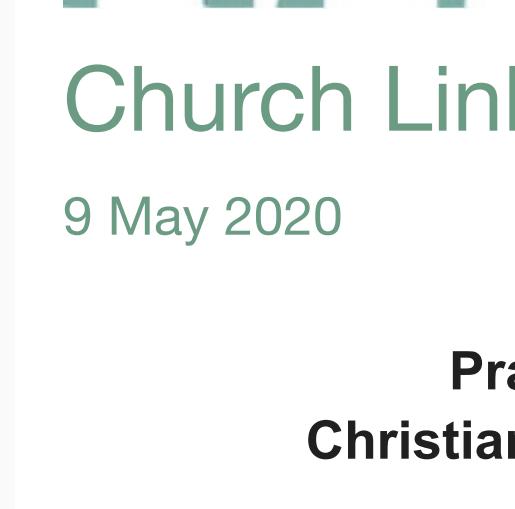


[View this email in your browser](#)THE BENEFICE OF BLAGDON WITH
CHARTERHOUSE,
COMPTON MARTIN AND
UBLEY

Church Link

No. 8

9 May 2020

Prayer for a global pandemic
Christian Aid Week, 10th -16th May 2020

Loving God,
strengthen our innermost being with your love that bears all things
even the weight of this global pandemic,
even the long haul of watching for symptoms,
of patiently waiting for this to pass,
watching and waiting,
keeping our gaze fixed on you,
and looking out for our neighbours near and far.
Amen

This week, our Church family, supported by local co-ordinators in Blagdon, Compton Martin and Ubley, would have held their usual events to mark Christian Aid Week and raise money to support our global neighbours. Christian Aid Week has not been cancelled, but must run as an online event this year. Services, daily reflections and online quizzes can all be accessed through the charity's [facebook page](#). Please explore, have fun, and [give](#) if you are able. Further details can be found below.

Yours in Fellowship,
Revd. Simon Lewis
Laura Williams

If you would prefer not to receive electronic communications from us, please unsubscribe [here](#).

Sunday Worship and Daily Prayer

This week's Sunday morning worship, led by Simon, will be available via a vimeo link on our website at 10am on 10th May. Please join our Church family by clicking the link below.

[Click here to join in](#)

A special, live-streamed service to celebrate the work of nurses and healthcare workers will be broadcast tomorrow at 9am via the Church of England's [Facebook page](#) and [Youtube channel](#). The service will be led by Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London and former Chief Nursing Officer, with contributions from the current Chief Nursing Officer and the musicians of St Martins in the Fields in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

A downloadable Order of Service is available [here](#).

Bishop Ruth and Bishop Peter will be streaming a mid-week Eucharist every Wednesday at 10:30am. Details of this and the daily prayers read by members of the diocese are available on the [Diocese of Bath and Wells website](#).

Sunday Reading and Reflection

10 May 2020 - Easter 5

Introduction

In a much troubled world, I am not afraid to say that Faith brings comfort; still today for Christ says, Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always; trust also in me.

John 14:1-14

Jesus the Way to the Father

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

A Reflection

Jesus is alive; that was the rumour whispered first, then shouted through Jerusalem. Women came to the tomb, first witnesses to the resurrection; they were not believed. 'But' says Mary, 'I have seen the Lord.' The excitement, the bewilderment, must have been enormous. Then there were two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They only recognised Jesus when he broke the bread. The disciples were in hiding for fear of the authorities and Jesus came and stood amongst them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Thomas was not there and he was only convinced by seeing the marks of crucifixion in his hands and side. Then, when they were out fishing, Jesus appeared on the seashore; 'It is the Lord' says John.

The disciples had left everything to follow Jesus. I think they now felt Jesus had betrayed them. His greatest betrayal of them was to leave them and in such a terrible way. All those promises gone for nothing.

Then come the first words spoken to the disciples – 'He is not here, he is risen.' Scripture goes on to say 'When they saw the Lord, they were filled with great joy. History has not been able to offer any believable answer to the fact of the empty tomb other than the reality of the faith. Still we wonder. Whatever story is told by way of explanation has failed. Something happened. Something that despite great puzzlement and questions to be asked, turned a defeated and dejected group into a new body, filled with faith and confidence. They had seen the Lord. They had been transformed and our world would be – converted to a new way of seeing and being in the world.'

A Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God,
through your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ
you have overcome death for us all
and opened the gate of everlasting life:
by your grace going before us
put into our minds good desires,
so that by your continual help
we may, in our lives, bring them to good effect;
we ask this through Jesus Christ
our risen Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

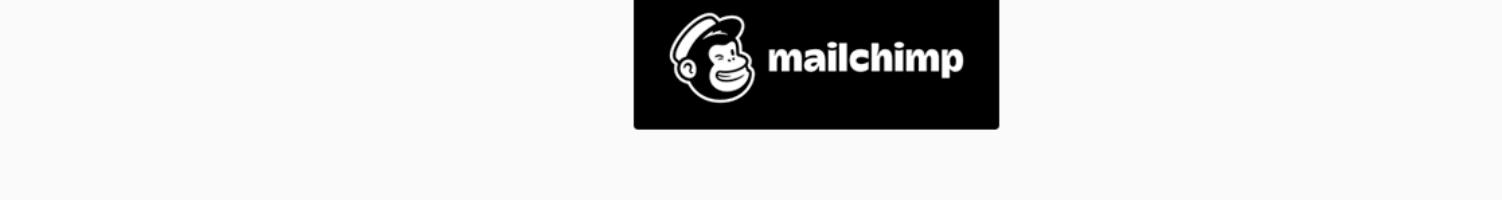
Ringers' Radio Isolation Station



This week's Sunday morning reflection 'The Dark Night of the Soul' can be heard on the Isolation Station by [clicking here](#). You will hear the sound of church bells from 10:45am with Simon's reflection and prayers beginning at 11am. You can also listen on our website via [this link](#).

0800 804 8044
Daily HOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



Love never fails

Your love protects this Christian Aid Week.

[www.christianaid.org.uk](#)

Things will be a little bit different this Christian Aid Week. There won't be house-to-house collections, Big Brekkies or bucket collections. But there will be one unwavering thing – you and your love for your neighbours near and far.

That's because love never fails. We are living in unprecedented times and coronavirus impacts all of us – but love unites us all.

Over the last few months, you've shown love to your neighbours in so many ways. You've picked up the phone. You've brought them food. You've prayed for them. You've shown that you're by their side. And they're not alone.

And while this Christian Aid Week will feel a little strange, we know you will do what you can in these unusual circumstances to reach out to your global neighbours too.

[Please donate today and save lives](#)

As coronavirus spreads across the world, love rises up in response.

Your love protects from storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus. Your love protects our global neighbours, battling the spread of this illness. Your love protects with soap, clean water and medical supplies.

Reach out and protect more of your neighbours this Christian Aid Week.

Because love never fails. Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Your donations will help support people in poverty around the world – more important than ever in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

Thank you.

Prayers issued by Christian Aid to accompany their special Coronavirus Emergency Appeal are available [here](#).

Children's Corner

This week's Young Church Mag with tips and activities to help to follow Jesus is available as a printable PDF download by clicking [this link](#).

The Diocese has produced a series of online publications to provide parents with resources help their children explore their relationship with God. Their booklet *All Things...Creative Prayer* is available to download [here](#).

Prayer within our community

Our prayer teams will continue to operate remotely. If you have someone or something that you would like us to pray for, your requests can be passed onto them and included in our prayers. Please click [here](#) to send us your requests.

Community Support and Help Details

Support is available in all our villages for anyone who is self-isolating:

For those who live in Ubley

Ubley Cares

Landline: 463509 speak to Wes Hallam

Email: whallam@ubleyparish.co.uk

Landline: 462827 speak to Jonathan Longhurst

Email: j1andj2@sky.com

For those who live in Compton Martin:

Compton Martin Parish

Email: comptonmartin_cv@gmail.com

Landline: 221415 speak to Jean Luckett

Mobile: 07968 861118 speak to Jean Luckett

Email: peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com

Landline: 220102 speak to Rachel Branston

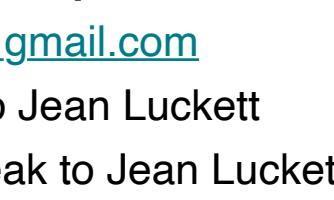
For those who live in Blagdon:

Blagdon Community Link

Landline: 462169

Mobile: 07768 725380 speak to Melloney Kaye

Email: standrewchurchwarden.bcmu@gmail.com



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