

Sunday 17 May 2020

A Call to Prayer

Dear All

I hope you have had a good week and continue to stay safe and well. Last Sunday I spoke about a call to prayer as we wait on God for our next steps and you will find lots of information in this letter about prayer – the Wednesdays at 12 discussion group ‘Exploring Prayer’, a heads-up about Thy Kingdom Come from 21-31 May, and an invitation to join, via YouTube, with churches across Leicestershire to pray for the county on Sunday 24 May. Please join in whatever way you can and keep praying.

Sunday Service

This week we will be welcoming Rev Liz Rawlings who is coming to speak to us - virtually of course! You may remember she came and spoke about ‘glimpses of glory’ back in January and I am delighted that she will be with us again.

As ever, the links for our service and for the service sheet will be on our [website](#). Thank you for your encouraging feedback about words on screen and the birdsong – unfortunately, I can’t guarantee to arrange that each week! Do please continue to suggest hymns and songs you would like to see included – a short video introduction is great if you can do one, but if that’s not possible I could alternatively read out something you send me.

Forest Church

Matt and Mary have been keeping online activities going on the [St Mary’s Forest Church](#) page on Facebook. Please pray for them and for the number of new people engaging with it, and maybe get involved yourself!

Matt writes:

‘Mossy Church continues to post on its Facebook page a challenge to do on your walk, from your window or in your garden. It is suitable for all ages and focuses on appreciating our natural world that God has made. Extra to this we are beginning to tell Bible stories by the fire. We will be posting these on the Facebook page as well as on the Church YouTube channel.

I hope you find these things accessible and enjoyable. If you do, please share them with your wider friends and family so that they can see what we are doing as a Church as our way of sharing part of our faith and community.’

Wednesdays at 12

This Wednesday 20 May at 12 noon we will begin our discussion group, talking about the ‘Exploring Prayer’ videos by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Everyone is invited to watch the first video at any time, which you can find here: [Exploring Prayer 1 video](#) and you are then welcome to join us for the [Wednesdays at 12 zoom meeting](#) This is for an informal discussion lasting 30-40mins, please come with a comment and a question from the video, or just come! If you can’t use Zoom, there may be a possibility to phone in, please let me know if that would help.

Zoom Password

Zoom now requires a password for meetings. Get in touch if you would like the link and password to join us.

rev.adele@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk

Thy Kingdom Come (21-31 May)

For some years now, the Church of England has encouraged everyone to take up the ancient tradition of praying for their friends and community during the ten days from Ascension to Pentecost. Why not begin to think about how you might do that this year? Perhaps praying for neighbours as you walk around your street, either in person or virtually? We will be letting you know some more ideas next week including prayer prompts on the St Mary’s Facebook page.

Praying for Leicestershire

On Sunday 24 May, a number of churches, along with Bishop Martyn Snow, are calling the Church in Leicestershire to gather together and pray for the county. Please do join in on YouTube 'Praying for Leicestershire' at 7pm on Sunday 24 May (streaming live from 6.45pm, event beginning at 7pm). We'll include the link in next week's letter.

Some reminders:

Letter from Ian

You should have received an email from Ian this week about Church finances. Please do prayerfully consider how best to use your money at this difficult time.

Graham's Quiz

You should also have received an email earlier in the week with an offer from Graham and Jane North to organise a quiz.

Psalms Workshop

Links for the Psalms Workshop will be on the website for one more week and if you would like the worksheet posted to you, please ask. Please contact Helena if you want to know more or have things to share.

helena@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk

Patchwork Project

And finally ... Don't forget to keep sewing patches for the fabric hanging we are hoping to make. Get in touch with Katherine if you want to know more: church_warden@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk

"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6 v18

With love in Christ

Adele