



Parish of Wiverton in the Vale:
One flock, One Shepherd, Six Pastures
Notices 3rd May 2020

EASTER 4

From the Rectory

“For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them”

Matthew 18:20

Such a well-known verse and sadly so frequently misquoted. This may be unhelpful at a time when mostly we are in our own company and the thought of drumming up a couple of other Christian friends to enjoy fellowship and the presence of God together might seem a forlorn and long deferred hope.

Where is God when even with reducing numbers of new cases of the virus, the end of lockdown doesn't seem any closer?

Well, first of all let's deal with any misunderstandings about the bible quote or misquote. If we take a bible text out of its con-text what are we left with?

The context of this text is regarding church discipline. The law of Moses said that there should always be two or three witnesses if someone was to be confronted with any wrongdoing (see Deuteronomy 19:15). On an occasion where there was a dispute, a fault or a wrongdoing and there were two or three witnesses, it would not just be the witnesses bringing the action, God himself would be present. Paul emphasises in Galatians 6:1 that this should be done with gentleness...just in case you are feeling a little worried at this point.

From words that are often misquoted to words that may appear to hold more importance than perhaps should...

Much is made of the last words that people say before they leave this life. For some reason they carry incredible weight. With this in mind, I decided to search the internet to see what wisdom I could find to share with you.

Famous last words....

I can't say it was a very uplifting search but here are a few I found on the internet for your interest and perhaps, amusement;

"I should have never switched from scotch to martinis."

Humphrey Bogart, actor

"Am I dying, or is this my birthday?"

Lady Nancy Astor, socialite

(when she woke up and saw her family gathered around her bed)

"Everybody has got to die, but I have always believed an exception would be made in my case. What now?"

William Saroyan

"Happy."

Raphael, Italian artist

On the other hand, Matthew, in his gospel, leaves us with the most uplifting, reassuring and eternally significant words, for this time and each and every day of our lives.

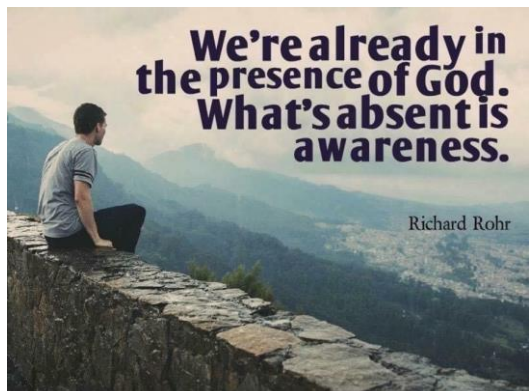
The last words of Jesus in the last words of Matthews gospel...

"...remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

As Richard Rohr says with such powerful insight, it is not that we lack God's presence it is simply that we lack awareness.

And so, a gentle challenge as we go about our daily lives, in isolation, alone or with one or a few others; let's take time at least once each day to pause and reflect on the presence of the one who is with us "always, to the end of the age".

With love,
Rev'd Rachel



Message of appreciation

I want to say a huge thank you to Rachel, Sid and Katharine for the beautiful service last Sunday.

The Road to Emmaus story is one of my favourites, heard so many times and yet always something fresh to learn from it.

I can relate so well to Katharine's words, for I was one who had drifted away but Jesus called me back and after an Alpha course my life was changed for ever.

I always watch the videos at 10.30; give or take a couple of minutes as I like to feel that we are all joined together in those few precious minutes.

I have to say too how well you are all coping with the technology and you seem to be more relaxed and confident each minute.

We are so blessed to be able to be in contact like this but I am so aware that not every parish or home has the facilities and the expertise that we enjoy.

I have to say that personally I feel very well supported by our church family and our lovely leaders. Apart from the weekly service, the newsletters are always informative and uplifting and I am so valuing joining Bishop Paul and Sarah every morning for the daily psalm and prayer. I admit, however, that sometimes I have to "rewind" the video because I'm too distracted by the marvellous garden!

For my part, I am trying to keep contact with people I would expect to see at "Coffee Cake and Chat" etc and there have been some heart-warming stories and some obvious prayer needs revealed.

I have really enjoyed Pete Greig's prayer course and very much hope that we can have the opportunity to discuss it further.

I was delighted to hear of Sid's decision to go for lay ministry training and I shall enjoy praying for him every step of the way.

May God pour His richest blessings on you all.

My love and thanks and prayers.

Ann Mansell

Thank you Ann. Thank you also for helping to keep people connected. Thank you to all of you who are keeping us all connected in so many ways. Where would we be without Nick Perry helping us with our many IT issues? I'd be lost! Thank you, Nick.

Rev'd Rachel



Join Quiztian Aid, our exciting quiz for Christian Aid Week!

Christian Aid Week will be with us 10-16 May, with the slogan:

"Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts is all, but love unites us all"

The week this year will be very different though, with local collections not possible. A special quiz hosted by Rev Kate Bottley this Saturday 2nd May on Facebook at 7.30pm will get the appeal off the starting blocks. Join up on the [Christian Aid website](#). While there, discover special prayers and other resources, and find out how to make your donation.

Something You Might Enjoy Listening To...

I usually just ask Alexa, however a friend sent me this link <https://open.spotify.com/album/5ooqN8wLOZ4zAYo23v3GfA> a few days after my dad died. "Peace" album by Bethel Music has been a good companion over the last few weeks, bringing much needed peace and comfort.

Why not try it?

Perhaps you might like to recommend what you have been listening to during lockdown. Send your suggestions to me or Anna and we will post in the weeks ahead. Rev'd Rachel

Pause for Prayer and Reflection

Rev Rachel will be leading the service and preaching this Sunday and Edward Hine will be leading us in intercessions. Please find the relevant readings below. If you would like to join in with the responses during the service, the ['Order of Service during Easter'](#) can now be found on the website.

Acts 2: 42-end

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 10: 1-10 (*The Passion Translation*)

10 *Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Listen to this eternal truth: The person who sneaks over the wall to enter into the sheep pen, rather than coming through the gate, reveals himself as a thief coming to steal. ²But the true Shepherd walks right up to the gate, ³and because the gatekeeper knows who he is, he opens the gate to let him in. And the sheep recognize the voice of the true Shepherd, for he calls his own by name and leads them out, for they belong to him. ⁴And when he has brought out all his sheep, he walks ahead of them and they will follow him, for they are familiar with his voice. ⁵But they will run away from strangers and never follow them because they know it's the voice of a stranger." ⁶Jesus told the Pharisees this parable even though they didn't understand a word of what he meant.*

⁷So Jesus went over it again, "I speak to you eternal truth: I am the Gate for the flock. ⁸All those who broke in before me are thieves who came to steal, but the sheep never listened to them. ⁹I am the Gateway. To enter through me is to experience life, freedom, and satisfaction. ¹⁰A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I have come to *give you everything in abundance, more than you expect*—life in its fullness until you overflow!

Dial-in worship phone line

A free national phone line available **24 hrs a day** on **0800 804 8044**.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

Diocesan resources

- **Bishop Paul daily video** - Bishop Paul and his wife Sarah are continuing with their series of daily videos featuring a reading from the Psalms, a reflection and prayer. The videos go live at 9.30am each day. 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

Radio and television

- **Sunday Worship on Radio 4** is a Sunday Service at **8.10 am**. This Sunday is titled “Unless the Lord builds the house...” The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, marks the 800th anniversary of Salisbury Cathedral. The home page can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnds>
- A **Daily Service** is at **9.45am** on **Radio 4** and is described as Christian worship and music. The home page can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wzfs>
- **Songs of Praise**, BBC1 on Sunday at 1.15pm. “Faith and Farming” Kate Bottley revisits some of Songs of Praise’s most uplifting agricultural stories. JB Gill finds out about a church set up in the middle of a farm, and Aled Jones has a go at duck herding. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006ttc5>

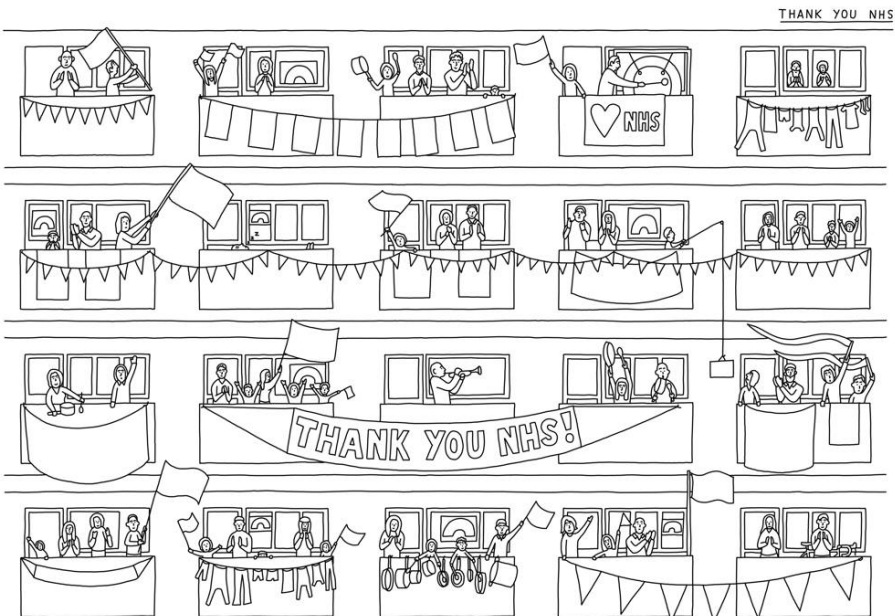
Other resources

- Phone app **‘Pray as you go’** has 10-12 minutes each day of music, readings and reflection.
- There are Church of England on-line resources at www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online

A Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those children who will go hungry with no school meals. May we who have to cancel our trips remember those with no place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all. May we who are in quarantine at home remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, whose arms of love embrace us all. Amen.

Cameron Wiggins Bellm (alt.)



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

Our farmers and all who are involved in the processes that take our food from field to table.

We give thanks for:

Our hard working and faithful NHS staff, and all key Workers.
Those we know who are recovering from illness.
The community support groups in our villages.
Our homes.

We pray for:

Good growing weather.
Gentle spring rains to enable crops and grass to grow.
Sufficient workers now and when harvest comes.
Those facing the financial impact of these times.
Food banks, that they might find the resources they need.
Families facing severe hardship and children missing their school meals.
Our Prime Minister, Government and leaders
Scientists, researchers, and medical personnel as they work towards producing an effective vaccine
Ourselves as we perceive in adjusting to this new season.
All who are self-isolating.
For those with existing and chronic health conditions.

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.

Our church buildings are now closed until further notice.



The Shepherd and His Sheep

His sheep follow him because they know his voice.
John 10:4b (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 10:1-10 (NIV).



John 10:1-10

F C N L V E S A N F T C W M H
U J Q I M D Z H N A D R S A L
R O I Y S Z W G E K M N U F U
G U D D G F S A G P T E T T N
H L A L T D O M T C H D K B H
N E R R P H T L D C R E A E R
L A J O E V I B L E H I R S G
I Z V S N E X E G O H M U D R
D U G V H P T N F V W N A F O
X E V A S E A T K O I F J N B
S O S C T R E L G I D X U B B
N T N T T E W P H C O O O A E
G Z E S R V W B Q E A G E Y R
O S E A E O J S Y T G O W P Z
S C J R L Y Y H B X L L T L L

LEADS	ROBBER	PEN	WATCHMAN	TRUTH
FOLLOW	DESTROY	THIEF	STRANGER	GATE
VOICE	STEAL	SHEPHERD	NAME	SHEEP

Note from the editor

Please send anything you would like to contribute to the Parish administrator on administrator@wivertoninthevale.co.uk or 07592 873751.

£ HOW CAN WE GIVE? 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.

Since we are not able to host services, 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

Keeping in touch; staying informed

*These **notices** are posted week by week on the Parish website:
www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk*

Paper copies are available at church services.

To receive a copy of these notices by email every Saturday, please subscribe to the website notification service at www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/subscribe

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