



**Parish of Wiverton in the Vale:
One flock, One Shepherd, Six Pastures
Notices 29th March 2020**

LENT 5 - Passiontide begins

Message from the Rectory

The Lectionary Reading for this Sunday contains one of the first quotes from the bible I think I ever used as I child...from the King James version! I do hope you are impressed. **It would be lovely if you are able to join us all as we pause together for a reflection on this wonderful bible passage and also for prayers on Sunday at 10.30am.** Nick will place a link to a visual and audio file on the home page of our website.

John 11:1-45 *The Passion Translation (TPT)*

Lazarus Raised from the Dead

11 ¹⁻²In the village of Bethany there was a man named Lazarus, and his sisters, Mary and Martha. Mary was the one who would anoint Jesus' feet with costly perfume and dry his feet with her long hair. One day Lazarus became very sick to the point of death. ³So his sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, our brother Lazarus, the one you love, is very sick. Please come!"

⁴When he heard this, he said, "This sickness will not end in death for Lazarus, but will bring glory and praise to God. This will reveal the greatness of the Son of God by what takes place."

⁵⁻⁶Now even though Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, he remained where he was for two more days. ⁷Finally, on the third day, he said to his disciples, "Come. It's time to go to Bethany."

⁸"But Teacher," they said to him, "do you really want to go back there? It was just a short time ago the people of Judea were going to stone you!"

⁹⁻¹⁰Jesus replied, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight in every day? You can go through a day without the fear of stumbling when you walk in the One who gives light to the world. But you will stumble when the light is not in you, for you'll be walking in the dark."

¹¹Then Jesus added, “Lazarus, our friend, has just fallen asleep. It’s time that I go and awaken him.”

¹²When they heard this, the disciples replied, “Lord, if he has just fallen asleep, then he’ll get better.” ¹³Jesus was speaking about Lazarus’ death, but the disciples presumed he was talking about natural sleep.

¹⁴Then Jesus made it plain to them, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵And for your sake, I’m glad I wasn’t there, because now you have another opportunity to see who I am so that you will learn to trust in me. Come, let’s go and see him.”

¹⁶So Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, remarked to the other disciples, “Let’s go so that we can die with him.”

^{17–18}Now when they arrived at Bethany, which was only about two miles from Jerusalem, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁹Many friends of Mary and Martha had come from the region to console them over the loss of their brother. ²⁰And when Martha heard that Jesus was approaching the village, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house.

²¹Martha said to Jesus, “My Lord, if only you had come sooner, my brother wouldn’t have died. ²²But I know that if you were to ask God for anything, he would do it for you.”

²³Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise and live.”

²⁴She replied, “Yes, I know he will rise with everyone else on resurrection day.”

²⁵“Martha,” Jesus said, “You don’t have to wait until then. I am the Resurrection, and I am Life Eternal. Anyone who clings to me in faith, even though he dies, will live forever. ²⁶ And the one who lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷Then Martha replied, “Yes, Lord, I do! I’ve always believed that you are the Anointed One, the Son of God who has come into the world for us!” ²⁸Then she left and hurried off to her sister, Mary, and called her aside from all the mourners and whispered to her, “The Master is here and he’s asking for you.”

²⁹So when Mary heard this, she quickly went off to find him, ³⁰for Jesus was lingering outside the village at the same spot where Martha met him. ³¹Now when Mary’s friends who were comforting her noticed how

quickly she ran out of the house, they followed her, assuming she was going to the tomb of her brother to mourn.

³²When Mary finally found Jesus outside the village, she fell at his feet in tears and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³When Jesus looked at Mary and saw her weeping at his feet, and all her friends who were with her grieving, he shuddered with emotion and was deeply moved with tenderness and compassion. ³⁴He said to them, “Where did you bury him?”

“Lord, come with us and we’ll show you,” they replied.

³⁵Then tears streamed down Jesus’ face.

³⁶Seeing Jesus weep caused many of the mourners to say, “Look how much he loved Lazarus.” ³⁷Yet others said, “Isn’t this the One who opens blind eyes? Why didn’t he do something to keep Lazarus from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, with intense emotions, came to the tomb—a cave with a stone placed over its entrance. ³⁹Jesus told them, “Roll away the stone.”

Then Martha said, “But Lord, it’s been four days since he died—by now his body is already decomposing!”

⁴⁰Jesus looked at her and said, “Didn’t I tell you that if you will believe in me, you will see God unveil his power?”

⁴¹So they rolled away the heavy stone. Jesus gazed into heaven and said, “Father, thank you that you have heard my prayer, ⁴²for you listen to every word I speak. Now, so that these who stand here with me will believe that you have sent me to the earth as your messenger, I will use the power you have given me.” ⁴³Then with a loud voice Jesus shouted with authority: “Lazarus! Come out of the tomb!”

⁴⁴Then in front of everyone, Lazarus, who had died four days earlier, slowly hobbled out—he still had grave clothes tightly wrapped around his hands and feet and covering his face! Jesus said to them, “Unwrap him and let him loose.”

⁴⁵From that day forward many of those[q] who had come to visit Mary believed in him, for they had seen with their own eyes this amazing miracle!

I hope you can listen in on Sunday!

I also look forward to hearing your stories from 'Covidia'. This is the name Rev'd Canon J. John gives to this strange and unwelcoming landscape we now find ourselves in. In the words of the King James bible 'we are strangers in a strange land' (*Exodus 2:22*). Whilst it's comforting to know that there are others who have gone before us, and most generations have had to grapple with threats of war, plague, cholera and the like, this is strange to us now. So how are you getting by? Do tell us...

Robin Coles tells how he and Julie have put Tuesday nights to one side to continue with the prayer course. You can read this below. Perhaps you have your own story to share...

With love,
Rev'd Rachel

Our church buildings are now closed until further notice.



The Archbishops have written to clergy requiring that our church buildings are now closed for public worship, private prayer and all other meetings and activities except for vital community services until further notice.

Further information is available on the following link:

www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes

Farewell service postponed

Although Bishop Tony's farewell service was postponed, there is a video of Bishop Tony and Lucille talking to Bishop Paul at 3.30pm on Sunday. You can view it on our website at www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/interview or, go directly to the diocesan YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/dioceseofsouthwell

Church Online
NOT CANCELED

Quiet Time With God
NOT CANCELED

Praying For The Sick
NOT CANCELED

Checking On A Friend
NOT CANCELED

Helping Others
NOT CANCELED

Being The Church
NOW MORE THAN EVER

Songs of Praise Sunday 29th March at 1.15pm on BBC1. Aled Jones and the Archbishop of York designate Stephen Cottrell speak about finding Christian hope despite troubled times, together with hymns and songs.

Prayer course - "Your kingdom come"

In [session 4](#) the power and importance of praying on behalf of others is explored.

You can still follow this at home. The resource "How to Pray" by Pete Greig - can be [bought in hard copy](#) or [the course may be downloaded](#) from www.prayercourse.org.

The Prayer Course – continuing through self-isolation

As well as wanting to follow on from the excellent start in Colston Bassett Village Hall with participants from all Home Groups, we wanted to maintain some structure to the week, so decided to continue on our own on Tuesday evenings. We used the videos available on-line with the study notes to lead our thoughts afterwards. Despite there only being two of us we did manage to have a meaningful discussion. It was obviously shorter than it would have been with larger numbers, but that was fine because we still covered all the questions, and the two sessions we've covered so far have both given us new and helpful insights to prayer and praying. No spoilers for those still to do them, so we won't go into details.

Practically, the two evenings were very different. Last week we sat down together after our evening meal and 'did' the session before doing the washing up and bed with no interruption. This week was much harder – our nephew video-phoned from Vancouver (our great niece's 2nd birthday, but she was asleep), so that delayed us starting and no sooner had we finished viewing the video than he rang again as Greta had woken up, for us to wish her a Happy Birthday. So, everything was a bit disjointed, but we still managed to finish it before going to sleep!

Robin & Julie Coles

PRAYER MATTERS: *Please remember in your prayers this week:*

Our observance of Lent.

We pray for;

Ourselves and all those rocked by the news on Monday of the Lockdown caused by the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

For all who are anxious, stressed and confused by events that are unfolding at such an alarming rate...

All who are self-isolating.

For those with existing and chronic health conditions.

For those already feeling the weight of isolation and loneliness.

For those facing the financial impact of these times.

We continue to pray for our Government and leaders, our NHS, all who are working to ensure our shops are stocked with food each day, and all key workers.

We give thanks for;

The beautiful Spring sunshine; God's creation one more revealing his glory and faithfulness.

The thousands of volunteers who have come forward to support our NHS

The community support groups in our villages.

Our homes.

We remember;

Those we know and love who are sick at this time in body soul and mind. And, we also remember the family and loved ones of those who have died recently.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Lockdown, Richard Hendrick

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading flyers with her number
through the neighbourhood
so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again,
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
and though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Prayer whilst washing our hands

Wash us clean Lord (Create in me a clean heart, O God)
We're in your hands (The life of every living thing is in your hands)
Help us be your hands (Christ has no hands on earth but ours)



Have a closer look at Dürer's praying hands drawing

Let it speak to you in ways beyond words.

In a few quiet moments later, take a look at our own hands, through 'the eye of the artist'. Remember that you finger prints are unique and express the potential for each of us to respond uniquely, practically and creatively, with loving hands today.

The pub in Langar has opened up as a village shop.

Just go round the back, there is an honesty box.

Great village initiative!

Pass the message on

What would you like to read about that would lift your spirits during this challenging time?

Please send anything you would like to contribute and could be included in the next notice sheet, including messages of hope, expressions of thanks, prayers, puzzles, recipes etc to the Parish administrator on administrator@wivertoninthevale.co.uk or 07592 873751.

DID YOU KNOW? The Church of England receives no government funding other than some tax concessions, and our churches are dependent upon money given or raised locally to fund their ministry and upkeep, including heating, insurance and maintenance.

HOW CAN WE GIVE? Most of our worshippers and wider supporters give regularly by standing order. This is usually supplemented by offerings ('collection') in services, which is a lovely way of demonstrating commitment in response to God's loving generosity to us. Now that we are not able to host services, then if you are not already contributing by standing order, this might be the right time for you to consider this. *If you would like to find out more about this, or to change an existing order, please contact Max in confidence via treasurer@wivertoninthevale.co.uk*

Key Contacts

Rev'd Rachel: email: rector@wivertoninthevale.co.uk
phone: 07944 992178 N.B **Rachel's day off:** Friday

Parish Administrator

Anna Hemati Kang Sofla: 07592 873751
Email: administrator@wivertoninthevale.co.uk
Anna can direct enquiries to the most appropriate person.

Safeguarding Officer / Coordinator

Gareth Parker the Safeguarding Coordinator for the Parish, and any concerns regarding a safeguarding issue should be directed to him. 07738 091338 or gareth.parker@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Further information and contact details can be found on the parish website at www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/whos-who