

The Rambling Rector

Definition: *A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Script!*



Meeting Together As Church

Starting at 2.30pm on Good Friday we will be launching our on-line church using 'Zoom'. It's a free app/program that works on phone, tablets, laptops, and desktops with a camera. We can see each other, and talk to each other, so it's as close as being together as we can be right now. A little trial run was really encouraging and enjoyable.

Hannah is happy to help anyone set it up over the phone, it really is quite easy, and she will then email/message/WhatsApp a link to click on and instructions before each service. You can then join the gathering at the appropriate time. Details of services and times are in the boxes below, and a regular Sunday service will start after Easter Sunday

1

GOOD FRIDAY

2.30pm
Reflection with
readings and music

2

EASTER DAY

9.30am
Sunrise service with
music and readings and
a good sing!

3

SUNDAYS

10.00am
After Easter Sunday a
regular morning prayer
style service



Good News Stories

Virtual Dynamite!



Photos

Pictures sent in this week from around the parishes.



Rectory Revelation

Church wafers...the secret recipe revealed!

Bible Readings for Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:19-24

19

Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

20

This is the gate of the Lord
through which the righteous may enter.

21

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

22

The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

23

the Lord has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24

The Lord has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen



Matthew 21:1-11

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,
2 saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'

4 This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

5 'Say to Daughter Zion,
"See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" [a]

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!'

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?'

11 The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'

'Hosanna to the Son of David!'

SARAH & CHLOE WORKING FROM HOME



After working hard, out into the garden.



But vital greenhouse parts were missing, so let's improvise!



Reflection

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

There are three VERY different takes on what was going on in Jerusalem:

First take: The political leaders of the country.

The Romans had invaded Israel and were in control. They were the occupying force and demanded there be absolutely no opposition to Caesar, and any opposition would be crushed at all costs. One of the best and most cruel ways was by crucifixion so that the Jews could see their “prophets”, these troublemakers, killed in a very public manner. To the Romans, Jesus was simply one of the many self-styled leaders who needed to be done away with. His trial and death just got rid of another disturbing anti-Caesar revolutionary.

Second take: The religious leaders of the Jews

The religious leaders were just about the only ones who have any power to speak for the Jewish people. Now this Jesus chap comes along who challenges their wisdom, calls them hypocrites and accuses them of being blind fools and white washed tombs. His words were rousing the people against their leadership. He must be stopped. He must be done away with.

Third Take: Jesus

However, Jesus frames his own death and resurrection in a very different way. And he uses two actions of Palm Sunday to give us his take on what was to unfold.

First, he tells his disciples exactly what to do. He is in total control of his destiny. They’re to go into the city and get a donkey and prepare for the Passover meal. When they follow his instructions, things work out exactly as he says. It's not the Roman civil authorities who are controlling what is happening; it is not the Jewish religious leaders who are framing his destiny. It is Jesus, fully aware that he has come from the Father and that he is going to the Father, and that the Father has placed all things in his hands, who enters into the events of his last days on earth.

Second, Jesus enters the City of Jerusalem, the political and religious centre of the Israel, not with regal authority and power, but on the humble back of a donkey, yet still with the praise of the people. Have you ever seen the film, Ben Hur? Royal officials would enter the city on gilded chariots powered by Arabian horses. But not Jesus. He is a humble leader come to serve his disciples by washing their feet. He does not wear the robes of the priesthood, but the simple robe woven by a woman of humble means. His kingdom, his priesthood, his way of living overwhelms us, not with a show of power but with the embrace of attentive love.

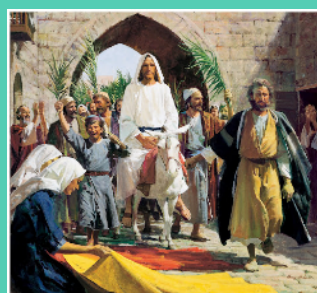
ROME



ISRAEL



JESUS



WORLD



Holy Week

So, here we are at the start of Holy Week. The world we live in won't react with the concern of the Roman authorities of Jesus' day or the fear of the Jewish religious leaders then either. This year our world has its eyes on another type of threat - that to its health.

Our world will have a different take on Holy Week especially given the current situation with COVID-19. Most in our secular society will treat the events of this Holy Week with benign neglect, it won't even appear on their radar.

- There may be some who have Easter Eggs, but there won't be any Easter egg hunts.
- There may be some Easter sales, but only online.
- There may be some Easter services, but only in our own homes or on the tv or compute screen.

So for most people around us, this week will pass uneventfully.

What about us, the Church family? How will we spend this Holy Week, in these exceptional circumstances?

We could just let it slip away like sand through our fingers? Or we could let Jesus use this week and once again reveal to us:

- His profound love for each of us;
- His total faithfulness to the Father,
- That even in the midst of our suffering and pain and the surety of death, the way to eternal life?

Jesus began this week by humbly entering into the City of Jerusalem to suffer die and rise. Jesus leads us into deep prayer and reflection this week; let us follow.

Sybil Jones sent the following in this week, which seems to also echo the words above.

We have all stepped off the treadmill of life and been put into the wilderness so to speak.

Can we encourage one another in love to use this time to find that space which we have longed for so many times. To be still, really still. Seek God with all our hearts then we can truly say as a Church, the body of Christ, "We are opening our hearts to receive Him and His loving presence"

God bless,

Sybil

EASTER RAFFLE POSTPONED

Just to confirm that we have had to postpone drawing the Easter Raffle as it is currently impossible to gather all the ticket stubs. There's a good date on all the produce, and chocolate is good at any time of year! But we will of course make the draw as soon as we are able.



Cookbook

A cookbook is being compiled by the bakers of the church. Please submit your favourite recipe, also a short antidote for it.

Church Meal

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

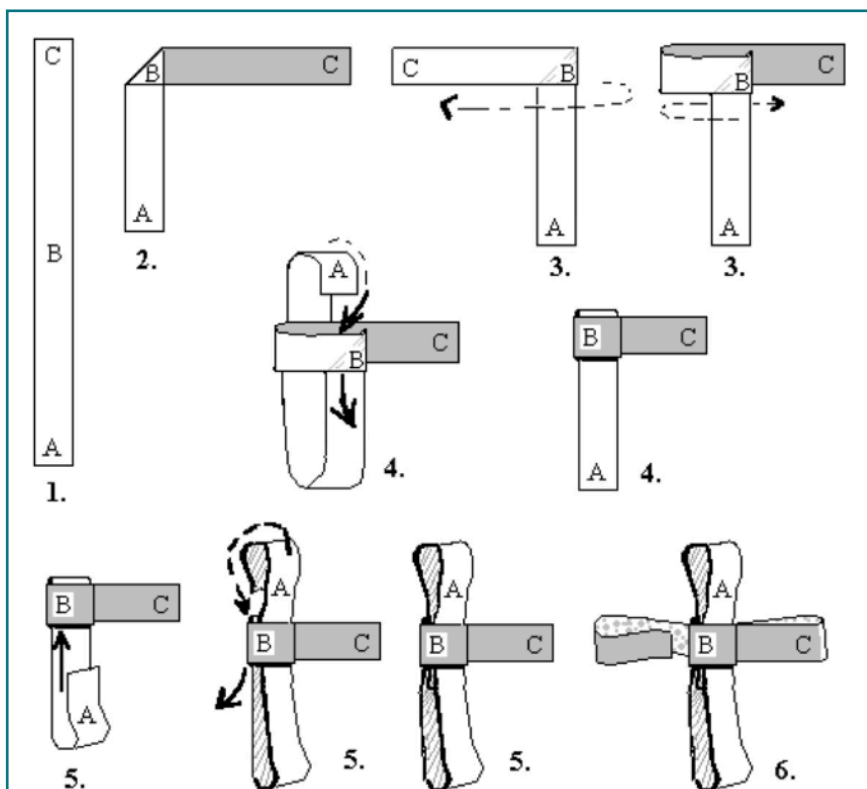
Just to clarify, the above are jokes, not typos! Ed.

Rectory Revelation

Uncovering the Secrets of the Rectory

Secretly most people believe the wafers we use in church are made of cardboard...well, now the truth is out!

Wafer production at the Rectory, only another 923 to go!



DIY PALM CROSSES

Why not have a go at making your own palm cross? It looks more complicated than it actually is, you'll soon get the hang of it.

I've used suitable palm like leaves in the garden in the past, or paper/ cardboard is just as good.

Send us your pictures - how small or large can you make one?

Good News & Pictures

From around the parishes

Wendy Groves

"Yesterday (Sunday) morning, early, a shaft of sun caught this shrub, Keria I think Tricia said it was, lit up this dark far corner of my garden. It felt like a hug from my church family. Put a smile on my face all day."

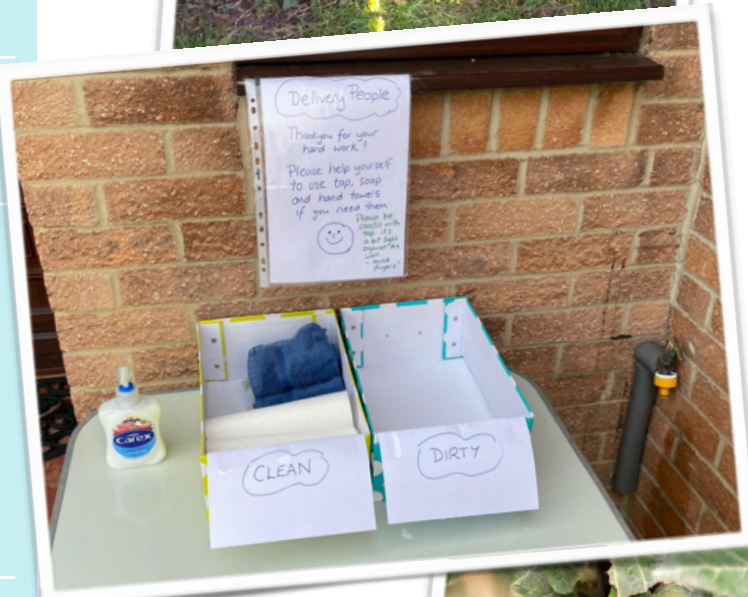


Jenny Webb

Just sharing the hand wash station that [neighbours] Chris and Hazel have put by their front door.

I think it is a brilliant idea.

Several people, including the post lady have been appreciative.



Karen Robinson

I am so so so happy as have just found what I hope is a Robin's nest - for the first time - in a teapot nesting box that Luke bought me a few years back. Thought it good news to share

Hope you'd not brewed Rooibis tea in it first, that'll scare anything off!
Ed.

Barbara Heaton

My daughter Andrea has a cat called Honey. She prefers her milk straight from the glass - via her paw.

So, this is a picture of a land with milk and honey then? Ed.



ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delalah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broll. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison. DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

GENERAL PRAYER FOR HEALTH

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort me and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in the quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS

Wondrous God, author of life, you fashioned us in your likeness and breathed into us the life which is your own. Be with those who's special care is health of body and mind. Fill their hearts with awe for the life that is your gift and sustain them daily in your service, that their hands may bring to others the comfort of your healing touch

FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY

Loving God, in Christ Jesus, the servant of all, you call us to the service of others. Grant to those who govern the community the skill to recognise its urgent needs and the strength to pursue the common good. Endow us with patience and courage, that we may care for the sugaring, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and sustain the needs.

FOR THOSE AFFECTED

Merciful God, come to the help of your people. Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of our community. Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of disease and assist those whose skill and art can put an end to this affliction.

What we should do in this crisis?

Crises bring out the best in people. What has become immediately apparent over the last few weeks is that the reserves of kindness, generosity and love for each other are often far deeper than we could have imagined.

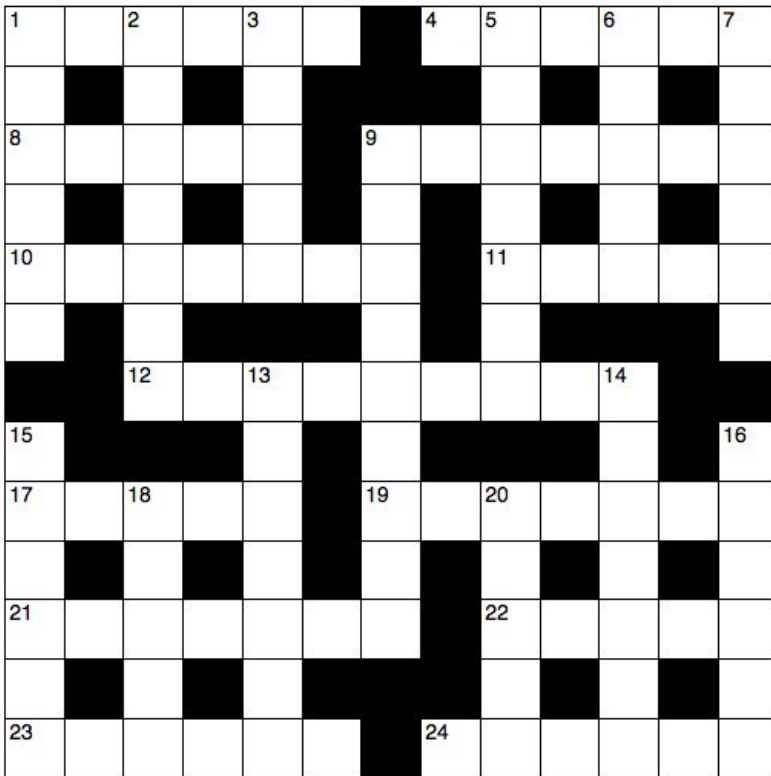
One of the challenges of this specific crisis is how inactive and intangible our help and selflessness must be. We can't lean in, lend a hand and be present in the ways we would normally try to. Distance is a form of kindness and yet feels very unnatural. We have huge admiration for those in the NHS or other critical services who are on the physical frontline treating patients and at greater risk of exposure to the virus, but for most of us there is a sense of helplessness as the most beneficial thing we can do is wash our hands and sit on the sofa.

And we must pray. Pray for medical professionals, and government decision makers. Pray for those who are already isolated and concerned about cutting off vital connections. Pray for people who are at greater risk of more significant consequences of becoming infected. Pray for miracles. And pray for the witness of the church of Jesus Christ.

Mike Pawley waited patiently with his camera this week.

Matt 6:26 'Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?'

Crossword Challenge



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks – – hands, I will not believe – – it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry – (7)
 11 'Look, here is – . Why shouldn't I be baptised?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was – because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)

- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the – apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in – and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
 15 The human mind or soul (6)
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is – ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not – ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

STAYING AT HOME

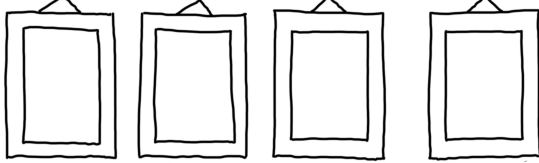
NAME: _____ DRAW / COLOUR / FILL IN THE GAPS SHOE SIZE:



THE PEOPLE IN MY HOUSE

PETS

COLOURING



(THEY MIGHT HAVE TO SHARE A FRAME...)

PEOPLE I'M MISSING SLIGHTLY

.....

.....

.....

IDEAS FOR FUN ACTIVITIES WE COULD DO THIS WEEK



THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR:

- ① _____
- ② _____
- ③ _____

NOTES :

CartoonChurch.com

St James the Least of All

On how to run your notice board

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to place a notice board outside your church seems a good one – and its design in blue plastic with luminous red detachable letters seems entirely in keeping with the aesthetics of your building. Make sure that it is lockable, however, as an innocent notice saying ‘all are welcome’ may be modified by a devotee of anagrams to say something far less polite by the following day.

We recently replaced ours, which had disappeared shortly before last bonfire night. That the Scouts’ bonfire had a board which closely resembled our old one in its centre was, I am sure, a complete coincidence. The Venture Scouts’ collective smirk during the following week’s Parade Service did give one pause for thought, and the Cubs’ collapse into helpless laughter at the chorus ‘So light up the fire and let the flames burn’ only increased suspicion.

On reflection, you may not have been wise to use your notice board to tell everyone your holiday dates. Certainly, various local burglars were tripping over each other inside the vicarage while you were away. However, the

note the last one left you, saying that next time he broke in, he would bring *you* something, since you had so little left, was quite touching.

Inevitably, now that your church has a notice board, there will be open warfare over who is allowed to display notices on it. Will the Slimmers Club be seen as biblical? Why is the Ladies Guild notice twice as large as all the others? And do remember that while everyone will want space to display their notices, no one will ever remove them once the event is over. Plaintive announcements of Christmas parties in April or of Summer Fetes in November only serve to take people down memory lane.

Here’s the best way to manage a notice board: create that panacea for all problems: a sub-committee. These poor people only ever exist in order to get the clergy out of tight corners and to make sure that matters are discussed at such inordinate length that every issue eventually dies a natural death. And if even that fails, you could have a quiet word with our Scouts before next year’s bonfire night.

Eustace

Prayers at 7.00pm

A number of people continued to pray at 7.00pm on Sunday evening and placed a candle in their window. Churches Together in England is encouraging us to continue to do so and have produced a poster we can put in our windows. It is free to download it here:

<https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=571088>

For Our Younger Readers

And Those Young At Heart

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

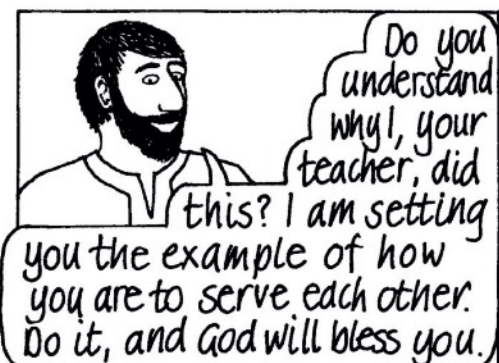
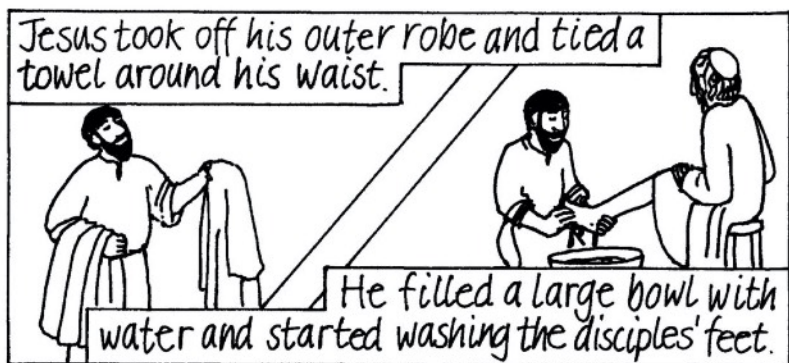
It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

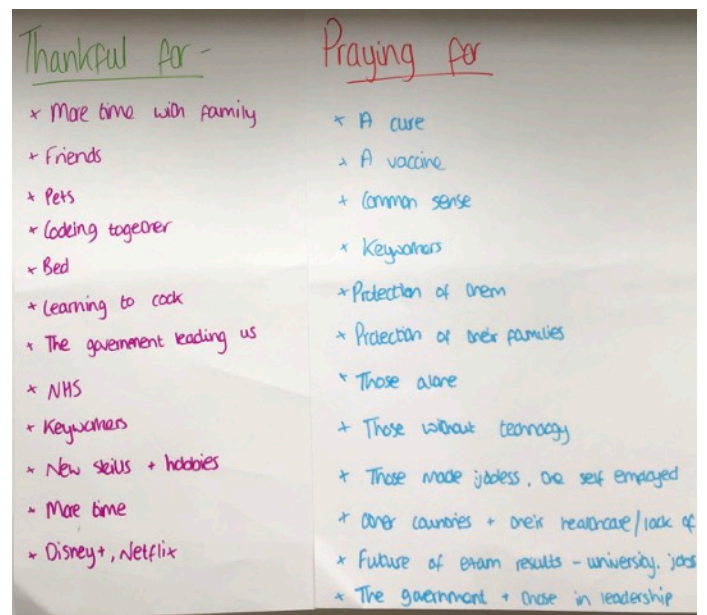
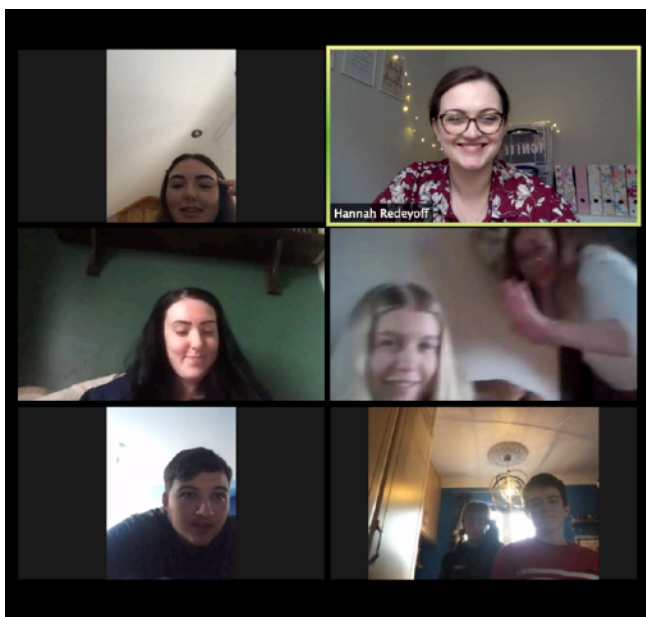
It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...



News From Hannah

Virtual Dynamite!

On Monday evening it would have usually been DYNAMITE, so whilst we cannot meet physically, but we can, and did, meet virtually. Myself, Kaylee, Justine, Betsie, Hannah, Thomas, Grace and Joe met. We had a general catch up and spoke about the impact that the current situation will have on their 2nd year of uni exams (Kaylee) and A Levels (Betsie, Hannah, Thomas and Joe). There was a mixture of feelings, from being really happy that they didn't have to sit the exams, and that based on mock exams and achieved grades, that their future plans would be secure. Frustration that they had put a lot of hard work in and a desperate need for clarity, which we hope to hear from the government this week. We then did a short quiz, where ether had to guess the animal for their collective group name such as pride = lions, army = frogs and tower = giraffes - who knew?! I shared psalm 23 with them, and we spoke about what we are thankful for, why it is so hard to trust God right now and who we are praying for, before ending with the Lord's Prayer.



Get In Touch

Don't forget, if you have any good news stories, helpful information, prayers, photos, funny stories about church life, poems, or Christian cartoons, then please do send them in and we will try and include them.

Parish Office

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Twitter: [@finningleycofe](https://twitter.com/finningleycofe) [@auckleychurch](https://twitter.com/auckleychurch)

We also have a parish WhatsApp group. If you would like to join please text Hannah Redeyoff on 07875 500555