Hi Parish,

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

I encourage you to enjoy this week’s online worship which is available to watch with this link: <https://youtu.be/tRBiB_yOwDY>
The service is available from early Sunday morning.

This week we conclude our sermon series reflecting on our parish vision. Today we concentrate on Acts 9: 32-43 - the story of Philip and Dorcas. Our Vicar, Andrew Micklefield leads our service with Gordon giving our talk. Please come and enjoy worshipping with us!

At 6pm on Sunday we will hold an Informal Evening Service on Zoom. We will be looking at being Active in Service with a short talk, some discussion, worship and prayers. The Order of Service which you will need is attached. Zoom details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85739883699?pwd=YUN2czUrVXNZQU1nWEVVK3NXaVU4dz09>

Meeting ID: 857 3988 3699
Passcode: 642862

Church@4 will be back next Sunday (7th March) and the information is attached but do keep a note of the Zoom details:

Meeting ID: 819 4137 1951
Passcode: POTR1234

We are really pleased to have 30 participants for our Lent Prayer Course. We are using the materials from prayercourse.org led by Pete Greig and Poppy Williams from 24-7 Prayer. We will not be able to introduce anyone else into the course now but you can follow the course from the website at home but we do also hope to offer this again at some point in the future.

I hope you managed to hear Martin East talk in our Midweek Encouragement this week. He talks very interestingly of his life, work, and faith. If you missed it do check it out <https://youtu.be/WyM5Hjo5NJg>

As you will all know, I’m sure, the Prime Minister has outlined the roadmap to the easing of the restrictions. We are really pleased that we have an appropriate way forward and we will continue to pray.

Having had conversation The Ministry Team and with the Standing Committee of the PCC (Churchwardens) we have made the decision that all four churches will be open for Individual Private Prayer from Monday 8th March. We will revert to the pattern from before:
All Saints Church – Monday 2-4pm & Friday 10am-12noon
St Lawrence Church – Tuesday 2-4pm & Saturday 10am-12noon
Church of the Holy Rood – Wednesday 10am-12noon & Saturday 2-4pm
St Peter’s Church – Thursday 2-4pm

Then from 29th March as the ‘Rule of Six’ is reintroduced we will open the church buildings for public worship ensuring all the social distancing and other public health guidelines are in place. This will be Holy Week and we will put together a number of services across all four churches and further details will be available nearer the time. From then on we will hold midweek and Sunday worship. We will need to take bookings as before.

In the meantime please do keep encouraging each other and do keep in touch with phone calls, emails, doorstep visits and be aware of those who need help and assistance

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
- This week’s Altonian publication from Alton Town Council
- Order of Service for Sunday Evening Service
- Church@4 invitation

At the moment we are in the season of Lent - a time to prepare ourselves for the great celebration of Easter. It is a season to put our lives in line with God and his great love for us and all people. In our online worship today we use a modern form of a great Lenten prayer used every day in in the Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine Churches written by St Ephrem. I give the words of the prayer here and maybe you would want to use it during these days of Lent.

O Lord and Redeemer of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness despair, lust of power, and gossip, pride.
But give rather the spirit of humility, patience, purity, self-denial, with a love for what you love and a burden for what burdens you.
Help me confront my own transgressions, and not condemn my brothers and sisters, for you alone are just and holy, now and forever. Amen.

With love and prayers
Andrew