NR32 3DE or jillhunting13@gmail.com).

Supporting Schools I've been thinking and praying how we may be helpful to our schools when more of the children begin to return. It's likely that it will continue to be a challenging time for them. I was thinking that it might be appreciated if we were to bake some cakes and deliver them to the schools in our Parishes, for the staff room, along with a card assuring them of our prayers. What do you think? Does anyone have other ideas of how we might support the schools? Is the baking idea something that you think you might be able to get involved with? We would need: 1) people willing to bake; 2) people willing to shop for ingredients for bakers who can't get out; 3) people willing to collect baked goods; and 4) people willing to make colourful containers to deliver the cakes in.



If you've got other ideas, or if you'd be willing to help out, please email me (revhelenjary@gmail.com) or phone St. Mark's Parish Office (514774).

Our regular Sunday Worship via Zoom continues at 10.30am each week, followed by Holy Communion at Midday. If you'd like to join our Sunday Morning Worship by phone, please call the following number: **0203 481 5240**. When prompted, you'll then need to enter this meeting ID: **588 877 574** and press the # key on your phone keypad when instructed to do so. This call will cost you the same as any UK national call. For others, joining the Sunday online gathering with video, the meeting ID is also **588 877 574**. The songs/hymns this week will be: *Come, People of the Risen King / Holy Spirit, We Welcome You* (MP 241 / WT 154) *There is a Redeemer* (MP 673 / WT 413 / CA 658). **For any children** that will be joining us on Sunday, we'd like to set you the challenge of making a colourful heart with any materials that you can find around the house. We look forward to seeing what you make.

Midweek Communion on Wednesday 20th May will be at 10.30am and via Zoom. The Meeting ID will be **838 0435 8791** and you can join by phone if you call **0203 051 2874**. The Theme of the Service will be Jesus' Ascension, given that it will be the day before Ascension Day.

Zoom Etiquette Please be aware, if you're using Zoom, that background noise can prevent others from hearing what's going on and, for those with hearing aids, can be quite uncomfortable. You may not be aware that if you connect to Zoom on two separate devices, but in close proximity, it causes feedback for others; so please avoid that if you can. Therefore, it's best to ensure that you are muted as much as possible. Finally, remember that before and after the Service, if you're unmuted, everyone can hear your household chat!

Prayer for Today—no. 8—Written by Tony Hilder from St. Luke's.

Father hear the prayer we offer; not for ease that prayer shall be, but for strength, that we may ever live our lives courageously. O Lord, when we Pray we normally ask for guidance or help for a multitude of things, and we thank you for that help you give. But, O Lord, we especially ask for your blessing upon those suffering from the Covid19 virus. Please Lord encourage us to give you thanks for the many blessings we have—sunshine, rain, family, friends and health, for the flowers and crops sprouting in the fields. We pray for those providing and delivering our food; for all those who work for the NHS; and or our Police forces and the other emergency services. We ask your blessing on our ministry team and Churchwardens; upon our Royal family and those in authority; may their decisions be for the benefit of the entire population. We remember those who have departed from us, Lord give peace to their relations and friends. Merciful Father accept our prayers for the sake of your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Lord will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (Psalm 121:7-8)

With love and prayer, Helen