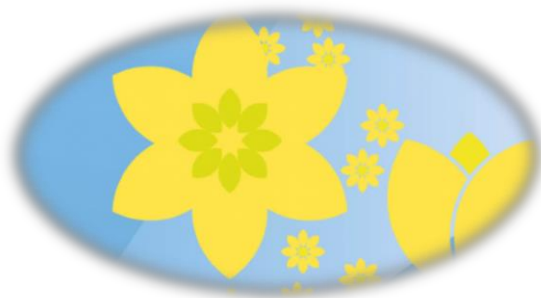




**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY PARISH
CHURCH & ST MARY & ALL SAINTS
CHURCH, FILLONGLEY WITH
FILLONGLEY METHODIST CHURCH**
Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.



First Anniversary Edition



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the anniversary of the first lockdown. Last year we had no idea about how much and how fast our everyday lives were going to change. We had no idea that we would be glued to Downing Street briefings on the television. We had no idea of the impact the restrictions would have on our lives. We had no idea how hard, the often lowest paid amongst us, would work to keep us all safe. We had no idea that Zoom, Teams and Facetime would become part of our everyday lives. And we had no idea that, sadly, over 125,000 people in the UK would die from Covid 19.

We also had no idea that the scientific community would work together across the globe to create not one but several effective vaccines against the virus. We had no idea that our incredible NHS could roll out an inoculation programme that has, to date, inoculated over 24 million people - at a time when the service was working under such pressure to treat thousands of seriously ill patients with Covid 19. We had no idea that individuals and groups would step up and 'fill the gaps' in communities to make sure that the hungry were fed, that the lonely were contacted, that the homeless were housed. We had no idea that virtual worship could be so meaningful and create new communities. We just had no idea.

This past year is one that we all will remember for many years to come. We all have experienced bereavement of many different kinds. Loss of our loved ones, loss of our income and security, loss of our freedom and loss of relationships. We all process our losses in different ways, but sometimes it is helpful to take some time out and reflect at times such as this.

Stop press

Services for Sunday 21st March 2021

9:00 am Corley 10:30am Fillongley

Tuesday 23rd March 2021

National Day of Reflection

*10 - 12 noon Private Prayer
Fillongley*

2 - 4pm Private Prayer Corley

*Please bring and wear a face
covering*



On March 23rd, there is an opportunity to visit our churches to spend some time and maybe light a candle as we remember. We remember our losses and mourn. We remember the good things and give thanks. In all our remembrance, God is with us, God is alongside and weeps as we weep. God rejoices as we give thanks and is quietly alongside us as we sit in the stillness. If you would like to come along then the churches are open:

St Mary and All Saints, Fillongley Tuesday 23rd March, 10am – 12 noon.

The Parish Church, Corley Tuesday 23rd March 2 – 4pm.

To remind us all that the light still shines in the darkness, St Mary & All Saints Church in Fillongley will also be illuminated on the night of Monday 22nd March and Tuesday 23rd March.

In-person worship has resumed at both our churches and preparations are underway to celebrate Holy Week. Because of current restrictions we will, however, be observing a simpler remembrance of Holy Week. There will be services of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, A 'Last Hour at the Cross' on Good Friday and a choice of 3 services of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to organise a Walk of Witness for Good Friday this year, but if you would like to make your own, individual walk of witness between our churches then there are two resources attached to this bulletin that you might find helpful. The first is a prayer walk between the churches stopping at local landmarks. The other is a 'Stations of the Cross' walk of witness that remembers Jesus' journey to the cross in scripture and prayer.

The Zoom Service of the Word on Sundays at 5pm will continue until at least the Summer (except for Easter Sunday afternoon). So, if returning to church is still not for you, then you can worship from the comfort and security of your own home via the wonders of technology. If you don't have a computer you can join the service by dialling in from your telephone.

If remembering the loss of the last year or looking forward with uncertainty is difficult for you, then please do not hesitate to contact me, Revd Jane or any of the team who would be glad to listen, talk and pray with and for you.

With love and prayers for you and yours.

Ali

Your invitation to our Service of the Word Sunday at 5pm on ZOOM

Ali Massey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Service of the Word

Time: Mar 21, 2021 05:00 PM London

Every week on Sun, until Jun 27, 2021,

EXCEPT FOR SUNDAY 4th APRIL

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85475380558?pwd=WUUhUQ1ZyOEhhSzhhUVlWexAxQU9lUT09>



Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558

Passcode: 572740

Telephone:

0 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558 Passcode: 572740

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 21st March 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Lent ~ Passion Sunday

Collects for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through 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**

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for the Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ March 25th

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through 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**

Readings



Jeremiah 31: vs 31-34

Psalm 51 or Psalm 119 vs 9-16

Hebrews 5: vs 5-10

John 12: vs 20-33

Reflection

A Reflection from Revd Ali for this Sunday is attached to this bulletin.

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

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

[Christ triumphant, ever reigning \(StF 319\)](#)

[I will offer up my life \(StF 446\)](#)

Here is the link to this gentle, thoughtful worship song ~

[Matt Redman - I Will Offer Up My Life - Lyric Video - YouTube](#)

[Jesus is King and I will extol him \(StF 327\)](#)

[Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us \(StF 594\)](#)

PRAYERS

We continue to pray for all those affected by the global pandemic in any way.

Thought for the week ~

Where are you, Lord?

In the voice on the phone; in the smile across the street; in the kindness of strangers; in the courage of carers; in the laughter online; in the colours of spring; in the stories of hope; in the instinct to pray; in the wisdom of people; in the words of the Bible.

Never-failing God, keep us when we grow weary,
Cheer us when we become despondent, hold us when we lose heart
And help us to keep looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. **Amen**

(from the Bible Reading Fellowship)

A Celtic Prayer

As surely as the seasons unfold and spring follows winter
So sure is your steadfast love, O God.

As burns released from winter's bondage leap joyously in the sea,
Melt our frozen hearts that we may worship you.

As buds uncurl and flowers open their faces to the sun,
Turn us to the light and warmth of your presence.

Kate McIlhagga



In search of comfort reading, *Malcolm Guite* returns to George MacDonald



IT HAS often been remarked that the most comforting of comfort foods is the food that we enjoyed as children: soft-boiled eggs dipped with little toast “soldiers”, jam roly-poly covered with custard, crumpets toasted on long brass forks in front of an open fire.

And, if we've all been turning to comfort food amid the stresses of this year, then I think that the same is true of comfort reading. I have certainly been returning to the reassuring familiarity of the classic stories that I read as a child, and yet discovering afresh, amid that familiarity, how piercing, how poignant, how beautiful some of them were. I've been re-reading the Narnia stories, of course, and *The Hobbit*, but I've also gone back behind them to the stories of George MacDonald, the inspired Victorian writer who was such a huge influence on Lewis and Tolkien, as he was also on E. Nesbit.

In particular, I've been re-savouring the first of his books that I read as a child: *The Princess and the Goblin*. It really is a remarkable book; indeed, G. K. Chesterton said that it was the most “lifelike book” he had ever read. This was something of a Chestertonian paradox; for, of course, the magical tale of little Princess Irene — roaming the hidden passages and stairs of the King's house which seem to appear and disappear and change, venturing out into the woods and down the mines that are full of Goblins who intend to undermine the house, and discovering that somewhere up in the attic is the mysterious beautiful great-grandmother who keeps doves, spins magic threads, and has a fire made out of roses — is scarcely realistic, in the ordinary sense of that term.

But Chesterton maintained that the Princess's situation was a perfect expression of our own. We find ourselves, as living bodies and souls, inhabiting and exploring the great house of our life, finding at the top of its winding stairs beautiful glimmerings of the divine, and yet knowing that its deepest recesses, its very foundations, are in danger of being undermined by dark or greedy forces. Like the Princess, we have to seek and submit to the divine, and let her put into our hands the mysterious, invisible thread that will guide us when we are lost, and eventually lead us back to her.

And that, of course, is the other very remarkable thing about this book. Lewis's divine figure, his rescuer and guide, is a magnificent but very masculine lion; but Lewis's master, George MacDonald, offers us a quasi-divine feminine figure: a woman who sometimes seems ancient, sometimes young and radiantly beautiful, always wise and kind; and it is she who mediates the divine presence. Re-reading the wonderful passage in which the Princess first sees the grandmother's fire of roses, I was struck by how explicit, and yet at the same time infinitely suggestive, MacDonald is about that, about the refining fire of the divine presence, as he gently alludes to the ark of the covenant: “what she had taken for a huge bouquet of red roses . . . was in fact a fire which burned in the shapes of the loveliest red roses, glowing gorgeously between the heads and wings of two cherubs of shining silver.”

I wonder if it wasn't just Lewis and Tolkien, but also T. S. Eliot, who remembered MacDonald — as well as Dante — when he ended *The Four Quartets* with the line “And the fire and the rose are one.”

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 Fifth Sunday of Lent
- ✚ Order of Service for Evening Prayer (Sunday at 5pm on Zoom)
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion ~ Corley Church Sunday 21st March 2021
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion ~ St Mary & All Saints Church, Fillongley
Sunday 21st March 2021
- ✚ Prayer Walk ~ Corley and Fillongley
- ✚ Walk of Witness ~ Stations of the Cross



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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