



## St Peter's Wolvercote & All Saints Wytham e-news 15 April '20

In this quiet week after Easter, we're using the opportunity to share some of the photographs, reflections and poems received from members of our congregation. The beautiful Spring images above were taken by Philippa Gibbs.



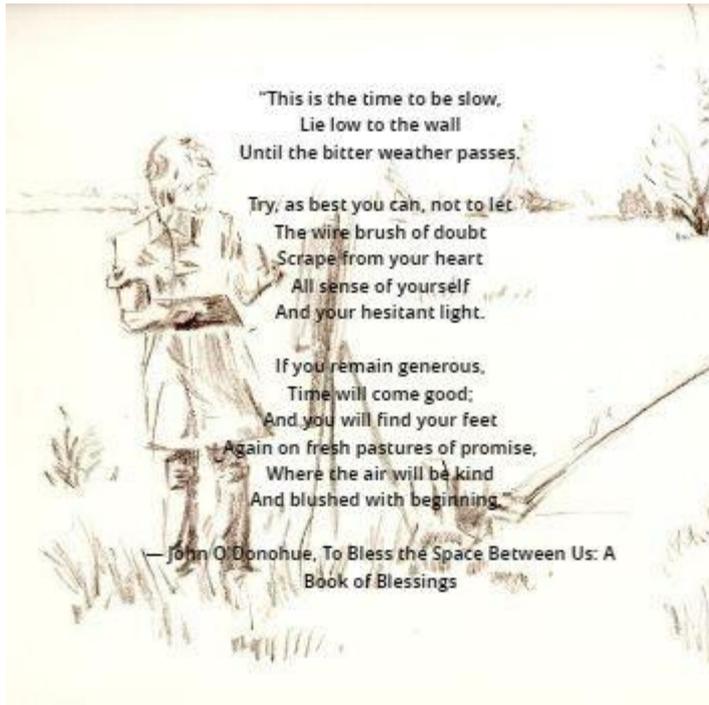
In the early Church, most candidates were baptized at Easter. In this Easter season, the Church gives to the newly baptized all that we need to grow in faith and to live a good and fruitful life. One of the most important of those gifts is the Lord's Prayer.

Today many learn the kingdom prayer by heart as children, but then never understand its meaning as adults. In the early Church, new Christians would be taught the prayer for the first time just after baptism as one of the great mysteries of the faith. Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu invite you to come to the Lord's Prayer in this season with fresh eyes and in the joy of Easter.

*Pilgrim Journeys: The Lord's Prayer* offers 40 daily reflections on this world-famous prayer, beginning on Easter Sunday. Each day includes an invitation to pray, a suggestion for bringing the vision of the Lord's Prayer into your daily life, and full audio for each day's entry, with a daily hymn.

Links to download the free Easter Pilgrim app may be found on the [chpublishing.co.uk](http://chpublishing.co.uk) website.

*"We may pray the Lord's Prayer by ourselves in this season, but we are not alone. We pray the prayer each in company with the Church around the world. Christ lives in us and prays through us in the power of the Holy Spirit. Together we make our prayer: Thy Kingdom Come. May the Lord bless you and your family and household as you make his prayer your prayer in the coming days." - Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu.*



## ***To Bless the Space Between Us***

This poem (left) by John O'Donohue from "*A book of blessings*" was suggested by Revd Shei Crowther. Co-incidentally it was used by Helen Stevens, Church Relations Manager on behalf of the Eco Church team, to introduce a recent Eco Church e-newsletter. Helen commented, "*It's challenging to know what to write in these tumultuous days. So I simply offer the poem by John O'Donohue, read by Fergal Keane on Radio 4 this week as verse that gives him hope and helped him to deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as a starting point.*"

Your editor recommends reading more from poet and philosopher O'Donohue on his website [www.johndonohue.com](http://www.johndonohue.com)

## **A Green Pilgrimage through Lent**

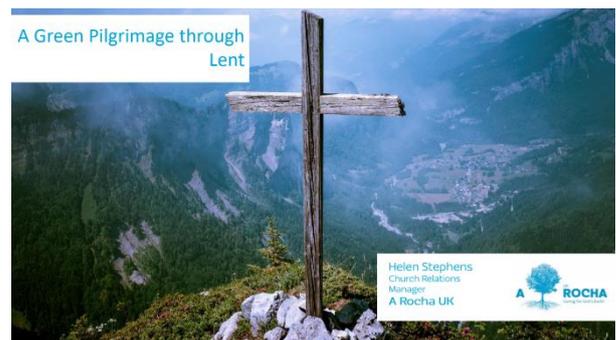
Helen Stevens was the first of two guest speakers we were privileged to welcome during Lent - before coronavirus took over. Her theme was a *Green Pilgrimage through Lent*. In the talk she explored how the Bible helps us to understand our relationship with God and the earth, drawing on illustrations from passages in Genesis, Job and several Psalms as well as comment from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

She reminded us that our responsibility to care for God's creation is reflected in the Fifth Mark of Mission in the Anglican church - "*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*" As she put it, "*Creation does not pass away .... it's about restoring the interdependence and harmony that God intended for creation before we thought we could have it our own way.*"

In the face of stark reminders illustrating the physical damage we're doing to our environment, the natural world and the poorest nations, Helen suggested our first response should be to start with joy and thanksgiving for the wonder of creation, and to celebrate God's creation through our worship and prayers. Then we should take practical steps to nurture and protect it, for example by making choices in the way we travel (when we can), buy food or use energy.

She finished by encouraging us to engage with the EcoChurch movement which St Peter's has pledged to support. Led by Beth Knowles, we're looking at our church practices in five areas: worship and prayer, buildings and the environment, our land, lifestyles and community engagement. Beth will be writing more about our progress in all these areas and projects through which we hope to make improvements, in future newsletters.

While we're all at home more, the EcoChurch committee would like to invite you to complete a very simple online survey devised by **WWF** (<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>) to measure your carbon footprint. It's



maybe not the most sophisticated tool but it will be an encouragement to think about your lifestyle and to acknowledge which of your actions might be the most damaging to the environment.

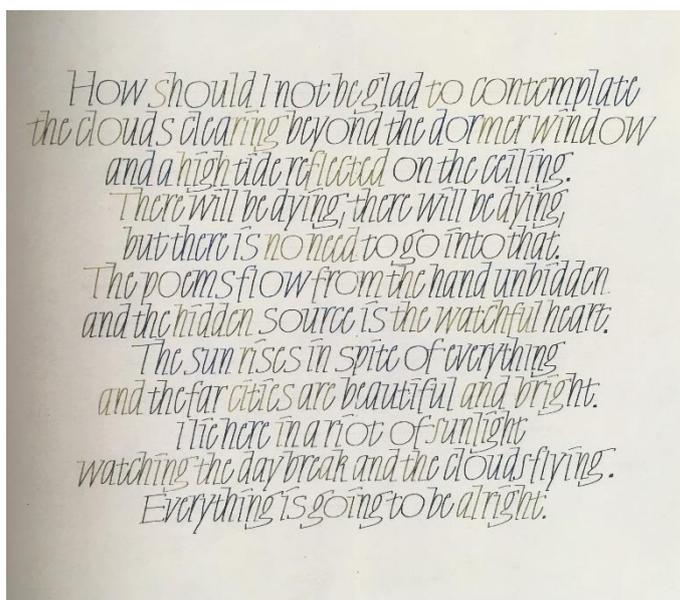
Helen has generously shared the text of her talk and separately the beautiful photographs she used as illustrations. These can be found on St Peter's website in the News section.

**“You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.” – Thomas Merton**

### **Everything is going to be alright**

How should I not be glad to contemplate  
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window  
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?  
There will be dying, there will be dying,  
but there is no need to go into that.  
The poems flow from the hand unbidden  
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.  
The sun rises in spite of everything  
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.  
I lie here in a riot of sunlight  
watching the day break and the clouds flying.  
Everything is going to be all right.

A poem by Derek Mahon, reproduced with permission. Contributed by Edward Wates



## On Easter Sunday

The blackbird and robin sing a duet at dawn.  
So many other birds join in and  
This chorus seeps through my open window.  
This year there is no fire  
Lit outside the west door of the church,  
No hesitant steps as we move  
Around the font following the pascal candle  
Into a darkened church.

Today Charles speaks to us from his garden,  
The Bishop from his study,  
The Archbishop from his kitchen,  
And Pope Francis gives his blessing in an empty basilica.  
We share a different kind of communion  
In prayer and praise at home.  
We feel close to God  
As the sun streams through the open window.

Written by Jackie Eatock Taylor



*Image courtesy of Tony Lemon*

## Other news

### Wolvercote & Wytham Friendly Line

If you're self-isolating, staying at home or continuing to work through these uncertain times and feel lonely or overwhelmed, call 01865 570235 seven days a week between 10:00 and 16:00. Local volunteers provide a confidential, friendly voice and listening ear.

### Flying Goose March Issue

Not all copies of the most recent Flying Goose could be delivered before lock down. If you're missing your quarterly read, it is available on St Peter's website ([www.stpeterswolvercote.org](http://www.stpeterswolvercote.org)).

### Veg and fruit boxes

Wolvercote Community Market arranges fruit and veg boxes, eggs and dried goods for collection outside the White Hart Community Pub on Sunday mornings 10:00-11:00. Orders to be placed by 12:00 noon Thursdays. Go to Facebook [@wolvercotecommunitymarket](#) for full details.

### Wolvercote COVID-19 Community Support Group (WCSG)

WCSG provides practical support for people in Wolvercote who are self isolating or in need as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Phone: 01865 900550; text: 07426 575664; or email: [wc19sg@gmail.com](mailto:wc19sg@gmail.com) . Services include prescription collection from Rowlands Pharmacy in Summertown.

### North Oxford Covid19 Crew

A group of enthusiastic volunteers willing to help deliver parcels, collect groceries or prescriptions. Ring Shani on 07950343417.