



**St Andrew's Whittlesey, St Mary's Whittlesey,
St Thomas' Pondersbridge and Holy Trinity Coates**
Church of England Team Ministry:
www.wpcteam.org.uk

Sunday 22 November 2020

There will be no

Services in our parish churches until this current lock down is over

Service for 22 November Christ the King (Red)

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise

Ezekiel 34:11-16. 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46

The Collect for Christ the King the Sunday Next before Advent

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen**

Monday 23 November- Saturday 28 November 2020

Monday	M P	Psalm 96	Isaiah 40:1-11	Revelation 14:1-13
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 97	Isaiah 40:12-26	Revelation 14:14-15:8
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 112	Isaiah 40:27-41:7	Revelation 16:1-11
Thursday	M P	Psalm 125	Isaiah 41:8-20	Revelation 16:12-23
Friday	M P	Psalm 139	Isaiah 41:21-42:9	Revelation ch.17
Saturday	M P	Psalm 76	Isaiah 42:10-17	Revelation ch.18

Ministry Team Meeting will be held by Zoom

Service for 29 November The First Sunday of Advent

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-8.18-20 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

A Prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. **Amen**

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus for daily use.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Ely Prayer

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past. We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead. Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety; give us grace to let go of all that holds us back; and grant us the courage to meet the new life you have promised us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Please remember in your prayers those who are in residential homes, hospital or hospice & those known personally to us including:

Marie Rogers, Terry Randells, Emma Aindow-Gregory, Lizzie Monk, Joan Kefford, Cheryl Tyner, Judy Stewart, Richard Willows, Mavis Connor, Joyce Jackson

All NHS staff, care workers, emergency services, shop workers, funeral directors and all key workers.

The families and friends of those who have recently died:

George Hudson

Eddy Twelvetree Peterborough Crematorium 1 Dec 10.30am (Arthur Edward Donald Twelvertrees)

June Savage St Mary's 2.15pm 2 Dec followed by cremation at Fenland Crematorium

Anniversaries 22-28 November 2020

St Andrew's: Joyce Florrie Teat 23 Mabel May Speechley 24 Robert Henry Bennett 24 Richard Cuffe 24 Daniel Crawford Logan 27 Wilfred Norfield 28

St Thomas':

St Mary's:

Holy Trinity: Anthony Bates 26

To support you with your daily prayer and contact with the wider church please make use of the following websites.

Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Prayer online. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Diocese of Ely. <https://www.elydiocese.org/>

Ely Cathedral. <https://www.elycathedral.org/worship-at-home>

The diocesan prayer calendar can be found at

<https://www.elydiocese.org/growing-in-faith/prayer-calendar/>

Ministry Team - Contacts

ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST

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LICENSED LAY MINISTERS (READERS)

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MR ROGER BROWN 01733 202884 - rogerbrown41@hotmail.co.uk

MRS JANE RANDELLS 07870 942362 - jane.randells@gmail.com (Editor)

If there is anything that we can do to help, listen, collect something, pray, that will help you through this time please be assured that we will do our very best, please use contacts above.

Notices

The First Sunday in December will be our service in which we collect toys for those children who would otherwise not have any. We ask that they are new and unwrapped, this year, we ask that they do not include soft toys, thank you for your support and understanding.

Bible Study There will be a Zoom Bible Study that will meet through the season of Advent, on a Wednesday evenings starting on 3Dec. There are seven on the list to attend at the moment., If you would be interested please contact Laura Whitehouse or myself.

Food Bank Boxes We were going to start collecting contributions towards the busy food bank services leading up to and over Christmas, we cannot do that for the rest of this month, I have been assured that all of our supermarkets have boxes, please put something in to help those not managing as well as we might be. Thank you so much

Benefice Diary As previously a benefice diary is in place so that services, meetings and events can be recorded centrally for the four parishes. This also helps to avoid a clash of events. In these strange and unusual times, the diary is quite empty in places but has lots of crossing out as baptisms and weddings are postponed and now this month's Sunday services in church cancelled. Please be aware of the existence of the benefice diary and if meetings or events are being planned would you kindly let me know (rogerbrown41@hotmail.co.uk 01733 202884) so that I can keep the diary up to date please and feed the appropriate information into the weekly Newsletter Thank you

Mission & Ministry Interim Support In the Diocese of Ely we have small team responsible for developing Mission and Ministry across the Diocese, working with a variety of churches in a number of ways to help their leadership teams, PCCs, and congregations develop their missional heart, vision and life. Since there has been a temporary suspension of appointments to a number of parishes across the Diocese, we have developed this ministry further to lend support in a more focused and extended manner to particular place. One of those places is the Benefice and Team Ministry of Whittlesey St Andrew and St Mary, Pondersbridge and Coates.

My name is Rev'd Phil Marsh, and I am pleased, over the coming months, to be heading up the support of your four churches in Coates, Pondersbridge and Whittlesey. I've already begun to meet with Rev'd Mike Jones, and our LLM's Roger Brown, John Crisp and Jane Randells and also with the Church Wardens across the team. Before coming to Ely Diocese I was a Vicar in Nottingham, and a chaplain to a local secondary school, and have also ministered in Peterborough and Wales. I'm married with 5 kids in age from 12 to 23, and we live over in Little Downham, near Ely.

Although I am not in post in Whittlesey as Incumbent, I am intending to bring the ministry we offer across the Diocese in a focused manner to the Whittlesey team, and will be investing time and energy during this interim period, in working among you and alongside you as we explore together the plans and purposes that God has for Pondersbridge, Coates and Whittlesey. Where this season will take us and you as four churches we do not yet know. But I believe that together we will discover that which God has in store. This may seem to be an unconventional approach that varies from past experiences of interregnums, but we will use this space and period of time as a measured breath, to take stock, to celebrate and build on what is good, and to discover the new things that God is calling St Andrew's, St Thomas', Holy Trinity and St Mary's into in the years ahead.

I am looking forward to meeting with you all in due time and will give some thought to how we might arrange this in the weeks ahead, but for now you are all very much in my prayers, and I give thanks for the opportunity this engagement give us to discern God's leading in your parishes together. In Christ Jesus, your fellow co-worker for the Gospel, Phil.

An extract from the letter from both Arch Bishops and the Bishop of London sent to us from Bishop Dagmar

'Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ to pray and to serve we call upon the Church of England to make this month of lockdown a month of prayer. More than anything else, whatever the nation thinks, we know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures for ever.'

Christ the King

Today, the last Sunday of the Church's year, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King – the 'Judge eternal, throned in splendour, Lord of lords and King of kings.' In Jesus we have a unique King. 'Rejoice the Lord is King.' 'O worship the King all glorious above.' 'King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee.'

The Kingship of Christ is so different from that of an earthly monarch. 'Born a King on Bethlehem plain' yet 'not in a royal house or hall, but in a stable dark and dim, the Word made flesh, a light for all.' Jesus was so unlike an earthly king that many in his day saw him as just the carpenter's son from Nazareth. How many people fail to recognise his true Kingship today? Jesus emphasised the rules to live by; love God and love others -your neighbour as yourself. What seem simple commands are so difficult to keep and all miserably fail. Christ our King is no earthly king but a servant king who came 'not to be served but to serve and give his life a ransom for many.' [Matt 20:28] For all our failures and wrongdoings Jesus died for us, setting us free from the power of sin and death, giving us new life and making us one with him. 'He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make us good; that we might go at last to heaven saved by his precious blood.' 'High King of heaven when battle is done, grant heaven's joy to me.' 'Praise my soul, the King of heaven!'

Matthew's 25th chapter makes it clear that Christ the King will one day return, In Matthew, Jesus' teaching ministry reaches a climax in this vision of the coming of the Son of Man. In the images given of judgement-day, Jesus makes bold promises that the first are last and the last first. Finding life means losing it; places in the power and glory to come, are reserved for those who give themselves in humble service. At the end of chapter 25 we have the parable of the sheep and goats although really it is the judgement and destiny that will be ours after our time here on earth. All nations are gathered before the judge, before the throne of the Son of Man, before the King, and the king separates the sheep to the right and the goats to the left – and he judges them. Those on the right are saved whilst those on the left are condemned to eternal punishment. Judgement is made on the basis of compassion and love, or, the lack of it. It's how we act towards the hungry or thirsty, the strangers, the naked, sick or those in prison. Faith may not depend on good works but it ought to result in them. The warning here is that although Jesus will not reject us, by turning our backs on others we may find we have rejected him. 'Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.' [1 John 4: 21b]

'Teach me my God and King, in all things thee to see; and what I do in anything I do it as for thee.'

My thanks to all the hymn writers who have inspired me, and I hope you, with their words.

RB