



Friday Round Up

This email has been sent to all Clergy, PTOs, Churchwardens, Secretaries, and all those on our Friday email list.

From Bishop Cherry

Updated guidance from the Bench of Bishops

For latest guidance from **Church in Wales** please click [here](#).

Live-streamed Eucharists

I am immensely heartened by the resilience and creativity of our clergy who are using all means possible to support people in their prayer and worship. Many, I know, have been live-streaming acts of worship, including the Eucharist. Following the latest guidance, most, if not all, will now be doing that alone from within their own homes.

For last week's service please click [here](#).

Holy Week and Easter

One of the extraordinary outcomes of our present lockdown is the number of people who are engaging with us on social media platforms. Although we must not forget those who don't have this kind of access to the plethora of prayer and worship activity online, the fact that we are attracting new people is a cause for great rejoicing. This, especially so as we approach the most important week in the church's calendar. As a parish priest I bemoaned each year the relatively few numbers of people who would come to the midweek services of Holy Week. Even on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, it was a minority who attended. This year, although many of the faithful may be missing out due to having no internet provision, it seems that we could be meeting with countless 'new' people tuning in to our worship either 'live' or at other times. For this, we give thanks.

I will be joining with the Cathedral team this year (as was originally planned) to provide the following:

11am Palm Sunday Eucharist from Bishopstow

5pm Monday – Holy Week reflection given by the Dean

5pm Tuesday – Holy Week reflection given by the Bishop

5pm Wednesday – Holy Week reflection given by the Precentor

5pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist from Bishopstow

12 noon Good Friday – Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday – no broadcast, but a suggestion of renewing baptismal vows, lighting the Paschal Candle and at 9pm all who can, singing (loudly) the Exultet!

11am Easter Day Eucharist from Bishopstow

All will be available on [Facebook](#) and our [website](#).

Christians Together

Online, there are no denominational barriers. You may be interested in joining Cytun (Churches Together in Wales) which has issued a call to all Christians, of whatever denomination, to come together at 7pm on Sundays. More information is available on their website www.cytun.co.uk

Those without internet access

In all the flurry of digital activity that is taking place (and which is wonderful to see), we must not forget those who are not connected to the internet. This will be the majority of the congregation in some of our churches. I hope that we can take as much time and effort in keeping people connected with a regular supply of hard copy resources as we are doing digitally.

Hospital Chaplains

Our Hospital Chaplaincy manager, Revd. Alan Tyler, asks that clergy let the team know if one of your parishioners is taken into hospital. They are mindful that clergy from the Diocese have been very good at pastoral visiting and they want to assure clergy and pastoral visitors that the chaplains are there to support and help in any way they can. Please would you ring the team on 01633 234263 giving:

Name of the patient

Address if known

The parish referring

In an emergency, please call 01633 234234 and ask them to page the duty chaplain.

Please don't forget to pray for our chaplains in hospitals and hospices who are also on the frontline of care and support to those ill and dying from coronavirus and are risking their lives

doing so.

Foodbanks

Many foodbanks are running short of essential supplies. Caldicot Foodbank is particularly badly hit. If you can help in any way, especially with breakfast foods, porridge, cereal bars, they would be very grateful. Their mobile number is 07925 285994

It is important to remember that foodbanks are the only access that many people have to basic food stuffs that most of us take for granted.

Lay Eucharistic Assistants (LEA) and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM)

I intend to issue new permissions to all LEAs and LEMs starting from May 1st. These will last for one year. Please would Ministry Area Leaders let my PA, Vicki, know the names of those serving in these ministries by Thursday 9th April, giving a clear indication of the churches in which each are ministering. Vicki's e mail address is monbishpa@churchinwales.org.uk

Retired Clergy

I am well aware that we are hugely indebted to our retired clergy for exercising a valued ministry across our diocese. Without them, parishes would be the poorer and many would not be able to enjoy the regular Eucharists that are available. In order to be able to keep better in touch with those who have retired, I have invited the Revd Canon Dr Stephen James to become Retired Clergy Officer for the diocese. Stephen will help me to keep in touch with retired clergy and keep me informed of issues that may arise, including ill-health. As soon, we are able to meet together, I intend to hold a service of thanksgiving in the Cathedral, followed by lunch or tea, to which all retired clergy will be invited. Stephen will help organise this and other events in the future. Please do contact him as and when you wish to pass on information. His contact details are sueandstephen1973@gmail.com and 01873 840229

I would also like to put on record my thanks to the Ven Glyndwr Hackett who has exercised a similar ministry in the past.

Easter Vestries

Easter Vestries are to be suspended until they can take place safely. Those currently in post as churchwardens, PCC members and parish representatives will continue in post until that time. If, for any reason, someone is unable or unwilling to continue in post, then it will fall to each Bishop to appoint to the vacant post.

Easter Offerings and regular giving

This is not an easy time to talk about money, and some may think it inappropriate to do so, but I would be failing in my duty as your bishop if I didn't make you aware of the significant drop in income our churches are likely to get over the coming weeks and months. Without the regular giving that comes through Sunday collections, many are worried about their churches going bankrupt. If you are able to maintain your regular giving, and give by direct debit if you

don't already do so, that will help enormously and ensure that when this crisis is over our churches will be well placed to continue with their vital work in all the communities of our diocese.

Please also consider making a special offering at Easter in thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in raising Christ from the dead and raising us to new life in him.

Gift Direct Goes Online



Gift Direct is the way that the Church in Wales manages Gift Aid donations. Setting up a Gift Direct payment is a way that you can directly help the work of the Church at a local or national level.

As part of our response to the Covid-19 situation, we have now developed online tools to help you create a new Gift Direct donation or manage your existing one. Please see the links in this section to find out more.

For more details on how the Gift Direct system operates, please download the [Gift Direct Leaflet](#) (PDF), see our [FAQs](#) or contact giftdirect@churchinwales.org.uk

[To start giving to your Parish](#)

[To amend an existing commitment](#)

[To add a new commitment for an existing \(and active\) donor](#)

[To cease an existing commitment](#)

Guidance Update: Care of Churches

The Property Department of the Representative Body has prepared and posted some guidance for local churches on caring for church buildings following the Bench of Bishop's latest pastoral guidance. It can be found at:

<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/church-property/>

And guidance on this page:

<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>

URL to download directly:

https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/documents/792/Covid_19_Guidance_for_the_care_and_use_of_church_buildings.pdf

EIG have also produced guidance which you can find [here](#).

If you'd like an example of a notice for your church door click [here](#) for a template from the Church of England or [here](#) for another example. Both can be customised for your church.

A Goodbye Message from Vicki Brackpool

During this interesting time we find ourselves in, I'm writing to let you know I was offered a new position at a Christian events company in Chepstow, last month. The new role enables me to be more available to the family which is important to us in our next season of adventures! God has shown me that this is the right step for us as a family. My last day working will be April 8th.



I have enjoyed my time here, particularly our connections through Inspire groups and the like. There is so much potential for mission across the diocese. My prayer is that your mission and ministry to **all** ages, would go from strength to strength to build the kingdom of God here on earth. Even in these tough times, we know God can do great things. Be encouraged by these words, '*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*' Romans 8:28. I wish you all His very

best. Who knows, our paths may cross again sometime!

Vicki

Ministry

Daily Links

Our clergy continue to innovate and create new ways of connecting with their congregations. Many have taken the opportunity to revitalise the daily offices. Morning and evening prayer offer a welcome structure to our days in these uncertain times. While these services are certainly not new, and parishioners may have practiced these prayers privately in their homes prior to present circumstances; they are now a key community event for many. Through the wonders of technology, our congregations are able to gather together daily to pray. During this period of isolation, connection is more crucial than ever. If you are hosting services by Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, or any other means, please let us know. We would like to list these services on our website: <https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus/digital-ministry/>

Please contact our Communication Officer, Debra Goddard at debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk

Hymn Flash Mob – Palm Sunday

St Paul's Cathedral has invited the nation to join in a virtual flash mob this Sunday to celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The chosen hymns are:

- Ride on, ride on in majesty (Winchester New): [Score](#) | [Backing track](#)
- Glory be to Jesus (Caswall): [Score](#) | [Backing Track](#)
- Jesu, lover of my soul (Aberystwyth) : [Score](#) | [Backing Track](#)

Follow this link for further details: <https://stpauls.co.uk/worship-music/worship/choir-of-the-nation-join-our-hymn-flash-mob>

Let's show them why Wales is the 'Land of Song'!

#goodnewsworthsharing

Please send anything you've been doing to debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk or share on social media with #goodnewsworthsharing

Schools

We'd like to take a moment to thank all the headteachers, teachers, and staff who are taking care of key workers' children while also supporting pupils and parents who are home-schooling. Dr Annette Daly, Director of Education rightly calls you the 'heroes behind the scenes'.

We've listed just a few of the wonderful resources and support they have provided this week:

Ponthir Church in Wales Primary School

Ponthir CiW Primary is maintaining links with their local priests through the Caerleon Ministry Area Facebook page.

Check out this wonderful story about conquering your worries; read by Revd Sue Pratten

<https://www.facebook.com/CaerleonMinistryArea/videos/211848433436733/>



Malpas Church in Wales Primary School

Malpas CiW Primary is encouraging us all to stay positive with daily actions to take care of ourselves and others.



ACTIVE COPING CALENDAR: APRIL 2020



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

"Everything can be taken from us but one thing: the freedom to choose our attitude in any given set of circumstances" ~ Viktor Frankl

- 1 Make a plan to help you keep calm and stay in contact
- 2 Enjoy washing your hands. Remember all they do for you!
- 3 Write down ten things you feel grateful for in life and why
- 4 Stay hydrated, eat healthy food and boost your immune system
- 5 Get active. Even if you're stuck indoors, move & stretch
- 6 Contact a neighbour or friend and offer to help them
- 7 Share what you are feeling and be willing to ask for help
- 8 Take five minutes to sit still and breathe. Repeat regularly
- 9 Call a loved one to catch up and really listen to them
- 10 Get good sleep. No screens before bed or when waking up
- 11 Notice five things that are beautiful in the world around you
- 12 Immerse yourself in a new book, TV show or podcast
- 13 Respond positively to everyone you interact with
- 14 Play a game that you enjoyed when you were younger
- 15 Make some progress on a project that matters to you
- 16 Rediscover your favourite music that really lifts your spirits
- 17 Learn something new or do something creative
- 18 Find a fun way to do an extra 15 minutes of physical activity
- 19 Do three acts of kindness to help others, however small
- 20 Make time for self-care. Do something kind for yourself
- 21 Send a letter or message to someone you can't be with
- 22 Find positive stories in the news and share these with others
- 23 Have a tech-free day. Stop scrolling and turn off the news
- 24 Put your worries into perspective and try to let them go
- 25 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths
- 26 Take a small step towards an important goal
- 27 Thank three people you're grateful to and tell them why
- 28 Make a plan to meet up with others again later in the year
- 29 Connect with nature. Breathe and notice life continuing
- 30 Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind



St Teilo's Church in Wales High School

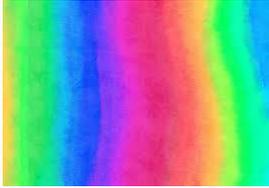
St Teilo's Church in Wales High School is providing a food bank to help struggling families.

Fr Gareth Rayner-Williams, School Priest at St Teilo's Church in Wales High School writes: 'Our Foodbank is open Wednesdays at St Teilo's High School. Thank you to all those who have so far donated. The foodbank helped 60 people last week. God bless your kindness and generosity.'



In the weeks running up to Easter Magor Ministry Area have asked people to share their favourite hymns and why, they were inundated with replies and over the next few weeks will be posting the hymns people have shared with them.

Check it out [here](#).



You've probably seen windows full of Rainbows recently, the Diocese of Blackburn are encouraging that over Holy Week people put a Rainbow cross up, watch their video [here.](#)

First 'virtual' licensing in the diocese

The first 'virtual' licensing of two new priests has taken place in the Diocese of Monmouth today (Thursday).

Married couple Tim and Karen Dack recently arrived in Wales on one of the last flights from New Zealand. Karen will take-up up the role of Ministry Area Leader for the Monmouth Rural Group and Tim, the Ministry Area Leader role in the Monmouth Town Group. Both will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge initially as they cannot be inducted until church buildings reopen.

Joining in the virtual licensing service on Zoom with Bishop Cherry and Tim and Karen was the Archdeacon of Monmouth and the Revd Catherine Haynes, associate priest of Monmouth.

Bishop Cherry said: "Once we are allowed to gather in our church buildings again, they will both be licenced and inducted as incumbents and there will be parties and a proper welcome for both of them."

The couple are now settled into their new home in Penallt Vicarage, however, it wasn't a straight forward move!

Revd Tim Dack, explains: "We left New Zealand just as a lockdown was being gradually implemented and arrived at Heathrow as a lockdown was being speedily implemented which was quite surreal."

But both feel a sense of God's call here. Karen's father served in ministry in Wales for a number of years, Tim and Karen started courting in Llandudno and many of Tim's ancestors worked as free miners in and around the Forest of Dean.

Revd Tim, adds: "We are excited about these new roles – we believe we can use the gifts that God has given us to build the Church here in Wales. God has never failed to bring growth, both numerical and spiritual to the churches we have served in, our expectations are high, our God is the God of resurrection for whom nothing shall be impossible."

Welcome!



Resources

We have an ever growing bank of resources available on our website, here are a few we wanted to highlight this week.

Children & Families

[Here](#) is a selection of prayers for families to use at home during the Coronavirus restrictions, with thanks to Rev Matt Davis, Cyncoed Ministry Area.

There is a full colour version available if you have the required equipment and ink for printing and distributing to your local families.

The Week That Changed The World

The story of the first 'holy week' from Palm Sunday to Easter Day retold by Dr Peter Walker in 12 instalments

Dr Peter Walker writes:

"In this difficult season for us all, when so many Christian believers around the world are confined to their own homes, here's an audio resource which may be helpful—enabling us all to travel back in our mind's eye to the world of first-century Jerusalem and to follow more closely in the steps of Jesus. I do hope it will be a real blessing for many as we try to celebrate the first 'underground' Holy Week for over 1,650 years."

Church leaders can contact info@walkwaybooks.com if they would like to enable their congregation to access this material as a 'group'.

This resource is being given away for free to Anglican clergy and missionaries serving in the 'majority world'.

Click [here](#) for the flyer and [here](#) for the Bible readings.

Funding

Following the devastating flooding in some areas of the country Allchurches Trust is reaching out to churches and dioceses in the areas that have been most affected. They are encouraging churches of all Christian denominations in the UK and Ireland that have incurred additional costs due to supporting local flood efforts to get in touch. To enquire about this funding, please e-mail atl@allchurches.co.uk.

Further details of this funding can be found at <http://www.allchurches.co.uk/news/funding-for-flood-hit-churches/>