



**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY PARISH
CHURCH & ST MARY & ALL SAINTS
CHURCH, FILLONGLEY WITH
FILLONGLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.



Dear Friends,

As I write, the United Kingdom has passed a milestone that a year ago seemed unthinkable. Over 100,000 people have lost their lives due to the Coronavirus pandemic. When the Prime Minister announced the sad news at the Downing Street briefing, I was unable to contain my tears. Such a phenomenally sad loss of life. Each one of those people were someone's loved one, and each one of those people were beloved of God. As I was trying to think of what to write, I realised that the Archbishops of Canterbury and York had already written to us all:

Dear friends

As we reach the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, we invite everyone in our nation to pause as we reflect on the enormity of this pandemic.

100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God.

We write to you then in consolation, but also in encouragement, and ultimately in the hope of Jesus Christ. The God who comes to us in Jesus knew grief and suffering himself. On the cross, Jesus shares the weight of our sadness.

We therefore encourage everyone who is feeling scared, or lost or isolated to cast their fears on God. We also know that poorer communities, minority ethnic communities and those living with disabilities have been afflicted disproportionately and cry out for the healing of these inequalities. During this pandemic, we encourage everyone to do all they can to live within the guidelines and constraints given by government following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser. We show our commitment, care and love for one another by ensuring we do everything we can to stop the virus spreading.

None of this is easy. Very many of us are experiencing isolation, loneliness, anxiety and despondency like never before. Many people have lost their livelihoods. Our economy struggles. Also, the necessary restrictions we live with have also prevented us from being alongside loved ones as they died, or even at their graveside. All grief profoundly affects us, but this pandemic grief is so hard.

Therefore, we need to support each other. We do this by following the guidelines. But we also do it by reaching out to each other with care and kindness.

One thing we can all do is pray. We hope it is some consolation to know that the church prays for the life of our nation every day. Whether you're someone of faith, or not, we invite you to call on God in prayer. Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. A number of resources will be made available [on our website](#).

Finally, we write of hope. We are grateful for the hope we have because of the service of our NHS and social care staff. What a blessing and lifeline for our nation. We are grateful for the service given in local communities by clergy, other frontline workers and so many good neighbours. We are grateful for the hope of the vaccine. It is a testimony to the God-given wisdom and gifts of scientists and researchers. We urge everyone to take the vaccine as soon as it is offered to you.

Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn't have the last word. In God's kingdom, every tear will be wiped away.

Please be assured of our prayers. Please join us.

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell

Archbishop of Canterbury

Archbishop of York

Praying together is something that we can all do. It doesn't matter where or who we are. It doesn't matter if we can't find the words as there are plenty of resources that can help us - the Church of England Website <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation> or locally on the Coventry Diocesan website <https://www.coventry.anglican.org/equip> . If you are struggling to pray and it would help to pray with someone, please don't hesitate to contact me, Rev Jane or any of the church team.

This week's recorded service of Holy Communion for Candlemas is all about light. Remembering when Jesus was presented in the temple as a baby. Jesus, the Light that shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. As part of the service, you might want to light a candle to remember the Light of the World being recognised by Simeon and Anna in the temple.



On Sunday evening at 5pm we will be gathering via Zoom for a short Service of the Word. (The service lasts about 25 minutes). If you don't have a computer you can 'dial in' for worship on your telephone.

As we are fast approaching the season of Lent, I am offering two opportunities for discipleship on each Monday of Lent at 10am or 7pm. We will be using the Church of England's Pilgrim Course. (www.pilgrimcourse.org) Each session is a mixture of input from a range of contemporary theologians, reflection and group discussion. If you would like to join in then just let me know and I can make sure to order enough resources. reverendalimassey@gmail.com
Tel: 01676 540320 or 07837 124509.

If you would like to talk to someone about everything that is going on at the moment, please do not hesitate to contact me, Revd Jane or one of the church team. We will get through this together.

Take good care of yourself and each other.

Love and prayers.

Ali

Ali Massey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Service of the Word**

Time: Jan 10, 2021 05:00 PM London

Every week on Sun, until Feb 7, 2021, 5 occurrence(s)

Jan 10, 2021 05:00 PM

Jan 17, 2021 05:00 PM

Jan 24, 2021 05:00 PM

Jan 31, 2021 05:00 PM

Feb 7, 2021 05:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEpcOyrpjsvH9xqr1bThRHBmOPXpCHGeHa3/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtqjwvGdyVtRyPRpwMBo_CZ-nxiGJYgvpFjQ20ARRbUCvUO81yCqJcOP_V

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85475380558?pwd=WUhUQ1ZyOEhhSzhhUVIWeXAxQU9lUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558

Passcode: 572740

One tap mobile

+442034815237,,85475380558#,,,,*572740# United Kingdom

+442034815240,,85475380558#,,,,*572740# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558

Passcode: 572740

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/knXbiyLUn>

Here is the link to Sunday's Service on
YouTube ~

<https://youtu.be/quyZKHUF1cs>

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 31st January 2021
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple ~ Candlemas
The Fourth Sunday of the Epiphany

Collects

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple ~ Candlemas

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. **Amen**

Readings

Malachi 3: vs 1-5

Psalm 24

Hebrews 2: vs 14-end

Luke 2: vs 22-40



Reflection

You will find Revd Ali's Reflection for this Sunday attached to this bulletin and also Revd Jane's Worship Sheet for this Sunday.

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church this Sunday:-

King of Glory, King of Peace (StF 56)

Let love be real, in giving and receiving (StF 615)

Here is the link to this beautiful worship song so that you can sing along ~ the words are so poignant that they are printed below for you to enjoy reading.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkBAxZw5NxU>

There is a redeemer (StF 338)

My Jesus, my Saviour (StF 363)

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go.
As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;
that helps us face the risk of truly living,
and makes us brave to be what we might be.
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness;
give me your love in spite of all you know.
As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,
no secret wish to harness or control;
let us accept each other's incompleteness,
and share the joy of learning to be whole.
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments;
give me your trust when all my failings show.
As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Michael Forster (b. 1946)



PRAYERS



Starting on February 1st, we are invited by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to pray for our nation. It is suggested that you set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

We remember before God those who have died and we pray that God's love will surround all who mourn them, now and always.

Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

A Prayer for our homes

Circle this place by day and by night. Keep far from it all that harms, bring to it all that is good. May this place be fragrant with the presence of the Lord, God's peace be always here and in those who dwell here.

Amen

A Prayer at Candlemas

Your holy spirit rested on Simeon and he recognised your coming. May we recognise you in our lives. Simeon recognised in you the true light that brings light to the world. Help us to receive and radiate that light. Simeon foresaw that your mother would be pierced to the heart. Give us the faithful love she showed at the cross.

Amen

Candlemas ~ a sonnet by Malcolm Guite.

They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to His temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
Had made a killing on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
And keep the day the prophecies came true
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.

RESOURCES



Janet used every means possible to keep in touch with her flock.

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- ✚ Reflection from Revd Ali for Candlemas
- ✚ Reflection and Worship Sheet from Revd Jane
- ✚ Order of Service for Evening Prayer (Sunday at 5pm on Zoom)
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion (Recorded on YouTube)
- ✚ Prayer for the Nation ~ Prayers and themes for prayer from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

AND FINALLY DON'T FORGET

If there is anything that you need or know of someone who would appreciate being contacted or added to the mailing list for this weekly e-bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact Revd Ali, Revd Jane or any of the Churchwardens and Church Stewards listed below. ⁱ

ⁱ **Contact Details:**

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