Dear Church Family,

**The focus this week is on meeting and praying together when our church buildings are closed.**

**Prayer and Study Groups**

Each week we have been sharing the news that some groups have continued to meet 'remotely', or 'virtually', during isolation. John Owen has written a note of encouragement about his experience.

*Hi Everyone,*

*For six weeks or more now a group of us from St Mary’s and St Laurence's have been meeting on a Friday evening on this thing called Zoom! in fellowship, prayer, bible study, discussion and worship. For me it has been a wonderful lifeline to share with brothers and sisters in Christ during this difficult time we are going through, and I guess, it's not going away for a long period to come. So I would encourage you, perhaps to start a group up. Along with Father Keith’s services on line it’s a great way to keep refreshed in the Spirit until we can meet at church again.*

*Every blessing.*

*John Owen. <<*

If you have a group, which has space for more members, please let us know. **If you would like to start or join a new group please contact Fr. Keith to discuss.** Help is available with all technical aspects so please do not let this inhibit you. More details to follow, keep watching this space.

**No ‘phone or Internet needed**

It is our buildings that are closed, nothing else. Now that restrictions have eased remember (if you are not shielding) you can visit our grounds, particularly the St Mary’s Bible Garden for Prayer and Reflection. So those of you who are able and who can do so safely, consider spending a few moments of contemplation here. In England, people will be allowed to meet in public places and private gardens in groups of up to six starting on Monday, as long as you remain at the 2mt. distance.

*Here is a beautiful prayer written by Angela Roe and her daughter that you might want to take with you.*

*“Dear Lord we worship you and give you thanks for this wonderful world. During this pandemic we have seen your presence in all the amazing deeds done by extraordinary people.*

*The support for all the wonderful nurses and doctors, food for the hungry and the incredible feats of commitment, raising millions for the NHS.*

*Captain Thomas Moore walking over a 100 lengths of his garden, encouraging others to take on similar tasks.*

*Neighbours have shopped for each other and come together to clap for our brave carers.*

*Millions have watched, cheered along and felt your presence in their hearts.*

*We pray for all those selflessly helping others.*

*Loving Father open our eyes ears and hearts to those in need. Protect our brothers and sisters all over the world, especially those in countries without adequate healthcare.*

*Support those grieving for loved ones across all faiths, pour your loving spirit on them.*

*In 2020 technology has allowed us to reach out to the lonely and depressed, support those isolated or at risk.*

*Through streaming we can reach new worshippers from all over the world and allow new celebrants to be with us in prayer.*

*Dear Lord let us build on this huge outpouring of love and acknowledge the good in your people.*

*Help us to plan for the day we can open the doors once more to celebrate communion in our beautiful church together.*

*May the Holy Spirit dwell in us all and help us support those in need of love.*

*Our hope is in you dear God, show us the way so we can proclaim your gospel.*

*Amen.”*  

*By Angela and Jacqueline Roe*
Worship

Details of all services can be found on our Website and Facebook Page (see Events page)

Thursday Morning Prayer will be held every Thursday at 10.00am via Zoom.
https://www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 955 2642 8233
Password: 38601
You will be able to join from 9.45am
To join by telephone 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240 or 0203 051 2874
The order of service for the day (which is taken from Common Prayer) can be downloaded from the Church of England website.

If you would like some assistance with the use of Zoom particularly joining by telephone, or have any questions please contact: Lucinda Cox: 07905 161991 or Gill Keevill: 07715 120841

Evening Prayer on Tuesday 6.00 pm and Sunday Eucharist on Sunday 10.00 am are live streamed on our Facebook page.
https://www.facebook.com/StMaryAndStLaurenceGoringBySea/

NB. On Sunday the 7th June we will be streaming our Family Service at 10.00am followed by a live stream of the Eucharist at 11.00am.

The Family Service looks to be even more action packed than the last one, with families taking part including prayers, an amusing drama, a Lego animation of the gospel reading and with hymns to sing along to from our music group. Tell your friends, children and grandchildren this is one not to miss!!

Don’t forget to send in your news

Do you have something that you would like to share, especially to encourage us all? It could be a favourite or special prayer? Something you are reading or have seen that has interested you helped or made you think recently? Please share it with us. Send to Gill Keevill (gilliankeevill@me.com) or mobile number: 07715120841.

Pastoral visits

Please let Fr. Keith or the Wardens know if you have a personal pastoral concern or may know of somebody in need.

God Bless you all, Gill, Janice, Ruth and Geoff.