From Simon:

A very Happy Easter to you all!

This has been a most extraordinary Holy Week where we have been following our Saviour by many different modes of communication. I do hope that you have found that you have been able to enter into this special season, even without the public services which we normally hold. We have made available quite a range of material on the website, but I am conscious that not everyone is able (or willing!) to use the internet for these purposes. We are attempting to make sure that if you do not use the internet, we can get printed material to you. Please let us know if you would like to be included in the printed circulation in the coming weeks.

During Holy Week I have been reflecting on the theme of journey, much inspired by what happened to Jesus in the last week of His life. He had to face being caught up in a journey which ultimately led to His death, but continued through Easter Day into a new way of sharing His presence with His friends. It feels to me as though we are caught up in a journey at the moment, one which we are not really able to control beyond following the advice given by our Government. We are unsure what may lay ahead, but are challenged by the example of Jesus who was prepared to lay down His life in service of humankind. This is a profound message of hope, even in dark days.

Every blessing for the Easter Season,

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We are going to provide the Sunday readings, Collect and hymns for you to reflect on at home, together with a reflection on the Sunday readings.

Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen to-day

1  Jesus Christ is risen to-day, Alleluia!  
   Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
   Who did once, upon the Cross, Alleluia!  
   Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2  Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
   Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!  
   Who endured the Cross and grave, Alleluia!  
   Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3  But the pains that he endured Alleluia!  
   Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
   Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
   Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Hymn: Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son

1  Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
   Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;  
   Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
   Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.  

   Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
   Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; 
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom; 
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, 
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting; 

_Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, 
   Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won._

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life; 
Life is nought without thee, aid us in our strife, 
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love; 
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above: 

_Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son, 
   Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won._

Collect: 
Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen

**First Reading: Acts 10. 34 - 43**

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

**Second Reading: Colossians 3. 1 - 4**

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**Gospel: John 20. 1 - 18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ’ Mary Magdalene went and
announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection on this Sunday’s readings:-

"Early on the first day of the week while it was still dark..." (John 20:1) - the Easter story begins in darkness, in a time of great fear, sorrow and despair.

The disciples were nowhere to be seen but were hidden away behind locked doors fearing for their lives. That description could very easily describe the world we have been living in for the last number of weeks as the Covid-19 pandemic has taken hold. What once was familiar has become unfamiliar and we are now in so many ways cut off from our normal routine and way of living. Family and friends are isolated and kept apart, with doors closed to keep out an unseen enemy. Every day we search for good news and some sort of light upon the horizon.

When he rose from the dead on that first Easter morning, the risen Christ brought the light of hope into the darkness of despair. The stone was rolled away from the entrance to the tomb and the risen Lord appeared to Mary. Through closed doors he entered the place where the disciples were and said to them "peace be with you". The Easter story may begin in the darkness, but it ends in the light.

From Good Friday to Easter Day - from the cross to the empty tomb, from death to life - these holy days invite us to journey inwards to seek the inner peace that only Christ can bring. That peace and confidence in Christ encourages us, like the first disciples, to announce and live out the Good News that Christ is alive.

In our present situation we have seen the light of the risen Christ shine out in the devotion and care shown by healthcare workers and others on the frontline reaching out to help the sick; in the kindness shown by neighbour to neighbour and in gentle and simple acts of compassion carried out by countless ‘Good Samaritans’. Despite the uncertainty, suffering and grief caused by the pandemic, the Lord is near. We must never give up hope. His spirit is with us as sons and daughters of the Resurrection.

"Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (John 20:20) - Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Hello Children  Mary Mouse has gone to ground until we can all meet together again, but she will be sending regular letters.

Sunday Club will not meet until further notice. We will be offering a regular Mary Mouse letter. For details contact Gillian, gillian.pett29@gmail.com

INTERCESSIONS
Please refer any pastoral concerns for members of the congregation or members of the local community to any member of the Ministry team including our Co-ordinator for Pastoral Services, Mrs Frances Simms. Please pray for the sick, frail, housebound and those in care. Please let the Vicar know about all cases of sickness and others for whom we should pray.

PLANNED GIVING: To join the planned giving scheme, please contact Mrs. Ann Seaman, mobile no. 07710 452647; email juliet.a.seaman@outlook.com

ST. MARY’S GREAT SHELFORD - WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Praying together as a community

At a time when we are all missing meeting to worship together perhaps there are things that we can do to help us feel that we are still a worshipping community, and that we are all thinking of one another. Here are three
simple things that we could all do to pray together for each other and our community.

1. At noon each day we could say the Lord’s Prayer. You might like to go to the front door and stand in the doorway because we are praying not just for ourselves but for the whole community.

2. If you have a candle, light it at 7pm on Sunday evenings and put it in your front window. Pray for all those who are ill, all those who are alone, and all those who are caring for others. This looks beautiful and is a sign to other people that we are keeping the light of hope for them.

3. In the evenings before bed we could pray for each other, perhaps by saying the wonderful collect for aid against all perils from the Book of Common Prayer.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Services on video:**

Simon and Nicola are continuing to celebrate Holy Communion and other services for the whole community. We hope to produce recordings or videos of the Parish Communion and Evensong each Sunday, and a midweek BCP Communion on Wednesdays. The videos and recordings will be on our web site. In addition you can see them on our Youtube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTXJ8yVmoDeV0r4KAYY5UYw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTXJ8yVmoDeV0r4KAYY5UYw)) or on our Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/Stmarysgreatshelford/](https://www.facebook.com/Stmarysgreatshelford/)) - you don’t need to use facebook to see our posts).

Direct access to our services for Holy Week & Easter on the website is here:

[https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/services/holy-week-and-easter-online/](https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/services/holy-week-and-easter-online/)

As you watch you can make a Spiritual Communion. The term ‘Spiritual Communion’ has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The form of prayer below offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with him, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly ‘eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ’, although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. Making a Spiritual Communion is particularly fitting for those who cannot receive the sacrament at the great feasts of the Church, and it fulfils the duty of receiving Holy Communion ‘regularly, and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun or Pentecost’ (Canon B 15).

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, ‘I am the Bread of Life’.

**Sincere thanks** to everyone who is involved in supporting our community at present. I am aware of so many small acts of kindness that are being given every day. All this is something that we should acknowledge and celebrate. Well done all!

**Congratulations to Nicola:** It has been announced publicly in recent days that Nicola has been appointed as Rector of Cottingham, in the Diocese of York (Cottingham is on the edge of Hull and is a single church Benefice).

This is great news for Nicola and the family, but because of the current 'lock-down' they may not be able to move for a number of weeks, which is frustrating to say the least. Nicola will continue to minister here at Gt Shelford until the end of June, when her licence expires. Thankfully the family are able to remain in the house at Linton until they can arrange to move.

Please keep Nicola in your prayers as she prepares for this new ministry.

Nicola writes: ....... I’m both very glad and very sad. I’m glad that I have a new post to go to and that a long period of uncertainty and waiting is over. But I’m sad at the prospect of saying goodbye to so much — especially to everyone at St Mary’s. But we won’t be moving quite yet, as we wait for the current situation with the coronavirus to ease, and I hope that we’ll have a chance to say goodbye properly. In the meantime, I’m very thankful for your prayers over the past months.
Cambridge City Foodbank: The Foodbank still very much needs our support at this difficult time. As St Mary's is closed until further notice, and Great Shelford Free Church are offering a collection point outside their front door, please can food donations be left there for the time being. You can also donate money directly to the Foodbank; the details of how to do so are on the Cambridge City Foodbank website. [https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/](https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/)

APCM: Under the current circumstances, the APCM has had to be postponed until further notice; in the meantime, the composition of the PCC remains as is.

Kneelers: A group of ladies, and at least one gentleman, have started work on some new kneelers for the church. The cost per kneeler is £54; if you would like to make a contribution, maybe with a dedication, please contact Mrs Margaret Stamper, 845134. Please also contact Margaret if you would like to sew a kneeler yourself; apparently it is very therapeutic!

Please note that the church is closed at present, so regretfully visits will not be possible.

Vicar: simon@thetalbotts.co.uk 01223 847068
The Rev’d Simon Talbott

Assistant curate: curate@stmarysgreatshelford.org 07414 595160
The Rev’d Dr Nicola Bown

Contact Churchwarden: stella.nettleton@btinternet.com 07763 887953
Mrs. Stella Nettleton

Reader/Licensed Lay Minister: d-mdobson@hotmail.co.uk 01223 840076
Mrs. Maureen Dobson

Parish Administrator: pagekatharin@gmail.com 07710 518220
Mrs. Katharin Page

Pastoral Services Co-ordinator: francesjsimms47@gmail.com 01223 845895
Mrs. Frances Simms

Children's work contact: gillian.pett29@gmail.com
Gillian Pett

Applications for baptisms, marriages and the calling of Banns of marriage should be made please to the Parish Administrator.

Please note that at the moment we are unable to hold public services in church, so weddings and Baptisms are not permitted (unless in very specific emergency situations and probably only in a hospital or hospice setting). It is unclear at present when we can open the church again, so any forward dates agreed may have to be changed. 12/04/20

Easter online worship resources:

You can find these on our website or the Facebook page......

Easter Day: Apr. 12:

Holy Communion (BCP)
Parish Communion (Common Worship)
Evensong (BCP)