

# Welcome to St. Peter's Church, Edgmond



<b>Rector</b>	Revd. Preb. Helen Morby	Tel. 820217
	email <a href="mailto:helen.morby@btinternet.com">helen.morby@btinternet.com</a>	
<b>Lay Minister</b>	Libby Leech	07306 618031
	email <a href="mailto:libby.the6parishes@gmail.com">libby.the6parishes@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Anne Furniss	Tel. 550216
	Chris Taylor	Tel. 810880
<b>Churchwarden Emeritus</b>	John Ingram	Tel. 810337
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Pat Jones - email <a href="mailto:the6parishes18@gmail.com">the6parishes18@gmail.com</a>	
	07721 355172 - Tuesday and Thursday mornings	



**22nd March 2020  
Mothering Sunday**



## **A Prayer of Thanks**

Thank you Lord for all who care  
Bless them with your love.  
Thanks for mothers everywhere  
Bless them with your love.  
For those who brighten up our day  
Bless them with your love.  
Who always have the right words to say  
Bless them with your love.  
Thanks for hugs and love and smiles  
Bless them with your love.  
Thanks for all those extra miles  
Bless them with your love.  
And when they feel they're not enough  
Bless them with your love.

The Children's Society

Colossians 3: 12 - 17

As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 19: 25 - 27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

The Central Council of Church Bellringers has requested an end to all ringing, so we will go along with that. Paul Lewis

There will not be Choir Practice until further notice.

## Coronavirus and Community

*'Carry each others burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ'.*  
Galatians 6: 2.

Coronavirus has changed the world, and it will continue to change it. But love has not changed. Our God has not changed. The hope we have in him has not changed.

These are uncertain times, yet surely as Christians we ought to be a people of certainty? A people who know that we are held in the arms of God? A people who can shine brightly as the shadow of fear descends?

If our faith cannot be relevant in a time such as this, then it cannot be relevant.

The world needs the love of Christ right now. You are his hands and feet. You are the vessel through which divine compassion enters the world.

The idea of self-care has gained a lot of traction in recent years. On the one hand, this is a good thing. As someone who's suffered from mental illness, I know how important self-care is. As part of the recovery process, I had to make sure I looked after myself by praying, exercising plenty and eating well. As we enter into a period when many people will need to self-isolate, this need becomes even more pressing.

However, I wonder if the 'trendiness' of self-care is symptomatic of a deeper problem: the rise of individualism - the cult of 'do whatever is best for you'. It is interesting that, as these things have grown in our society, so too has loneliness.

We're built for relationship. We're made for community. We need each other. What that looks like in a world of self-isolation is something that we're going to have to figure out. But I do believe that it's possible. And I've already seen examples of it happening - people reaching out to neighbours who previously they'd never interacted with. Postcards popped through letter boxes offering help to people who are unable to go out.

When I was going through the most difficult periods of my life, there's no way I could have done it without the support of friends, family and church. If we truly want to care for ourselves, then the first thing we must do is reach out to others.

That's going to be even more of a challenge now, but it's a challenge that we can rise to. Once you've finished reading this, take a few moments to think about how you might be able to reach out in love in this new world we find ourselves in. The spirit of fear wants us to think that this virus will drive us apart. But there is a different spirit, the Holy Spirit, that even in the darkest times can bring us closer together.

Stay safe. Stay hopeful. Take care of each other. And remember that love always wins.

*Lord, Thank you for the gift of relationship and community. We pray that, despite the evidence to the contrary, this crisis will bring people together, not drive them apart. For those of us who are anxious, bring peace. For those of us who are sick, bring healing. For those of us who are caring for others, bring strength. For those of us who are lonely, bring comfort. For those of us who are not lonely, help us to see those who are, and help us to reach out to them in whatever ways we can. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

Gideon Heugh from Tearfund's Alive for Lent - Daily Devotions