



St David's Cathedral

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



St David, Patron Saint of Wales

***Anglicans and Methodists
in Unity.***

Dear Friends'

I do hope that the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday has brought a little bit of light into the darkness that has been cast into all our lives by the Coronavirus. However, we still have a long way to go before Covid 19 is just another nasty virus that we have to live with. The Prime Minister's 'roadmap' has given us all a plan for getting life into some semblance of normality by the summer.

As you know, we suspended in-person worship in our churches as the Prime Minister announced the current lockdown on the 4th January. It was felt, at that time, that the 'stay at home' order took precedence over our desire to gather and worship together. Although the 'stay at home' order is not legally lifted until the 29th March (the day after Palm Sunday), given the tremendous efforts of the NHS vaccination programme and the reduction in infection numbers, it feels like we could return to in-person worship a little before that time. If we all maintain social distancing, do not mix with anyone outside our 'bubble' and adhere rigidly to our risk assessments then we could restart in-person worship on Sunday 14th March, Mothering Sunday.

This isn't a decision taken lightly. I have reviewed our local infection data and our vaccination rates, BUT and it is a big but, we all need to do everything in our power to keep each other safe. By maintaining social distance, wearing a face mask and paying close attention to hand hygiene, I believe we can return to worship safely. Of course we cannot guarantee a Covid-free environment and it is important for each of us to make an individual risk assessment before returning to church. One of my tasks in this week will be to revisit our risk assessments to ensure that they are as robust as they can be and there may be tweaks to the way we operate to ensure as safe an environment as possible.

In addition to in-person worship, the Zoom Service of the Word will continue on Sunday evenings at 5pm. I intend to continue this service for the foreseeable future as some of our friends may not feel able to attend church in person for a while yet. If you would like to join the service – it lasts 30 minutes and can be accessed using the Zoom invitation below. If you aren't able to use Zoom, you can call in via your telephone and join in the worship.

One of the things that we have all missed is sharing hospitality, in church and at home. The Social and Outreach Committee have already been planning some social events for later on in the year and 2022. There are some exciting plans being put in place, so watch this space.....

So, as we enter into the middle of the season of Lent, I do hope and pray that your journey through the season is a hopeful one. We take this time to consciously enter into the journey that our Lord Jesus Christ took when he turned his face to Jerusalem for the last time; to prepare ourselves for entering into the great mystery that is Easter and the resurrection. We won't be able

to have a full programme of Holy Week events this year, but we will, God willing, be able to gather in person to celebrate the great Good News of our faithful and loving God.

There are signs of spring all around us; creation's glorious reminder of the truth of the resurrection. Snowdrops abound, catkins are forming and the daffodils are starting to push through the soil. These are sights to gladden the heart. But if you aren't feeling any of the joys of spring, please do not hesitate to contact me, Revd Jane or any of the team.

With love and hopeful prayers

Ali

Ali Massey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Service of the Word

Time: Feb 28, 2021 05:00 PM London

Every week on Sun, until Mar 21, 2021, 4 occurrence(s)

Feb 28, 2021 05:00 PM

Mar 7, 2021 05:00 PM

Mar 14, 2021 05:00 PM

Mar 21, 2021 05:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85475380558?pwd=WUhUQ1ZyOEHhSzhhUVlWeXAxQU9lUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558

Passcode: 572740

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558

Passcode: 572740

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

<https://youtu.be/viIPx3MpFQY>

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 28th February 2021

The Second Sunday of Lent

Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings

Genesis 17: vs 1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22 vs 23-end

Romans 4: vs 13-end

Mark 8 vs 31-end



Reflection

You will find Revd Ali's Reflection for this Sunday attached to this bulletin.

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

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

[Deep in the shadows of the past \(StF 463\)](#)

[When I survey the wondrous cross \(StF 287\)](#)

[I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship \(StF 350\)](#) *(Sung to the tune: Londonderry Air)*

[Beyond these walls of worship \(StF 547\)](#)

Here is a link to this last worship song, a true hymn for our current times -

[StF 547 Beyond these walls of worship - Bing video](#)

PRAYERS

Throughout February 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.



A Prayer for St David's Day ~ March 1st

Almighty God, on this special day for the people of Wales, we remember Saint David, your servant. We give thanks for his passion for the Gospel which helped to spread Christianity; We give thanks for his purity and simplicity of life which enabled his pursuit of Christian perfection; We give thanks for his gentleness, but clear spiritual leadership. Grant that we may learn from him and respond to the words that are thought to be his last: 'Be steadfast, and do the little things'; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Prayers from World Vision

Lord, thank you that Jesus was sent to die for our sins. And that through Him we have the perfect example of how to be Your hands and feet in our world. This Lent as we reflect, help us to become more Christ-like in our lives and champion your ways. **Amen**

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those, especially the vulnerable children we serve who are experiencing a time of wilderness, where they might feel lost, alone and afraid. Those affected by violence and conflict in Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Myanmar. Be near to them. **Amen**

And Lord Jesus, as World Vision staff in Mozambique give thanks for all the people in the UK who have continued to sponsor their children through COVID-19, we lift-up their specific prayer requests. May God continue to enlighten and guide them, so that together we achieve more with Him for the communities, especially the children we serve. **Amen**

One of *Malcolm Guite's* poems achieves something that he could not have foreseen



IN SOME ways, being a poet is like being a parent: a new poem is conceived in a moment of insight and excitement; it has its time of gestation, growing secretly in the dark womb of your mind; and, when the time is ripe, you bring it to birth, it stretches the limbs of its lines, and calls back to you from the paper where it's written, with its own voice, as you see it outside your self for the first time.

But, if that is true for the conception and birth of the poem, then publishing a poem is more like seeing your children grown up, going off into the world, making new friends you never knew, and living an independent life of their own. And, sometimes, a poem goes out into the world and comes into its own strength, finds its own vocation, and achieves something you could not have foreseen.

I had that experience recently when I had an email from the Canon for Mission and Pastoral care at Norwich Cathedral, Andy Bryant. He told me that the final section of my Quarantine Quatrains, which had been written in April as a kind of elegy and prayer for those who had died from Covid, "has really resonated with us here at the cathedral". He asked permission to read the poem as part of a Covid memorial.

He wrote: "Several times a week I am on my knees at the memorial adding crosses as the numbers continue to rise — not knowing the names but remembering that each of these is a beloved individual that someone is mourning. We have just come to a sad milestone as the number in Norfolk rises beyond 1000."

And so they made a moving little film, and I heard another's voice reciting my poem as the little crosses were laid out, one for each person. Nationally, the figure had just passed the dreadful 100,000 milestone, and we were all numbed by the numbers, as I had been even last April. In some ways, the thousand in Norfolk was more imaginable than the national figure, and helped with beginning to grasp it. So, it occurred to me that my readers here might also find this elegy helpful.

*At close of day I hear the gentle rain
Whilst experts on the radio explain
Mind-numbing numbers rising by the day
Cyphers of unimaginable pain*

*Each evening they announce the deadly toll
And patient voices calmly call the roll
I hear the numbers, cannot know the names
Behind each number, mind and heart and soul*

*Behind each number one beloved face
A light in life whom no one can replace,
Leaves on this world a signature, a trace,
A gleaning and a memory of grace*

*All loved and loving, carried to the grave
The ones whom every effort could not save
Amongst them all those carers whose strong love
Bought life for others with the lives they gave*

*The sun sets and I find myself in prayer
Lifting aloft the sorrow that we share
Feeling for words of hope amidst despair
I voice my vespers through the quiet air:*

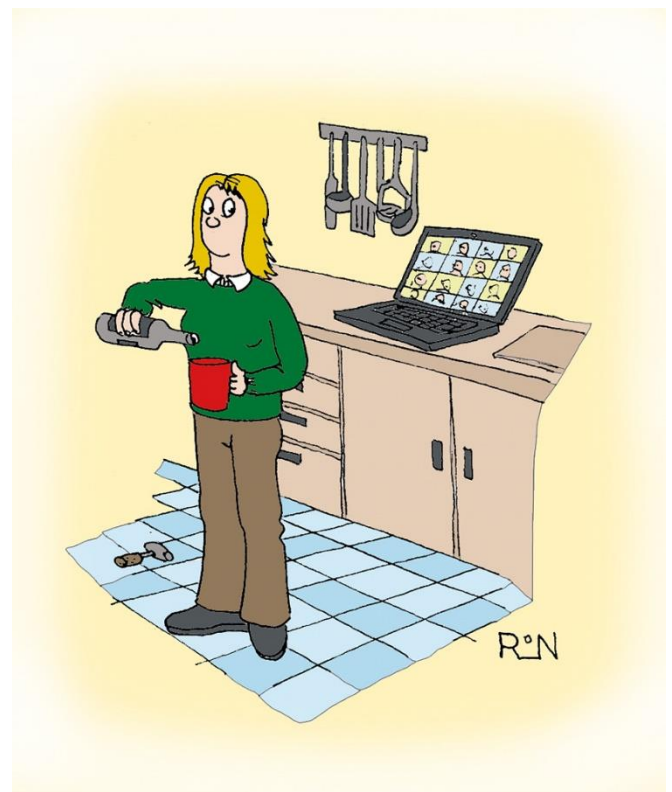
*O Christ who suffers with us, hold us close,
Deep in the secret garden of the rose,
Raise over us the banner of your love
And raise us up beyond our last repose.*

Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest and singer-songwriter. He is a Chaplain of Girton College and Associate Chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr in Cambridge, and is the author of many anthologies of poetry. He is a weekly columnist in the Church Times where he writes the very popular 'Poet's Corner' which is now included here each week for you to enjoy.

RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- ✚ Reflection from Revd Ali for the Second Sunday of Lent
- ✚ Order of Service for Evening Prayer (Sunday at 5pm on Zoom)
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion ~ Sunday 28th February 2021
- ✚ Avoid austerity ~ in the Church and society. *Church Times* 19.2.2021.



***And after Virtual Church there
was Virtual Coffee ...***

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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