

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those who are unwell:

Ken Harvey (Wendens Ambo)
Michelle Thomson (Littlebury Green)
Margaret Reed, David Cook and Valerie Clift
(Gt Chesterford)

Those who need our support:

Betty Dowsett (Littlebury Green)
Lucy Maskell (Great Chesterford)
Kylie Moore-Gilbert (in prison in Iran)

Friends and families of those who have died:

Those whose anniversaries are this week

Other topics for your prayers:

- Bishop Stephen as he prepares to become Archbishop of York on Thursday
- For young people awaiting assessment results in place of GCSE and A level examinations
- That reaction to racial (or any other form of discrimination) may be thoughtful and without violence
- For ongoing efforts to contain Covid-19, especially in developing countries
- The process of appointing a new Team Rector
- Our churches as we maintain worship in new ways, and look to future patterns of worship when back in church
- Those missing loved ones who have died

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

This week we have been thinking carefully this week about how our churches can re-open safely for public worship next week. I am pleased to say most of our churches can re-open in the coming weeks but things may look rather different. We will have to adhere to the 2m social distance rule and this means we may have a reduced capacity in our church buildings. An example of this is that St Mary's in Saffron Walden may only accommodate 50 people with strict adherence to social distancing! If you think about the size of that church, you can see why that numbers seems outstandingly small! There will also be no singing, no tea or coffee afterwards and no shared cup for Holy Communion for a while. Services may look rather different but we will be together at last! However, we also hope to be able to offer a live-streamed service from All Saints in Great Chesterford for anyone to join from home if they'd like to do so.

It is strange to think that I often pray for more people to come to church but those who are vulnerable may still feel that they should still stay at home and this should be encouraged. I hope we have learnt that the church isn't about a building. It is about the people of God meeting together, praying together and worshipping God together. We will always look to welcome all those who come, virtually or physically so we can share God's love with them.

As God's Church we have been adapting and changing over the last few months. The Church is often seen as old, fusty and not changing with the times but I don't think this could ever be said again. We have truly learnt that nothing is impossible for God and how flexible His people can be.

So I look forward to seeing you soon but please don't feel pressured to rush to church because we are still the body of Christ, united in purpose even when separate in place. We are united by the precious blood of Christ and therefore nothing can separate us from the love of God or each other.

With love,

Alex

PS. If you want join our livestream when it begins, a good place to starting is to join Facebook and then searching it for 'Cam Villages Churches'. If you like us, you will get a reminder of when we 'go live' and then you'll be able to join us wherever you are! If you need any help with this just contact me or Gillian (website.camvillages@gmail.com).

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see,
And what I do in anything
To do it as for Thee.

George Herbert

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

THANK YOU . . . to those of you who have responded to Alex's reminder not to forget your church in this time when there are no services in church and therefore no collections. You can now give online too. Just visit the 'giving' section of our website. Thanks, too, to those who have chosen to commit to regular planned giving.

AT LAST . . .

Our churches are now open for private prayer. All Saints, Great Chesterford, is open each day 10 am - 3 pm;
Holy Trinity, Littlebury is open on Wednesdays and Sundays 10 am - 4 pm;
St Mary, Wendens Ambo, please ring 01799 218309 for opening details.
St Peter's, Littlebury Green will be open on Wednesdays and Sundays

WEDNESDAY 9.30 am ZOOM HOLY COMMUNION
with Alex Jeewan and Caroline Curren
For an invitation to Zoom services please contact Alex or Gillian (website.camvillages@gmail.com)

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

There is support available in all our 5 communities during the lockdown. Contact details have been circulated. Don't hesitate to get in touch with them or to encourage your neighbours to - whatever the need.

KEEP IN TOUCH

With all that's going on via our churches' website www.camvillages.org.uk especially the variety of services available for us on Sundays; don't forget at 11.30 am on Sundays there's

Holy Grounds

the Cam Villages Churches virtual after service coffee and chat. on Zoom at 11.30 am. For an invite or if you need help get onto Zoom please email Gillian on Website.camvillages@gmail.com and she will get back to you and talk you through.

Opening our churches for public worship

There will be no services in the churches of the Team this week, but work is going on to assess the steps we need to take to gradually resume public worship in our buildings over the next few weeks. we are planning to continue with Zoom and YouTube services for the time being and very much hope that everyone will be able to find a way of joining in worship in a way which suits their individual needs. Keep an eye on the websites for the latest news.

NEWS

PARISH OFFICE The Parish Office is still closed but is contactable by telephone and email as usual.

BISHOP STEPHEN COTTRELL will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York at 11am on Thursday 9 July 2020, in a service broadcast entirely via video conference on the Church of England website due to the Coronavirus restrictions. To view the service, you will need to click on the following link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/aby98> which will be live just before 11am.