

To all Friends and Members of Christ Church, Little Drayton:

Greetings! Grace and mercy be with you, in the name of the Lord.

I hope this finds you well, and coping with the restraints of the current government and Church of England necessary restrictions on us all.

What strange days we are experiencing! Yet, in the unfamiliar, there are rhythms and constancies that can help us. 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and for ever.' (Hebrews 13 v. 8). Please take advantage of having more time to pray, to read, to be quiet before the Lord, to pray for others, to support our neighbours practically where possible, and to worship Him, even if it's not ideally how we would like to. Maybe you could think about how to continue and even deepen your spiritual journey.

And Easter will be different! I was asked recently about Easter flowers, and I'm suggesting that we postpone adorning our church until we can be open again, when we can reassemble as a church family with much thanksgiving and celebration! We look forward to that day. In the meantime, we look with wonder and sorrow at Christ's journey to the Cross during Holy Week and Good Friday. We give thanks for him overcoming death, for us all, and our hearts sing with adoration and praise to our King!

Rev. Lucinda and myself are trying to phone round as many of you as we have phone numbers for, and are glad to hear of many of you touching base with each other too. Hazel is kindly co-ordinating those offering help with those requesting help- please contact her or myself or Lucinda if we can be of help. Know that you are always in our prayers.

That first Easter Day was shocking and scary, too, for the disciples, until Jesus appeared to them, and gave them his peace.

'The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked.' (John 20:19)

A Prayer for Lock-Down (from the Lichfield Cathedral resources):

Ever present God,
Be with us in our isolation,
Be close to us in our distancing,
Be healing in our sickness,
Be joy in our sadness,
Be light in our darkness,
Be wisdom in our confusion,
Be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
That when the doors reopen,
We may, with the zeal of Pentecost,
Inhabit our communities,
And speak of Your goodness to an emerging world.
Amen!

With every blessing,

Rev. Jane (01630 801207) and Rev. Lucinda (01952 840518)