

All Saints Church, Kempston  
St James's Church, Biddenham

## Virtual Church News

9 May 2021

6th Sunday of Easter



Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please email [stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com](mailto:stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com) or call Jacqui on 356993.

### This Week's Services

- Sunday 9.30am: Service at All Saints Kempston.
- Sunday 11.00am: Virtch (Zoom)
- Monday 9.00am: Morning Prayers (Zoom)
- Wednesday 6.00pm: Virtch (Zoom)

### Services in Church

This Sunday we warmly welcome you back to All Saints Church with a service at 9.30am. There is no need to book. Please remember your face covering (unless you are exempt from wearing one). You will be asked to follow a one-way system in place in both the church and churchyard.

***We look forward to seeing you in person!***

### A Reading for the Week

#### John 15:9-17

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

### Message from Revd Eric Lomax

My apologies to those who have not yet watched the final episode of Line of duty. It must be difficult avoiding the spoilers. Like most people who watched it, I could not help but feel a sense of disappointment, like very little is resolved, and very few answers were given. I have ended up with more questions than answers. There may or may not be another series on the way, but the reality is that the relentless production of multi-series dramas depends, for their marketability, on unresolved conflict. Just like Schubert's no 8 symphony, Line of Duty depends for its longevity on being unfinished.

Unlike a TV drama, we want fulfilment in life, but that kind of fulfilment is so hard to come by. My mum, who suffers from advanced Alzheimer's, had to have a distressing emergency operation on Saturday. I find it so sad that she is having such a difficult time in the last years of her life. She is fragile and mortal, but I am convinced that now she is awaiting a perfect fulfilment which comes from the redeeming love of God.

The writer of the fourth Gospel begins his story 'In the beginning,' before the foundations of creation and culminates on the cross with Jesus' last words; 'It is accomplished. This relates so closely to Isaiah 55:11, which says that God does not waste a single Word. When God speaks, it is accomplished. We are unfinished, we are incomplete, but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. (1 Corinthians 13:10)

Continued on next page...

### Virtch (Online Church)

Zoom services are held at 11am on Sunday, 9am on Monday and 6pm on Wednesday. Simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

The Love of Christ is not locked down  
**Virtual  
Virtch  
Church**  
St James, Biddenham, All Saints, Kempston

## Message from Revd Eric Lomax continued

In 1 Corinthians 13, the writer, Paul, has just been addressing a group of Church people, many of whom seemed to be getting a little arrogant over their particular gifts and talents. In response, the writer tells them that the greatest talent that they can have is the ability to love one another. He goes on to explain to them that our current perspectives are limited, but it is only when we reach God's perfection that we will truly understand.

The religious people at the time of Jesus were also becoming arrogant. Because wine was such an important part of their economy, they even described themselves as the 'vine.' Jesus said, well actually 'I am the vine,' or rather that 'I am the perfect source of life,' and that if the people of Israel thought they could rely on their religion, then they were barking, quite literally, up the wrong tree. 'Live in me,' Jesus said, because 'apart from me you can do nothing.' Effectively he was saying that they were incomplete without him.

We are told that God is 'love, and those who live in love, live in God.' (1 John 4). Just as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13, that completeness only comes from the kind of love that God shows us, John continues this in his Gospel; 'If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you'. (v10-12).

As human beings we really need fulfilment and completeness in our lives, but on this side of eternity, like my poor old mum, we will only get a hint of this. I have to say that her faith remained steadfast all the way through her decline. Ultimately for her, and for us, we will reach completeness in the love that God shows to us, and in our ability to share that love with one another.

God Bless  
Eric

### Let us pray...

Spirit of God,  
We are so conscious of our failure and mortality,  
Give us strength to place our trust in you.  
Let your perfect, healing love,  
be our strength and our guide  
Through Jesus Christ,  
Our Lord,  
Amen.



## St James and Charitable Giving in 2020/2021

As with many organisations the finances of our church have suffered during the pandemic and the lockdowns. We have a clear idea of what our priorities are as a church in our relations with our communities. As part of our demonstration of God's love we aim to be a support of people, families and groups who are in difficulties, poverty, or who are suffering. However as good citizens we have to prioritise paying the necessary bills. Examples of organisations we have supported as a church over recent years are:

- 1) CMS (Church Mission Society)
- 2) Open Doors UK
- 3) Bedford Food Bank
- 4) Hebron Soup Run (Bedford)
- 5) Langley House Trust

So that we can continue during this difficult period (2020/2021) to support the great work these organisations carry out we have decided to ask people to give to a separate fund for Charitable Giving and Mission work. A special fund has been set up to carry out this aim and a generous member of our congregation has offered to match any giving pound for pound up to £1,800.00, making a total therefore of £3,600 for the two years ending 31 December 2021.

We would be very grateful for any donations to this fund which should either be handed to the Vicar or one of the Churchwardens **or** paid by transfer into the church bank account, using the details:

Bank: Nat West  
Account: Biddenham PCC  
Sort code: 60-02-13  
Account number: 51317710

### Very important

On the transfer details line please put "M & G" so the money goes to the correct fund.

Very many thanks for helping us to continue helping those in need.

Edwin Martin, Deputy Churchwarden

### Prayer Group

Join our prayer group at 8pm on the 1st/3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Everyone welcome.

Contact John Lambert for login details or if you have any prayer requests.  
[John.c.lambert@gmail.com](mailto:John.c.lambert@gmail.com)



### Bible Study Groups

If you are interested in joining a bible study group please contact John Lambert by email at [john.c.lambert@gmail.com](mailto:john.c.lambert@gmail.com)

## Electoral Rolls & Annual Meetings

### St James

The Annual Meetings for St James's will be held on Wednesday 19 May at 7.30pm via Zoom (usual meeting ID).

The Electoral Roll has now been revised and is published. If you would like to see a copy of the Electoral Roll please contact Jacqui at [stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com](mailto:stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com) or on 0778 6886 710.

### All Saints

Notice is given that the Church Electoral Roll of All Saints Kempston will be revised by the Parochial Church Council. After the revision a copy of the Roll will be published by the Parochial Church Council for not less than 14 days in the Church Porch. A copy of the Roll will be available for inspection on a reasonable request being made to the Council.

Application forms for enrolment can be obtained from Shirley by calling 07469 205938 or emailing [shirleybrown2227@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleybrown2227@yahoo.com)

In order to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting on Wednesday 26 May at 7.30pm, and take part in its proceedings, your application form must be returned on or before 11 May. If you have any queries please contact Shirley.

## Volunteer Vacancies at St James's

St James's Church is seeking to fill two volunteer roles - Website Manager and Barn Bookings Manager. Both roles can mostly be carried out from home and in your own time. They can be as big or as small as you make them!

If you are interested in either role then please contact Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or at [stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com](mailto:stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com)

## Bedford Foodbank

**Collection point in St James's Church porch now open!**

Items currently needed: Cup-a-Soup, UHT Milk, Pot Noodles, Jumbo Hotdogs, Tinned Tuna, Tea-Bags (160 size), Shampoo, Washing-Up Liquid, Anti-Bac Spray, Shower Gel.

Please continue to support this valuable charity either with donations of food or financially!



## The All Age Bit!

This week's reading is John 15 verses 9 to 17 which you can find on the front page of Virtual Church News, or you can read it from your own Bible if you have one.

In this passage Jesus teaches us about loving others. When you have read the passage, think about what it might mean to love others like Jesus loved. Jesus showed love to all he met. He demonstrated love in many different ways - feeding the 5,000, healing people, teaching others about God's love, spending quality time with his friends, praying for them and serving them. But Jesus's biggest demonstration of love was dying on the cross. He knew that the most important thing was for others to connect with God in a relationship and he showed love by helping them to do this. Ask your family members or friends if they can remember an amazing way that somebody has shown them love in the past!

### Activities

**Keep my commands:** In the passage Jesus says "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love". Think about what it means to keep commands with a game of 'Simon Says' or follow the leader. Who is the best at keeping the commands and doing what they are told?

**Love languages:** There are many different ways to show and share love with one another. Why not try out each of these love sharing activities together and see which you prefer to give and which you like to receive:

- Quality time - spend some quality time together, eg on a walk or watching a film;
- Encouraging words - write a letter or make a card with an encouraging message inside.
- Physical touch - play a game of musical hugs with people in your family bubble. Put on some music and dance around. When the music stops everyone must hug someone else.
- Acts of service - think of something kind that you can do for someone else.
- Gifts - make a gift to share with someone.

### Song

God loves me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajMfS9PNXoc>

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you that you love each of us. Thank you that Jesus came to the earth to teach us about your love and to make a way so that all of us can come close to you. Thank you that you call us your friends. Help us to love others this week, to follow Jesus' example and to serve those we meet so that they can learn more about how much you love them. Amen.

Resources from Together at Home. [www.tath.co.uk](http://www.tath.co.uk).

## Suggested Music for this week

If ye love me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqt005j1dB0>

Let there be love shared among us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZYQZPHABY8>

Name of all majesty

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

Love each other

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcytvqn8h3o>



## Church Services etc. on TV/Radio

If you don't have access to the internet, try tuning in to the following:

Sunday 9 May

- 8.00am Three Counties Radio - weekly service.
- 8.10am BBC Radio 4 - Sunday Worship.
- 12.45pm BBC 2 - Sunday Morning Stories
- 1.15pm BBC 2 - Songs of Praise.
- 3.00pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.

Wednesday 12 May

- 3.30pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.



## Daily Hope

Music, prayers, reflections and full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a free telephone line. **0800 804 8044** Available 24 hours a day.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Join in from 13 to 23 May to deepen your own relationship with Jesus Christ, pray for five friends or family to come to faith in Jesus and to pray for the empowerment of the Spirit to be effective in your witness. For more details and to order a free prayer journal and other resources go to [thykingdomcome.global](https://thykingdomcome.global)

## Time to Pray

Time to Pray App and Podcast presents everything you need for prayer. Available as an app (with integrated audio) or as a podcast. Listen and subscribe at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/time-pray-app-and-podcast> or download the app from your usual app store.

## Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452

Mob: 07805 879537

Email: [Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com)

## Community Support Groups

Do you need support? We can help with shopping and companionship (via regular phone calls). Can you volunteer to help? Let us know if you are DBS checked (for any organisation). It doesn't matter if you aren't, we still need your help, but safeguarding is important!

### Biddenham:

If you need support, ring 01234 815393 (daytime only) or email [help@biddenham.org.uk](mailto:help@biddenham.org.uk) with your name/phone number/address.

If you can volunteer, please email [help@biddenham.org.uk](mailto:help@biddenham.org.uk)

### Kempston:

If you need support or can volunteer to help, contact:

Rev Eric Lomax: 328452 or 07805 879537

Alison/Brenda Walker: 851597

Alan/Anita Lowe: 857212 or 07751 659695