



St Peter's Wolvercote & All Saints Wytham Wednesday 29 April 2020

Hyperlinks to access online media are underlined and **bolded**

Dear Friends

On Tuesday morning we held a minute's silence to remember frontline staff who have given their lives caring for those with COVID-19. Do please keep in your prayers our NHS, care and key workers, their families, and all those who have lost loved ones in recent weeks.

In this Easter season we remember that the risen Jesus still bore the scars of crucifixion. So with his help, we can face the hard things in life, strengthened by the hope he gives us.

A prayer for key workers who have died and for their families:

“Lord Jesus, healer, shepherd, they came to you for healing, you went to them for saving; enfold in your love those who have followed in your steps healing caring loving and have died in this pandemic. Give them their reward, console those who loved them and weep with us for lost lives, for you are our resurrection and our life. Amen. “

with love and prayers
Charles

News from All Saints' Wytham

At this strange and difficult time, it's good to be able to bring you positive news from All Saints'. During closure, extensive building work to the tower has taken place, project managed very successfully by David Humphrey. Old buildings often reveal their secrets of disrepair when surface materials are removed. Lo and behold, that happened to us, leading to certain consternation. However, all is now well. The tower has been repointed and its roof repaired. We have a completely new clock face in hardwood to replace the old one which had split. It's a joy that this necessary work

has been completed, even though we now face another period of fundraising when it becomes possible once this current crisis is over.



Attention turned to the churchyard last autumn when a mixed hedge was planted to encourage pollinators and birds. Our experts from Wytham Woods advised and carried out the work. To encourage pollinators out early in the year, one thousand species crocus bulbs were planted by Mike Dean and Sally Croft, most on a memorably wet Saturday to get the work completed. The result, a lovely show of purple flowers along the side of the path this spring. Those above who contributed to these works are most warmly thanked.

The churchyard has been closed during the building work. Once the scaffolding is removed, we plan to open it to visitors but this will have to wait until the contractors return to work. Although the church will have to remain closed, the churchyard is a lovely, quiet and peaceful place to sit (if we're allowed) - not actually in our church, but very close by.

Kathy Day-Dawson and Lorna Logan - Churchwardens, All Saints'

May Day Celebrations

The First of May has been celebrated at Magdalen College, Oxford for about 500 years. The event is captured in William Holman Hunt's painting 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower' seen as the header in this week's e-news. So why would something like COVID-19 be allowed to stop this ancient tradition?

Magdalen choristers may not be able to climb to the top of the tower – they're all back home for the duration – but, thanks to modern technology, they will be singing the Hymnus Eucharisticus, written by the 17th century composer Informator Choristarum and Fellow of Magdalen Benjamin Rogers.

You can watch this very special May Morning performance at 6:00 on Friday 1 May on the Choir's Facebook page and later on their webpage.



If early mornings are not your thing, there's an alternative which pays tribute to the key workers keeping us safe and well right now. Our local community band, Horns of Plenty, invite you to join in and welcome the Spring from your own home. At 8:00, band members will start playing the tune 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow' all over the city from their own doors and windows. Our local player lives around mid-Ulfgar Road. We hope you'll all lean out the window, or stand on your steps and join in singing, playing, humming.

Any instrument will do. Or sing! The words, the sheet music for various instruments in concert C, Bb and Eb, and the chords for ukulele or guitar can be found by following this Dropbox link <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kvmcfgykgsysasd/AAAY04c8UAXpPqAPrDqKLpLya?dl=0>

Encourage your neighbours, friends and networks across the city to join us in making sure that May Morning is celebrated once again in Oxford this year.

Diocese of Oxford declares climate emergency

On Saturday 14 March, the Oxford Diocesan Synod gave its overwhelming support to a motion that declares a Climate Emergency and commits the Diocese to a wide-ranging plan of practical action, prayer and advocacy, including a move towards a net-zero target. This momentous news was all but submerged by the growing fear of the global COVID-19 pandemic, but its importance mustn't be lost.

As the Diocesan press release commented, *"A common vision for a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world means that care for the climate is front and centre for the Diocese of Oxford."*

The plan is already in action through, for example, greening Church House Oxford, carrying out an energy audit, implementing its recommendations, and switching to a renewable energy tariff. St Peter's is one of over 100 parishes which are working towards this common goal. Ten percent of regional churches have had energy audits – including St Peter's.

The EcoChurch survey is St Peter's own blueprint to improving our carbon footprint. We have yet to understand what a net-zero target would mean for us, but we're slowly working our way through the Eco Church survey to identify what practical steps we can take. More volunteers are needed to help move projects forward, particularly in the areas of land management, lifestyle and advocacy. Let us know your particular interests telephoning 01865 236094.

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) – Launch of new telephone service

The PGS has announce the launch of a new telephone service, designed to enable prospective donors to set up a regular Direct Debit donation to your parish over the phone. The service went live on Monday 27th April 2020 and operates weekdays between 9:00 and 17:00.

Prospective donors are encouraged to set up a regular gift to St Peter's by calling a dedicated telephone line: 0333 002 1271 A PGS administrator will take you through the sign up process – this normally takes around 15 minutes. You will need your personal bank account details, the name of our parish (Wolvercote St Peter), and our PGS code (270627230) to hand. You must confirm if you want to increase your gift in line with inflation each year and whether you are eligible for Gift Aid. For further details contact Peter Bridges.

Boxes etc

"Just before Easter, boxes flew out of a sheet of A4 card ready to pack Easter eggs. Some boxes held four eggs, others just one. The small box in the picture is having a problem finding something to fit in it!"

The box bug has really caught me. I have quite a few waiting to be filled. My box-making tutor was Beryl to whom I am greatly indebted for giving me the box bug."

Sue Smith



Have you taken up a hobby during lockdown which you'd like to share with us? Please send a photo and a few words of explanation to stpeterslink@gmail.com

Quotes of the week

Kindly suggested by Lorna Logan

"Most good, honest prayers remind me that I am not in charge, that I cannot fix anything, and that I open myself to being helped by something, some force, some friends, some something."

Anne Lamott. From "Help, Thanks, Wow." Hodder and Stoughton © 2013

"³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.

Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)



Photograph courtesy of Jackie Eatock Taylor