

Please find my short reflection for Mothering Sunday.

Sermon

In all our current troubles and they are very serious. The message from our Archbishop, Justin Welby, encourages us to look beyond ourselves. To look beyond ourselves in love to our neighbour. To share our hope and consolation in Jesus with our neighbours and family.

As your Rector, I will do my best to keep in contact with all of you, either by phone or through email.

As you will know, our normal church services are suspended until further notice. However, the church is still here for you; I am still here for you. We just have to do things differently in these strange times.

While many of you will have some lovely family times as you find ways of spending time together in fairly restricted circumstances, there may be moments when it all gets a bit much for you. Please remember that I am just at the end of the phone if you want to chat, or email me.

We will be putting some children's resources on the church website which you will be able to access, and I am working on doing a recorded Sunday act of worship each week. We will be holding everyone very much in our prayers.

As I sat in church this morning at 7am. The sun was streaming through the windows and lighting up the cross on the table. It reminded me of our call to pray as a Nation.

Please light a candle in your window at 7pm on Mothering Sunday as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ.

"When so many people in our nations are living in fear of the pandemic we must come together as the people of faith across the UK and seek the help of God. That God may have mercy on us, grant us strength and wisdom, and help us to be a people of hope,"

Let us pray together for the Government and those working to contain the virus, such as healthcare personnel, as well as those who are most vulnerable. Let us pray together against fear and worry. Let us pray together to be people of hope.

Alongside our prayers, let us take this opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, maybe buy some additional food for our local foodbanks, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour.

So to end, I want you to know I am here for you. Those of you who live in the Parishes will have received a letter from the Parish Council letting you know how you can receive help. Look on our church websites. Phone me.

Some words from Proverbs 3 are a reminder to come before God this morning. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the table of your heart. V 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to Him and he will make your paths straight.

Let us pray quietly together.