Welcome to the Parish of the Resurrection information for this week.

We are still in the midst of the COVID pandemic and we are doing all we can to ensure everyone is safe and looked after. Our thoughts are with those who are suffering any effects of the virus and with those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. We are also aware of many others who are suffering in other ways with illness, feelings of loneliness and isolation and worry for others. Our prayers are also for the families who are home learning as schools are closed except for those key workers. Can I please encourage you to 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? As has been said before we are here to ‘love our neighbour’ as Jesus asks.

Another encouragement is 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/cZHvTGb1MA8>

We continue in this Epiphany season with the story of Jesus calling his disciples to 'Come & See' and we are also looking at our Parish Vision - Proclaiming the Risen Jesus, Steadfast in Fatih and Active in Service. In this service our Associate Vicar, Revd Gordon Randall, talks about Proclaiming the Risen Jesus from the passage John 1: 43-51. Angie Briggs leads us in the prayers and Revd Andrew Micklefield leads us through the service.. I encourage you to watch the service which will be available from early Sunday morning.

Don’t forget that Morning Prayer and Compline (Night Prayer) are available everyday on Facebook Live at 9am and 8pm respectively. This is a good way to start and end the day in worship and prayer and is led by different member of the Ministry Team across the week.

Church@4 for families and those who want a short informal fun service will be held again next Sunday (24th January) at 4pm. Zoom details will be given out but please mark it on your calendars.

During this week we will also be meeting for Zoom Afternoon Tea on Thursday at 4pm. Be good to catch up with you! Meeting ID: 851 9676 0975 Passcode: 323046

Attached are:
- Parish Matters (weekly newsletter)
The Sunday Methodist Worship Sheet

A phrase that comes back to me again and again is ‘Hold on’ and today I was reminded of a song by a Danish Christian songwriter called Kees Karaayenoord who led worship when we were last at Spring Harvest in 2019. It is simply called ‘Hold on’ and the chorus says “Hold on, hold on, our God is strong…God is for us, God is with us, on our journey heading home. He won’t leave us, nor forsake us, we will never be alone” I particularly like the last verse with says “The heroes of our faith, they’re all around us, and they’re cheering us on. So we will not give up, but now proclaim that in His strength we are strong.” You can listen to with this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbMAyxt8l-w>

Hold on we will - as best we can - and we pray that we will indeed know the strength of our Almighty God.

With love and prayers
Andrew

