



St Aidan's Church

in the Parish of St Aidan Sudden Rochdale
and All Souls Heywood

www.staidan.org.uk

19th April 2020 Easter 2 Low Sunday

Readings: Acts 2.14a. 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1.3-9 John 20.19-31



Collect

Almighty Father

Who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins

and to rise again for our justification

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may

always serve thee in pureness of living and truth,

through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reflection on the Gospel Reading

There is so much that can be said about this passage – disciples being scared and locked away, Jesus appearing and greeting them: “Peace be with you!” His teaching about forgiveness, the meeting with Thomas, and so much more. But I want to share just one thing.

The gospel reading today shows us that Jesus invites Thomas to touch and feel, but we are not told whether Thomas actually did this. We know that he accepted Jesus for who he was in that moment as the Messiah.

In these days of Coronavirus and Covid-19 when touch and feel and embrace have all been removed from our lives, we are reminded how much Thomas accepted Jesus without touching – we are invited to see and touch and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour for ourselves.

We are reminded of this towards the end of our Gospel reading about faith and as John the author of this gospel says (John 20:30-31),
‘Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name’

So our challenge this Easter, is can we, without seeing and touching, believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ ?

Jesus said, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed.’ (John 20:29)

Your Vicar Revd Michael †

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of 23rd March, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written to clergy in support of the measures and again on 27 March, requiring that churches must now close both for private worship and public services to help halt the spread of Coronavirus. All church buildings are therefore now closed for public worship, private prayer and all other meetings and activities except for vital community services until further notice.

Manchester Diocese has a webpage containing the latest information, support, resources and guidance for churches concerning the Coronavirus at www.manchester.anglican.org/coronavirus
Keyholders are reminded that there is no access to church buildings for the time being.



Our clergy are saying prayers for the Parish and our Congregation at 9am daily and at 10am on Sundays and hope that you may be able to join them at this time in your own homes.

Live streamed church services can be found at

https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream

or on the St Martin's or St Luke's Facebook pages

Prayer resources can be found at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>

<https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/>



Easter Pilgrim: The Lord's Prayer

A 40-day journey through the prayer Jesus taught his followers - one which continues to shape the lives of Christians across the world. Receive by email or download the app at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/easterpilgrim-lords-prayer>

Each day provides a short Bible reflection, an invitation to pray and a suggestion for responding to the vision of the Lord's Prayer itself. The whole Church is invited to take 40 days this Easter season to explore this prayer in still deeper ways. Take time each day to be still, to offer to God the pain and suffering around us and within us, to reflect on each line of the prayer and to pray with others across the world the words our risen Lord has taught us.

This will be an Easter season like no other as the world endures the coronavirus pandemic. Each day we will pray the familiar words: Our Father, give us this day our daily bread, forgive us, deliver us from evil. We will pray them with a new and ever deeper understanding.

Archbishop Justin Welby Archbishop John Sentamu

All Age Worship

The free 'ROOTS at home' resources include materials to help adults and families to pray, reflect and remember the events of Easter. View them at www.rootsontheweb.com or follow Roots on the Web on Facebook.

© ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020.



A prayer of confession

Prince of peace, we are sorry that we choose not to forgive but to hold grudges; that we doubt you and do not trust; that we rely so often on our own resources and not on you; that we believe only when we have proof. Help us to forgive more readily, and to trust more willingly. Amen.

A prayer for others

Heavenly Father, we pray for all the places in the world that need your peace: places where the ongoing pandemic threatens the stability of nations; places where war and violence continues to cause so much pain and destruction; places where homes, livelihoods and families have been destroyed, and lives lost. Give wisdom to world leaders - to presidents and prime ministers, to politicians of all persuasions - that they may strive for lasting peace and true justice, not putting personal ambitions before the needs of their people, especially in this time of global crisis. We pray for those who need peace of mind: those weighed down by the stresses and strains of life, or who suffer with anxiety, or are oppressed by worry and fear in the difficult times; for those who find it hard to let go of things and simply trust in you. Amen.

A personal prayer

Let me feel the touch of peace and life, the touch of the risen Lord, beside me, behind me, and before me all the days of my life. Amen.

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving for children

*Jesus, our Lord and our God,
we sing and shout
because you rose from the dead.
We rejoice and dance
because you took away our sins.
We give you praise and thanks
because you invite us into your kingdom. Amen.*

Live your faith: Are there people you have 'lost touch' with - either in general, or due to the current restrictions? Seek to renew a connection with someone this week; call and say 'Peace be with you'.

© ROOTS for Churches Ltd 2020
www.rootsontheweb.com

**Manchester Diocesan Prayer
in a Time of Crisis**

O Living God, beloved Father of all, your love and faithfulness was shown when you led your pilgrim people through the waters of the Red Sea, and in your Son you brought us home as beloved children in your family.

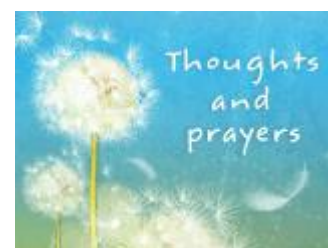
In this time of trial, crisis and fear, help us, your pilgrim people in the Diocese of Manchester, to trust in your abundant love and grace. Teach us to pray for and to serve our communities in this different world in which we are now set.

Through your Guiding Spirit, unite us in hope, faith and truth; equip us to serve and pray, to reach out to those in greatest need, and be assured that in all times - in times of little and of much, in times of fear and of hope - your Son always goes ahead, revealing to us the Way of Love.

Amen.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD



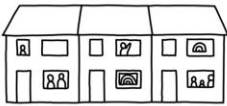
Do you have a special prayer
you would like to share?

Please send contributions for next week's newsletter to newsletter@staidan.org.uk

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE,



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED,



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com

With thanks to Dave Walker (cartoonist for the *Church Times*) for providing a reduced price subscription to allow the use of his cartoons in this newsletter. Cartoons and colouring pages can be browsed for free to make you smile at <http://cartoonchurch.com> There are also some free online jigsaws at <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/davewalker/cartoons>

Or you could try our own online puzzle at <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=12fdc59e846b>

Church Refurbishment: a message from the Churchwardens

Photographs of the work done so far are available on the church website. Work will commence as soon as the contractors are able to obtain materials and work again. **Malcolm & Alan**



Please contact us if you would like to mark an anniversary in this newsletter. newsletter@staidan.org.uk

Giving to St Aidan's Church

Your financial support is crucial to the upkeep of St Aidan's Church – now more than ever. Please carry on with your regular giving and contact the Vicar or any church officer if you would like to drop off your weekly envelopes or to set up a standing order.

*"all things come from you, O Lord,
... and of your own do
we give you"*



Rochdale Foodbank News <https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/>

The new food drop-off point for donations is Staff Entrance Number One Riverside which can be accessed by vehicles from Smith Street near to Mecca Bingo. There are also collection points at Tesco Sudden, Morrisons and Asda. Alternatively, please keep any donations at home as we will need to urgently restock when circumstances permit. You can also donate money via our website. *Sheila*

March Statistics supplied by Rochdale Foodbank

Number of vouchers fulfilled	426
Number of adults fed.	538
Number of Children fed	275
Total number fed	813

Christian Aid Week
10 – 16 May 2020



News from Christian Aid: House-to-house collections; delivery-only collections and shared events will not go ahead this year. Donations can be made online at any time at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Newsletter: please send items to newsletter@staidan.org.uk and contact us with any more email addresses to add to the mailing list.

Can we help?

We have tried to contact members of the congregation who may need a friendly telephone call. Please contact the Vicar, Churchwardens or a PCC Member if we can help. Please keep in touch with other church members, friends, family and neighbours in any way you can. Past newsletters and notices are available on the website and at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

<p>Contact Us</p>	<p>Vicar Revd Michael Read Tel: 01706 360693 vicar@staidan.org.uk</p>	<p>Churchwardens Malcolm Bywater Tel: 01706 623546 malcolm@staidan.org.uk Alan Clarke Tel: 01706 373809 alan@staidan.org.uk</p>	<p>Safeguarding Officer Joanne Colclough safeguarding@staidan.org.uk</p>
<p>PCC Secretary Christine Richardson Tel: 01706 416997 christine@staidan.org.uk</p>	<p>Curate Revd Ian Taylor Tel. 01706 355738 reviantaylor@gmail.com</p>	<p>ALM Sheila Tolley sheila@staidan.org.uk</p>	<p>Treasurer Debra Buckley Tel: 01706 647703 debra@staidan.org.uk</p>

Our Mission is to be a strong church family, promoting and maintaining the Good News about Jesus to the Parish and the wider community.





St Aidan's C of E Parish Church
Manchester Road, Rochdale, OL11 3EL
Vehicular Access OL11 3NH
www.staidan.org.uk

***You have received this email because you are on the St Aidan's Church mailing list.
If you would like to change your details or to be removed from this list, please let us know.***

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Supporting Good Mental Health

Written by Professor Chris Cook and accompanied by "have a go" habits developed by Ruth Rice

The effects of mental health problems are huge. Nearly nine out of ten people with mental health problems have been affected by stigma and discrimination. Given the challenging times we are living in with coronavirus, the reflections in this booklet were updated and new resources written in March 2020. They seek to provide hope, reassurance and comfort.

If you want to speak to someone, please visit the Mental Health Foundation website, which has lots of helpful resources and contacts. Visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk.

Click the image to download