



Week beginning 3rd May 2020
4th Sunday of Easter

Reflection from Revd Rachel

When Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus for the first time, she mistakes him for the gardener. Her eyes are so full of tears that she can't see him and even if she could, she saw him die, he is the last person she would expect to see. But he calls her name, 'Mary, Mary', and she knows it is him straight away. The author of John's gospel tells us that the sheep recognise the good shepherd because he calls them by their name and the sheep know his voice. The image of shepherd is found throughout the bible. John is evoking images of David, the shepherd boy turned king; he's borrowing images from Ezekiel and Isaiah and of course, Psalm 23. Jesus is the gateway to abundant life: when the sheep go through the gate into the sheepfold, they will find safety, freedom and nourishment. During these last few weeks, we've all had the opportunity to discover what is important to us - what gives our lives meaning and purpose. The normal routines and structures of daily life have been stripped away. Lots of people that I have spoken to have talked about how one day feels very much like another. We have to work really hard at maintaining normal patterns of waking, sleeping, eating and getting the routine jobs done about the house. It's so easy to treat every day like a weekend. We have missed meeting our family and friends face to face and coming to church. Staying connected to each other is really hard but staying connected to God can be tough as well.

What some of us are just beginning to discover is that there are people in our communities who have been socially isolated for a lot longer than the last six weeks. Until she died last summer, I used to visit a very elderly lady called Mavis. She was blind and needed assistance to walk. She hadn't left her house except for hospital appointments for several years before I met her. She hadn't even been in her garden. I used to read to her. In her final months we read the writings of Julian of Norwich whose commemoration it is on Friday.

She wrote the earliest surviving book in the English language, Revelations of Divine Love. She lived through the Black Death. She suffered a life changing illness during which she experienced mystical visions which she later wrote down. She was an anchoress which meant she was bricked up in a cell attached to a church. She couldn't go in or out but devoted her whole life to prayer. People could visit her and seek her counsel. Probably her most famous quote is, 'All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.'

Mavis discovered that although she couldn't leave her home and had very few visitors other than her carers and me, she could be useful. She could pray. She would ask me to leave her with names of people who had asked for prayer and she would spend time every day praying for them. She identified very strongly with Mthr. Julian in her bricked up cell.

When the restrictions begin to lift, we may find that many of us will still be encouraged to isolate ourselves at home because of age or underlying health conditions. There will be no quick return to life as we knew it before. Our abundant life with Jesus means that we can still go in through the gate to the green pastures beyond and turn to him in prayer. We can connect with one another by praying for each other. We can be incredibly useful by praying for the needs of this parish. Mthr Julian was right, all shall be well, because we follow the good shepherd through the gate of the sheepfold. This current situation won't last for ever, but while it does, let us discover what really gives meaning and purpose in our lives as Christians and when we can't talk to each other, let's remember to talk to God.

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Response to the Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

Readings for today Acts 2: 42 – 47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2: 19 – 25 John 10: 1 – 10	Readings for next Sunday Acts 7: 55 – 60 Psalm 31 1 Peter 2: 2 – 10 John 14: 1 – 14
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A copy of the information sent to 1000 homes, delivered by sixth-form students from Lincoln Castle Academy.

Members of Lincoln, St John the Baptist Parish Church are working together to help the residents of the Ermine Estate through this difficult time.

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 (corona virus) and need help with shopping, urgent supplies or just want to chat, please call us on 07954 035865. To contact the vicar, Revd Rachel Heskins directly call 07813 617977.



If you are a resident who is happy to be added to the list of volunteers who are willing to help, please call either of these numbers and let us know.

This is a FREE service so please don't hesitate to call us if you need to.

You can also follow us on Facebook  St John the Baptist Church Ermine

There will be no public worship at St John the Baptist Church until further notice. Daily offices are being said at the Vicarage at 9 am and 5 pm and a weekly Eucharist is being said on Sundays. If you are accessing this newsletter online and you know of a neighbour who might like to see it, please print off a copy and pop it through their letter box.

You can join in prayer wherever you are by downloading the Church of England free app 'Daily Prayer'. <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps>

For the latest updates on COVID-19 visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

PRAYER THIS WEEK

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
4 th Sunday of Easter	<p>Health care services; Social Workers Residents of: Nene Road, Nocton Drive, Oxen Park Close, Pietermaritz Street, Pietermaritz View</p>	<p>We pray together for opportunities to show the love of God within our communities Pray for the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan) The Most Revd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu - Primate of The Nippon Sei Ko Kai & Bishop of Hokkaido</p>
Monday 4 th English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era	<p>Work with children and young people on the estate Residents of: Pine Close, Queen Elizabeth Road, Queen Mary Road</p>	<p>Church schools in Holland Deanery: Butterwick Pinchbeck's; Friskney All Saints; Boston St Thomas'; Boston St Nicholas'; Sutterton Fourfields; Swineshead St Mary's.</p> <p><i>Mukono (Uganda) The Rt Revd James William Ssebagala; Yewa (form. Egbado) (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Michael Adebayo Oluwarohunbi; Ikara (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Yusuf Janfalan</i></p>
Tuesday 5 th	<p>The PCC and Parish officers Residents of: Ravendale Drive, Redbourne Drive, Retief Close, Retief View</p>	<p>St Botolph, St Christopher, St Thomas, Boston: Revd Alyson Buxton, Team Rector Please pray for the ministry team, congregation and community of Boston as we move forward in supporting each other in the changing landscape of our town.</p> <p>Multan (Pakistan) The Rt Revd Leo Rodrick Paul; Yirol (South Sudan) The Rt Revd David Roch Angong; Nyang (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Paul Tokmach Lual; Aluakluak (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Isaac Nyaryiel Aleth; Ikeduru (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Maduwike</p>
Wednesday 6 th	<p>Community Police and Neighbourhood Watch Helen Kumar, Amanda Allen, Craig Mobbs and Tina Worden Residents of: Ridge View, Riseholme Road, Riverton Close, Riverton View</p>	<p>Sibsey & Brothertoft Group: Sibsey, New Bolingbroke, Carrington, Frithville, Brothertoft, Langrick, Kirton Hplme, Wildmore, Holland Fen – Revd Clive Todd Please pray that through our experiences of caring for one another, our future mission may be seen as being joined together as one body in Christ Jesus.</p> <p><i>Mumbai (Formerly Bombay) (North India) The Rt Revd Prakash Patole; Yokohama (Japan) The Revd Ignatius Osamu Irie</i></p>
Thursday 7 th	<p>Choir and musicians Sue Young, Ros and Terry Millward Residents of: Rolleston Close, Rothwell Road, Roughton Court, Ruckland Avenue</p>	<p>Fishtoft: Revd Marc Cooper Please pray that as we build on ways of being church and reaching our community through our online presence, our church building (when open) will continue to be used as a place of sanctuary and pilgrimage.</p> <p><i>Mumias (Kenya) The Rt Revd Joseph Wandera; Yola (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Markus Ibrahim; York (England) The Most Revd & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu</i></p>

Friday 8 th Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer c. 1417	Lincoln Castle Academy; Yarborough Leisure Centre and the Sports Hub Residents of: Rusland Close, Rushlip Close, Sanders Close, Sanders View	Frampton with Wyberton: Revd Sudharshan Sarvananthan We thank God for bringing our 3 churches together with Beacon Church as we worship online every Sunday and daily for Morning prayer. Pray that God will continue to nurture our friendship and our communities will be blessed through our worship and outreach. Mundri (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Bismark Monday Avokaya Azumu Ysabel (Melanesia) The Revd Ellison Quity
Saturday 9 th	Vergers and servers Residents of: Scopwick Place, Searby Road, Sedgebrook Close, Stainton Gardens	Frieston, Butterwick with Bennington & Leverton: Revd Andy Higginson <i>Mundu Area (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Samuel Lomue Eluzai; Yukon (Canada) The Rt Revd Larry David Robertson; Ikka (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Godfrey Ekpenisi</i>

The Diocesan Prayer Calendar can be downloaded from the website:
<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/sharing-in-prayer>

Give thanks for:	What appears to be a decline in the numbers of people dying from COVID-19 and a reduction in hospital admissions.
Special prayers this week for:	Front line workers in hospitals and especially care homes
People in need:	Clive Seabury, Dave Notman,
Rest in peace:	David Redrob

Coming up this week:

Sunday 3 rd	10:00am	Parish Eucharist IN THE VICARAGE
Monday 4 th	9.00am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Tuesday 5 th	9.00 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Wednesday 6 th	9.00 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Thursday 7 th	9.00am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer

Revd Rachel can be contacted Saturday – Thursday
on 07813 617977

e-mail: revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

Web site: www.stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Revd Rachel
no later than Wednesday evening.

If you would like to receive this weekly sheet by email, please e-mail
revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk or speak to a churchwarden