



Parish of Wiverton in the Vale:  
One flock, One Shepherd, Six Pastures  
Notices 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

EASTER SUNDAY

**Message from the Rectory**

**Jesus said to him, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."***

John 14:6a

I spent eleven weeks in hospital when I was expecting my middle child Josh. I was at high risk of haemorrhage and so even leaving the maternity ward was considered too high a risk. When visitors came, I was allowed to walk them as far as the lift and then, since I was a long term 'inmate' I would waddle back to my room.

There were plenty of other mums to talk to, some with complications like me. Some who came in, disappeared off to labour ward and returned with tiny new-borns; later to leave proudly surrounded by family and all the paraphernalia of parenthood.

I really wanted to know what was happening, when could I go home...what was the long-term prognosis. It was such an anxious and worrying time.

After a time, for my own peace of mind, I made a decision to listen to just one voice, my consultant; to limit the voices I allowed to influence my thoughts and emotions. I also chose to stay close to God and talk to him, or simply be in his company.

I don't know if like me, you are drawn to the constant reports and update on the current situation. The news, documentaries, newspapers, social media. It can be addictive, and stress inducing!

It is wise, we are told, to reduce our intake each day for our mental health.

Choose one reliable source and stick to that; after all, bad news, and thankfully good news too, travels soon enough.

**Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."***

This week we have been walking in the way of the cross; reflecting once more on the unimaginable cost that was freely given that we might be forgiven and reconciled to our heavenly father.

The way of the cross, almost unbearable to watch, as Jesus takes each faltering step to the place of his crucifixion, as the nails are driven in place...

Yet as we celebrate this weekend, as we wait in the silence of this Saturday, we know that Sunday will come and that we will celebrate the resurrection.

During this unprecedented time when the nations of the world wait in lockdown how do we live out our faith at this time.

Today I offer this very simple thought for us to dwell on in the week ahead.

***Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."***

Jesus has gone before us; we simply need to follow him through this time. **Jesus knows the way** through, even to the Father.

**Jesus is the truth.** All truth is found in him. The truth about ourselves, the world around us, and the God who loves us and gave himself for us. We can trust him to walk through this with us. He is truth.

**Jesus is the life.** By his glorious resurrection Jesus has overcome death and the grave and is the source of all life and being. What is more, he has sent the Holy Spirit to fill us with his love and power, to live out our Christian lives daily in his service and in the service of others. Free to worship him and love him daily.

Spending time with God daily in prayer and reading his word is a source of life to each of us. Why not find a quiet place each day, a favourite place or chair, and sit and read a little from one of the gospels and talk to God about your concerns? You may have a favourite prayer or prayers. Then maybe sit a while and wonder at his love for you and your family, and the beauty of his creation.



Or you may wish to use the [Act of Spiritual Communion](#) available on the Parish website.

Whatever you choose to do allow Jesus to be the way, the truth and the life for you this Easter and in the days and weeks ahead,

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](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes)



### **Non-delivery of the Wiverton News**

“Some studies suggest that Coronavirus COVID-19 can live on paper and cardboard surfaces for up to 24 hours, and so any paper delivery represents a transmission risk. Local hand-deliveries also mean a volunteer will touch gates and post-boxes and may come into close proximity with those who may be shielding.”

*Church of England Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for churches*

For these reasons the [Wiverton News](#) and [Weekly Notice sheets](#) will not be delivered door to door, however they continue to be available on the parish website, [www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk](http://www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

**Songs of Praise** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 1.15pm on BBC1. An opportunity to listen and join in with Easter hymns and songs. Katherine Jenkins celebrates Easter at St Luke's Gas Street in Birmingham. Sean Fletcher talks to former Birmingham City footballer, now pastor, Ricky Otto and hears his story from prison to pitch to pulpit.

**Bishop Paul daily video** - A new video will be posted at 9.30am on Easter Sunday. You can view it on the [diocesan YouTube account](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). You can also email Bishop Paul with prayer requests at [bishop@southwellanglican.org](mailto:bishop@southwellanglican.org)

The Bishop will also be preaching and presiding at a Eucharist for Easter Day which will be available at 10.30am on Easter Morning from the Southwell Minister website: <https://www.southwellminster.org/> Alternatively, there is a service at 5.30am Christ is Risen! Proclaiming Easter, live from Vicars' Court at Southwell Minster. Available at [southwell.anglican.org](http://southwell.anglican.org).

You can also email Bishop Paul with prayer requests at [bishop@southwellanglican.org](mailto:bishop@southwellanglican.org)

### **Prayer course - "On earth as it is in heaven"**

In [Session 6](#) we discover how spending time with God in silence can enrich our relationship with Him.

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](http://www.prayercourse.org).

### **Social Media**

*Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*  
(Colossians 4:6)

In the current situation, Richard Ellis reminds us; "Be mindful of the source of material that appears on social media, and think carefully about what we retweet and share, especially in the current environment."

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

Just go round the back, there is an honesty box. Pass the message on!

## **From Revd Fred Connell**

An Easter reflection started with the words 'What is an Oxymoron?'

A man called out 'Military Intelligence!' Much laughter amongst those gathered around. Little by little people spoke about what it might mean. It means when a word is used that means two or more things. It does give another perspective for a title or expression. It was helpful to hear from a post-grad student of a near verbatim definition from the Oxford English Dictionary!! -From memory! Which left us in no doubt of what it meant! At which point I produced my Rabbit! Not really a Rabbit, but a knitted image of a Rabbit with a chocolate egg for a bottom. Now that is an Oxymoron! Laughter all round, especially the children. Where do eggs come from? Rabbits have young-what? Bunnies-they are called Kits. Eggs come from chickens. So how does a Rabbit have a chocolate bottom? It is made by humankind! It came from Dove Cottage Hospice, sale of works. Made in Love and Given in Grace!

Is that all there is to say about Easter-Rabbits and Chocolate? Image is one thing but reality is far more important. New life is found at Easter because Jesus gave us his life. It is the greatest love story of all time. It was for Love that Jesus gave his life on the cross that we by faith receive the promise of Eternal Life, Salvation, and Forgiveness of our sins, our shortcomings, our hurts and wrongdoings. Receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour gives us that intimacy of relationship with Almighty God Our Heavenly Father, the Power of the Holy Spirit and the Love of Jesus, for this life and the life to come.

We know from the Bible readings where Jesus is at on his journey to the Cross and the outcome of Easter Sunday, but the disciples did not. They were anxious and fearful for Him and themselves, for their lives were at stake in the chaos of the times. The future is uncertain. Their Messiah was arrested, unjustly beaten and imprisoned, crucified in public humiliation and extreme pain, condemned and rejected. They must have been overwhelmed in fear. And yet- Jesus, bearing the sins of the world overcame death, and rose in glory. That is the greatest Love story in the world. It speaks to us in the uncertainty of the chaos of this world-but into this-Jesus comes and stands with us, enfolding his arms around us. The safest place in the world is in the arms of Jesus!

Every Blessing.

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

On Easter Eve may we prepare to celebrate with joy the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ even though this year we are separated.

We pray for;

Ourselves as we continue to adjust to this new season.

All who are self-isolating.

That we might cheerfully adhere to the government request to stay indoors and support one another with phone calls and over garden walls, fences, hedgerows and village lanes.

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 Prime Minister, our Government and leaders, our hard working and faithful NHS, and all key Workers.

We give thanks for;

The beautiful Spring sunshine: God's creation once more revealing his glory and faithfulness.

The needle men and women who are sewing scrubs and wash bags for our medics.

The businesses who have radically changed their production in support of our NHS and other key workers

The community support groups in our villages.

Our homes.

All who are supporting the battle against his deadly virus.

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.

***The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester***

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

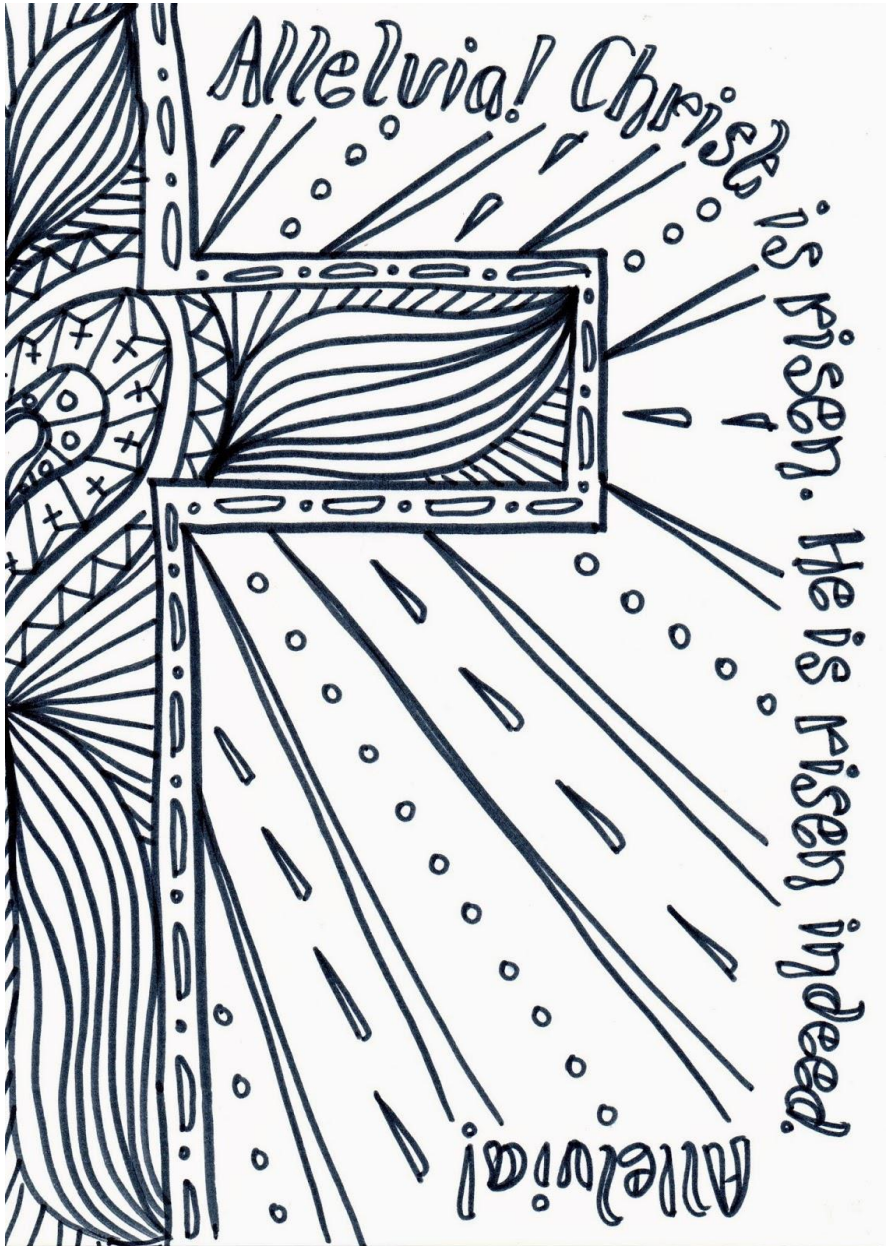
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,

may I know you more clearly,

love you more dearly,

and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.



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](mailto: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](mailto:treasurer@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)*

***Keeping in touch; staying informed***

*These notices are posted week by week on the Parish website:*

[www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk](http://www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

*To receive a copy of these notices by email every Saturday, please subscribe to the website notification service at*

[www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/subscribe)

**Key Contacts**

**Rev'd Rachel:** email: [rector@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:gareth.parker@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)*

***Further information and contact details can be found on the parish website at [www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/whos-who](http://www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/whos-who)***