

## SUNDAY 2 MAY: EASTER 5

### Lead, kindly light.

Last Sunday, Laurie chose the hymn, “Lead, kindly light” to fit in with his theme of the Good Shepherd and doing acts of kindness.



As an English teacher, I have met this hymn more frequently in the pages of Victorian novels, where it is usually the background to a scene of repentance or remorse for a young man or woman who has gone astray as they look back on their unwise choices. The light is seen as the conscience which has

reminded them of the way they should have followed.

But I think John Henry Newman intended us to realise that there is always a light in front of us which will take us through difficult times. He seems to have been an enthusiastic walker, as he describes the difficulties of ‘moor and fen, crag and torrent’, which again might take us to Victorian, or Gothic, art. On our daily walks during lockdown we have probably all found some awkward spot where we needed some guidance to avoid the pitfalls of crag or torrent, though perhaps more on the scale of steep slope or lively stream!

The ‘kindly light’ in front of us as we take our unsteady steps towards a life without lockdown is an encouragement to renew friendships and social activities that we have missed. Although we have probably become more able to cope in isolation, we will benefit ourselves and others by sharing in conversation and companionship. It might take an effort to get back into the habit of going to church or joining in the classes and activities that have been closed for so long, but we will feel the benefits as we see familiar faces and do familiar things. All the services that have had to close during lockdown now need our support and willingness to be involved again. In following the ‘kindly light’, we will discover it is a light of welcome that takes us into a more positive future.

*“The night is gone; and with the morn  
Those angel faces smile,  
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.”*

With best wishes,  
Beverley and Maggie

# THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported our sales table after church on 18th April.

**We raised £102.50!**



## Church services at St Mary's:

There will be a service of worship and prayer at 9.30 a.m. every Sunday.

Some services will be communion, some all-age services suitable for children, some prayer and meditation.



**Every Sunday: 9.30 a.m.**

We will continue to observe diocese and government guidelines for social distancing.

**Everyone is welcome!**



## WALKERN FOOD BANK

**We have three collection points:** St Mary's church on Wednesday mornings 10.30-11.30am, outside the shop and at No 100 High Street.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from receiving some help please contact Beverley Harlow on 07881588662 or [bevharlow16@gmail.com](mailto:bevharlow16@gmail.com)

If people feel unable to come to church to either donate or pick up items we will arrange collection/distribution.

*Thank you – Beverley and Maggie*

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the food bank. At the moment, we would be grateful for contributions of the following:

Milk

Jam

Biscuits

Baby wipes

Cleaning products

Laundry products

Sugar

Toilet rolls ( 2s and 4s)

Tinned fish

Tinned fruit

Custard

Shower gel

We have plenty of other tins at the moment - thank you.

## Hymns, Readings and Prayers

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# Hymn for the week



Jenny Cobb has offered this hymn for this coming Sunday. It's number 518 from Hymns Old and New:

### **Thy hand, O God, has guided**

Jenny says:

“A year of lockdown has reminded us that a Church can exist without a building. What makes us a Church is our shared hope, our shared faith and our shared love for God, for our neighbour and for each other.

I've chosen a hymn today that describes our Church as part of a greater body; the worldwide community of God's people.

The hymn speaks of past struggles to 'guard the nation's life', and our present conflicts in society. The hymn then looks to the future when all are guided by God's hand.”

If you would like to listen and maybe sing along, just click on the blue link below or copy and paste it into your internet browser (eg Google).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la13cRtXqRw>

*Thank you Jenny*

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# Reading for the week



## Reading: John 15:1-8

A surprising number of Jesus' stories and illustrations involve wine and vineyards, and all the evidence is that Jesus wasn't averse to the odd cup of wine himself.

In this reading, Jesus draws a picture of himself as a vine with us as the branches. As branches, we cannot survive without the vine, as we need to draw sustenance from the plant. As branches of the vine, we are part of Christ, and this is what makes us a Church.

In our service this coming Sunday we'll look more deeply into what it means to be branches of the vine, and we'll look at the role of God as the vineyard-keeper, pruning the branches so that we provide much fruit.

Do join us if you're free.

*Paul Cobb*

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# Prayers for the week

## COLLECT

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

**Please join us in saying the Collect at  
12 noon every day.**

# on Sunday at 11

I know that many say the Collect at 11am on a Sunday in the knowledge that their friends are doing the same thing. You may like to join me on Sunday for an informal Zoom meeting to sing Barbara's hymn, hear the reading and say the prayers together.

The information for this meeting is:

Topic: Sunday at 11

Time: May 2, 2021 11:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89177977571>

Meeting ID: 891 7797 7571



If you need some help getting started with Zoom, click this link for a useful YouTube video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsy2Ph6kSf8&list=PLKpRxBfeD1kEM\\_I1IId3N\\_XI77fKDzSXe](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsy2Ph6kSf8&list=PLKpRxBfeD1kEM_I1IId3N_XI77fKDzSXe)

## Prayers

Heavenly Father, thank you for the skills you have given people to enable us to meet like this from our own homes. We are like branches of your vine, connected together by your love and glory. Be with us today as we meet in your name and, thanks to your Son, share the promise of being eternally part of your tree of life.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

A prayer from Christian Aid

As many parts of the world struggle bravely and desperately with the ravages of the Covid virus, we pray for medical workers everywhere where resources and protective equipment are always in short supply, not only now but always.

May these extraordinary times lead to deep and necessary changes in how our world works, resulting in a genuine effort to address the profound injustice of life expectancy being determined by geography, to awaken us all to the reality of how connected we all are and to work together to create the community and world we all want to be part of.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

Lord, thank you for the candidates wanting to be the new priest in our benefice. Help them to show their true selves to our panel and be with, and give guidance to, those on the panel that they may find and select someone who will support and nurture the benefice for years to come.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

Be with those who are struggling with life: those who are sick, those who are lonely and isolated, those who are frightened of the future, those who don't understand what is going on. Support all who are trying to provide words and acts of comfort where needed and give them and those struggling the strength they need to carry on.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our friends and families who have died and whose anniversaries we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer**

A prayer from Harold Woolveridge

Slow me down Lord. Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of the mind.

Steady my hurried pace with the vision of eternal reach of time.

Give me amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

Help me to know the magical restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking minute vacations, of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat to an old friend, or to make a new one.

Teach me to pat a stray dog, to watch a spider build a web, to smile at a child, or to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day that the race is not to the swift – that there is more to life than increasing its speed.

Teach me to look upwards into the branches of the towering tree and to know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow towards the start of my greater destiny.

Merciful Father **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

*Paul Phillips*

### **A prayer during vacancy**

God our Father, at this time of change, send your Holy Spirit to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer, that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Named requests for prayer will be included on the notice sheet for at least one month. If you would like a name to be included for our intercessions, please contact the Parish Office [ubbw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ubbw@hotmail.co.uk) or 07407 630159 or Maggie Hawkins (359500) for Walkern or Rita Plumb (869731) for Benington. (Names from the prayer board in St Mary's Church will also be included in the intercessions in that church.)*

*Prayer is regularly offered for all the sick and needy in our community.*

### **FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**Those who live in our villages:** This week we pray for all who live Totts Lane, Walkern and Three Stiles, Benington.

**We pray for those in our parishes or friends and family members who are housebound, unwell, receiving treatment or recovering from operations:**  
Lorraine Reeves.

**We also remember those who have died and their families and friends.**

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENINGTON & WALKERN: CONTACT NUMBERS

### MEMBERS OF ECUMENICAL MINISTRY TEAM

**Methodist:** Revd Malcolm Peacock (01462 646562), Mr Brian Burgess (237748),  
Mrs Brenda Davies (227293);

**URC:** Revd John Walker (01462-895481), Mrs Mary Miller (861289),  
Mrs Olga Ginn (861754);

**Roman Catholic:** Mrs Rita Healy (861098);

**St Peter and St Mary:** Revd Norman Plumb (869731),  
Mr Paul Cobb, *Reader* (869348), Mr Laurie Hawkins, *Reader* (359500),  
Mr Steve Mason, *Reader* (360847),  
Mrs Jenny Cobb (869348), Mrs Rita Plumb (869731).

### TO ARRANGE BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS, CONTACT:

**Church clergy:** United Reformed Church: Revd John Walker (01462 895481)

Benington Methodist Church: Revd Malcolm Peacock (01462 646562)

St Mary's and St Peter's: Benefice Administrator [ubbw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ubbw@hotmail.co.uk)

### FOR OTHER PASTORAL HELP, CONTACT:

Benington Pastoral visiting team c/o Mrs Rita Plumb (869731)

Walkern Pastoral visiting team c/o Mrs Maggie Hawkins (359500)

St Peter's, Benington Churchwardens:

Mrs Christine Brown (869468) & Mrs Clare Wood (869674)

St Mary's, Walkern Churchwardens:

Mrs Beverley Harlow (225365) & Mrs Maggie Hawkins (359500)

### FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ENQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Benington Methodist Steward: Mr Brian Burgess (237748)

Walkern URC Secretary: Mrs Olga Ginn (861754)

**Anglican Benefice Administrator:** Heather Ferguson (07407 630159):

Tuesdays 2.00pm–5.00pm & Thursdays 2.00pm–5.00pm or [ubbw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ubbw@hotmail.co.uk)

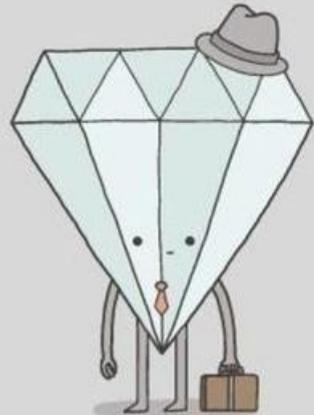
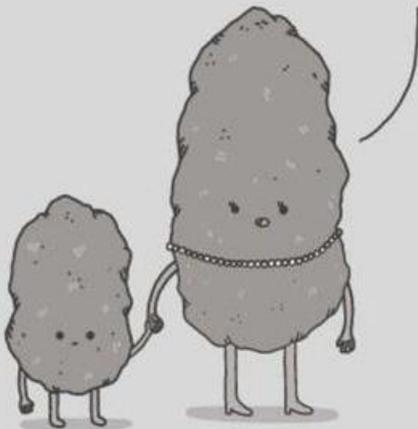
# Funnies

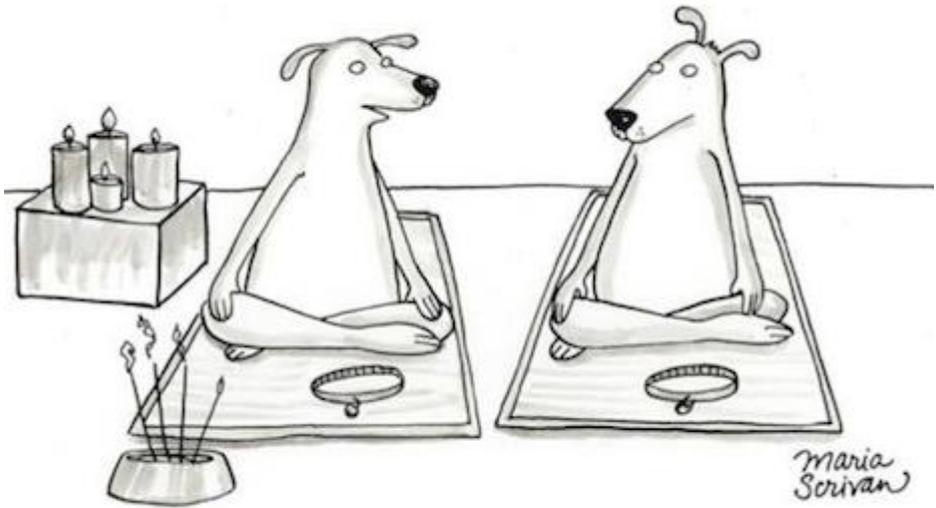


A bit of black tarmac and a bit of green tarmac go to the pub. A bit of red tarmac walks in and the black tarmac turns to the green tarmac and says "Oi, mate, watch out for him, he's a cyclepath!"

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YOUR DAD'S BEEN  
UNDER A LOT OF  
PRESSURE LATELY.





*"The key to meditation is learning to stay."*

## Tail ends...

*A vicar was visiting one of his parishioners, and after a general chat he said 'tell me, Annie, do you ever think about the hereafter? She immediately replied ' Oh yes, vicar almost every day I go upstairs and think 'now what have I come up hereafter?*

*Thank you Jennifer*