Welcome to the Parish of the Resurrection information for this week. The COVID situation is worrying and we are in another lockdown which is all about keep each other safe and preventing the spread of infection. This brings many issues to the fore especially how we look after each other and help to maintain some form of contact. Please do pick up the phone to people, send encouraging emails, do short doorstep visits, offer to help with buying and collecting essential goods, maybe give small gifts and I am sure you can think of other things to do within the restrictions. Loving our neighbour is part of Jesus’ Great Commandment and is loving God. So also please do join with the worship and prayer that is on offer from the Parish and other places.  
  
Our worship for this week is online only and the service which has been produced for Sunday can be accessed with this link: <https://youtu.be/ZaFnyUorNbc>  
  
We continue in this Epiphany season with the Baptism of Christ and we also begin a look at our Parish Vision - ‘Proclaiming the Risen Jesus, Steadfast in Fatih and Active in Service.’ I talk to this theme with the passage Mark 1: 4-11. Matthew Bayliss reads the Bible passage for us and Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney leads us in the prayers. Revd Gordon Randall, our Associate Vicar, leads us through the service. I encourage you to watch the service which will be available from early Sunday morning.  
  
We are starting Church @ 4 again! This Sunday at 4pm we would love it if you and your family joined us via Zoom for a Church @ 4 service. It will be lead by Martha Lloyd our new Children, Youth and Families worker. It will run for roughly 30 mins and is a service aimed at families with children but we would love to see all of your beautiful faces there.  
  
Church @ 4 will then run every other week - so do please add it to your calendars.  
  
The Zoom details are  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81941371951?pwd=cTZiMWprRXV6ZkpYTjNjcWJsc3JQQT09>  
  
Meeting ID: 819 4137 1951  
Passcode: POTR1234  
  
We also have an Evening Informal Service at 6pm again on Zoom - a chance for worship, prayer and teaching led this week by Andrew and Gordon.  
  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88404018107?pwd=SnJZaHVPUHVpRTczMHEyeEo2eU03Zz09>  
  
Meeting ID: 884 0401 8107  
Passcode: 514903  
  
Attached are:  
- Parish Matters (weekly newsletter)  
- The Sunday Methodist Worship Sheet  
- The Order of Service for this Sunday’s Evening Worship on Zoom  
  
During this week we will also be meeting for Zoom Afternoon Tea on Thursday at 4pm. Be good to catch up with you! Details are in Parish Matters.  
  
Sometimes it is hard to see an end to all this yet we are called to ‘steadfast in our faith’ seeking always the God who is faithful, whose light shines without ceasing into the darkness of the world. I was reminded again this week of the famous poem by Minnie Louise Haskins which King George quoted in his 1939 Christmas broadcast, perhaps apt for this time. And wasn’t our Queen Elizabeth so uplifting for us this Christmas!  
  
And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”  
And he replied:  
“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”  
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.  
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.  
  
With love and prayers  
Andrew