

St. Paul's Barton Newsletter 31.03.21

Amidst the Coronavirus - He is Risen!



It has been a year since the Coronavirus pandemic began. As we crossed over from 2019 to 2020, no one anticipated that the year 2020 would put everyone in a 'stand still' position. Things we usually take for granted like going for holidays, charring meetings and seeing families have been challenged and thwarted with this pandemic. No one would believe anything like Zoom app, Zoom coffee or Zoom meetings would become the new norm.

With Zoom becoming popular, people who had little or no previous internet knowledge have learned to use this new technology. Interestingly, this virus still has no cure. Although there is now a vaccine, the virus appears relentless in its vicious attack on the human race with many countries now experiencing a third wave of high infection rates. Several people have asked many questions like - is God judging the world or is this the end of the world? My take on this is that similar events have happened previously in the bible. Passages like - **Ezekiel 14:21, Ezekiel 33:27, Jeremiah 21:6,7 and 9, Exodus 12:13-15** highlighted similar plagues and God's judgement upon the people.

I strongly believe that God is judging the world because the world has abandoned Him and has chosen to live in Sin. So much immorality is going on in the world today. We mourn the high statistics of the dead from coronavirus but ignore our murder of unborn babies with higher statistics. We don't know when this pandemic will be over. The science may speculate the end, but only God knows and He is the one who knows when the end will come.

Sin is the only thing that attracts consequences and judgement. You might say but God is a loving God - how can he

punish us with coronavirus? The answer is that even though God loved us so much he does not want to share his glory with anyone or tolerate sin. One thing about the pandemic that is significant is that it affects both the righteous and the unrighteous directly or indirectly. Having said this, the good news is that even if the righteous die in the midst of all this they will have eternal life in heaven. A place without coronavirus, pain or sorrow. This is the greatest hope we have. Some people may read this and say - but I don't want to die yet. Believe me, no one in their right mind wants to die. However, we will ultimately face death with or without coronavirus. Our only escape route is through putting our faith and trust in Jesus Christ our saviour.

Easter is here to remind us what Jesus did over 2,000 years ago. Without Easter there is no hope for us as Christians. Easter is our hope of eternal life. Paul said in **1 Corinthians 15:19** "**If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable**".

A few months ago, we celebrated Christmas - the Word became flesh **John 1:14**. When Jesus came to identify himself with us and share our pain. If the story of Jesus ended with Him being buried in a tomb and with a stone being rolled across the door then, there would be no hope today. Today we remember the costly price He paid for me and you. What can we give back to Him for all the sacrifices and pains Jesus went through because of our sin? The only thing we can give is our faith and commitment to follow him.

There is no Easter without Good Friday. There is no resurrection without the cross. Yes, Easter is about the empty tomb but first it is about the cross. **First Corinthians chapter 15** was devoted to the resurrection. The Corinthians might have been confused by the various beliefs about life after death that existed in the ancient Greco-Roman world of their day. The idea of someone living in a bodily form after death was unthinkable to them and was only popular as fables. The purpose of this letter therefore was to pass on the message of resurrection afresh, as received and experienced by Paul, to the Corinthians and believers after them in **verse 3**.

We have no message to preach to the world if Christ is not raised. The Christian message to the world is unique because Christ's grave is empty, totally empty. Other religious leaders still have their dead bones in their tombs today. But the Good news is that Christ is resurrected from the dead. By this truth, our message is not in vain, our sufferings are not in vain, and our faith too is not in vain. We are not miserable people, but hopeful people. Our faith is not futile but one with a solid foundation. Our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ who left this world ahead of us have not perished. We shall see them again. This hope should lift us up regardless of what we are facing with the ongoing pandemic.

Happy Easter and God bless you.

Rev. Dozie Moneme

What's Happening

Wednesday 31st March

Evening Prayer (at home) 7:30pm.

If you can, join with us at home as we come before God.

Readings: Psalm 88, Isaiah Ch63 v1-9 & Revelation Ch14 v18 - Ch15 v4.

Collect:

*True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you,
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory. Amen.*

Evening prayer words are on our website.

Thursday 1st April - Maundy Thursday

Thursday 1st April at 7:30pm

Bible teaching from Rivi Litvin - Passover Meal.

To take part please contact us with your email address and you will then receive a Zoom invitation for the session along with an email with a handout for the study from Rivi.

Friday 2nd April - Good Friday at 2:00pm

Good Friday Reflection (in the church) with Rev. Dozie Moneme. Booking as for Sundays.

Saturday 3rd April at 10:00am - 11:00am

Prayer for Israel & the Middle East (Zoom)

Contact us for a link.

Sunday 4th April - Easter Sunday at 10:00am



Easter Sunday Worship & Communion Service

- with Rev. Dozie Moneme.

Zoom Coffee at 12 noon - Contact us for a link.

Monday 5th April - Bank Holiday.

Wednesday 7th April

Evening Prayer (at home) 7:30pm.

If you can, join with us at home as we come before God.

Readings: Psalm 105, Exodus Ch12 v37-51 & 1 Corinthians Ch15 v20-28.

Collect:

God of glory,

STPAULSBARTON.CO.UK

**FIND
JESUS
THIS
EASTER**

Good Friday - 2pm

Reflection

Easter Sunday - 10am

Worship & Communion

Join us in person
call / text **07947 153 344**
- booking is essential -



or watch live online
FACEBOOK.COM/STPAULSBARTON

*by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Thursday 8th April at 7:30pm

Bible teaching from Rivi Litvin - The trial of Jesus.

To take part please contact us with your email address and you will then receive a Zoom invitation for the session along with an email with a handout for the study from Rivi.

Sunday 11th April at 10:00am

2nd Sunday of Easter

Word & Worship Service - Rev. Dr. Dennis Lloyd

Zoom Coffee at 12 noon - Contact us for a link.

Monday 12th April at 7:30pm

Monday Homegroup (Zoom) - Contact us for a link.

Wednesday 14th April

Evening Prayer (at home) 7:30pm.

If you can, join with us at home as we come before God.

Readings: Psalm 33, Exodus Ch16 v11-36 & Colossians Ch2 v1-15.

Collect:

*Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,*

*that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. Amen.*

Wednesday 14th April at 7:30pm
PCC Meeting (Zoom).

Thursday 15th April
Next St. Paul's Newsletter...

Wednesday 28th April in the church at 7:30pm
APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting).

The Message of the Gospel

The gospel speaks about the One
who died at Calvary
The blood was shed of God's own Son
For love of you and me.

He bore our sins upon the cross
That we may be forgiven
Where for our gain he suffered loss-
God's grace to us from heaven.

His body buried-sealed inside
The tomb a rich man gave
But three days passed and though He died
He rose up from the grave.

He's promised to come back again
Assures the Bible story
In righteousness on earth to reign
As King of Kings in glory.

Ivan.

Sunday Services Sunday services are all streamed live on the church Facebook page and available to watch later on the church's Facebook page, Website and YouTube channel. Audio copies of the talks are also available on the church website.

Our services are getting busier now and if you would like to attend in person you need to book as due to ongoing Covid restrictions seating capacity is limited. **Remember that you must maintain strict social distancing in the church.** To book contact Ian (see the Church Directory for the number) contact us via the church website or text **07947 153 344**. (If booked and you can't come please cancel!)

After Church Coffee

Join us on Zoom for Coffee at 12:00 noon after the Sunday Service Phone or text **07947 153 344** or contact us via the church website for a link.

Offering / Giving

If you are part of St. Paul's and have not yet committed to regular giving, we ask you to prayerfully seek God's will regarding this.

Ways to Give:

- **Set up a Standing Order** from your bank, you can request a form from Penny (our treasurer), or download

one from our website. Just fill it in and send it to her or phone for more details or to arrange for your form to be collected.

- **You can send a cheque**, payable to: **PCC of St. Paul's (Barton Parish)** to Penny (address above).
- If you use online banking, you can give to St. Paul's by **Bank Transfer or by setting up a Standing Order**. Details of the church bank account are:
Bank: **NatWest Newport Isle of Wight**
Account Name: **Parochial Church Council of St. Pauls, Barton Parish**
Sort Code: **54-10-34**
Account Number: **92513263**

If you are a tax payer and have not filled in a **Gift Aid Form** these are available from Penny or on the church website.

For The Children >>

Bible stories for Easter - the fifth one is now available on the St. Paul's **YouTube channel**. This week we are looking at the journey to Easter and Jesus on the cross. These are great for kids (of all ages!) - do pass it on...



CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker



Bits & Pieces >>>

Cleaners this week - This week the church is being cleaned by Liz C, Liz D and David- thank you!

Change of telephone number - Please note that the new landline number for the Vicarage is **01983 590475**.

Newsletter - There will be no newsletter next week. The newsletter 'editorial team' (one man talking to himself?) are having a week off! The next newsletter will be sent out on **Thursday 15th April**. Happy Easter!

Are you on the church Electoral Roll?

Or have your details changed? In advance of our Church APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) that will be held on Wednesday 28th April in the church at 7:30pm, the church Electoral Roll is now open.

If you would like to join the Electoral Roll, forms are available at the back of the church. They can also be downloaded from the Church Website - you'll find them under the Administration menu. Completed forms may be returned to the back of the church or sent to Liz D our PCC Secretary. **Please note that the Electoral Roll closes this Sunday (4th April).**

Stuart on the Radio!

Stuart has a long held a vision for a musical - 'The Bride' you can hear all about this and some of the songs he has written for it in a programme where Stuart talks about this on the Catholic station Radio Maria - their details below. The programme is also available on the St. Paul's website Audio Page.

"Songs in the Wilderness - Stuart Holt Join Diane Redmond as she speaks to Reverend Canon Stuart Holt and he shares with us songs that have influenced his faith journey.

Revd Canon Stuart Holt has been an ordained Anglican priest for 33 years and is also a former teacher. He is a hospital chaplain and author of Ben and The Time Globe and Puppets in Praise (Harper Collins, 1993). He has recorded and performed his spiritual songs throughout his ministry as a parish priest and performs in a group called The Rockin' Revs. The songs are



based around the experiences of life in ministry and evangelism. Stuart feels called to revive this theme and to develop the music for a stage production.

Stuart has performed the Bride with a band of musicians in a number of places during the 1990s and he feels it is an important theme to engage with and has a mystical attraction which Christians can engage with... we are the bride of Christ... the church! The recording of the bride songs was made with a variety of friends".

To listen visit:

<https://anchor.fm/songs-in-the-wilderness-with-rdaio-maria-england/episodes/Songs-in-the-Wilderness---Stuart-Holt-etc1dt>

You can find Radio Maria at <https://radiomariaengland.uk/>

Rev. Dozie speaks at the 'Winning Wisdom Online Summit'



On Tuesday evening Rev. Dozie Moneme spoke at the Winning Wisdom online summit, "Walking in Dominion" with Evangelist Festus Iduh. It's available to watch on YouTube here... <https://youtu.be/82Nqm7s0m88>

Portsmouth Diocesan Synod Elections 2021

An election of 13 members of the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod will be held in the Isle of Wight Deanery on Monday 26 April 2021. If you are interested in seeking election, as a lay member, of the Diocesan Synod please speak to Kevin who can provide the details for nomination etc.

