



Update #10

23rd & 30th May 2020

**Welcome to this Half Term double-edition of 'Update',
keeping you updated during this time of social isolation...**

LIFE IS PRAYER EXTENDED...

*This is a short excerpt from a reflection by the Rt Revd Peter Hill, the acting Diocesan Bishop.
The full text can be seen in 'The View' on the diocesan website.*

What is most powerful about prayer is not that we change God's mind on things, rather it is he that changes us. It is a transforming relationship....

[From Ascension Day until Pentecost] as in recent years, we are encouraged to pray Thy Kingdom Come as part of a global prayer movement for more people to come to know Jesus. The Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed will only become more a reality if each our lives become a transforming prayer.

Like us at present, the first disciples were locked down between the Ascension of Jesus and the first Pentecost. They were praying and awaiting the coming of the Spirit, as Jesus had promised. When we begin to re-emerge into a fuller church and community life once again, will our Christian lives and witness be more authentic than previously? Will the people God is calling to himself see more of Jesus in us and be drawn to him? Let us never forget that as disciples, leaders and teachers in the Church of God we are writing a Gospel by the way we live each day.

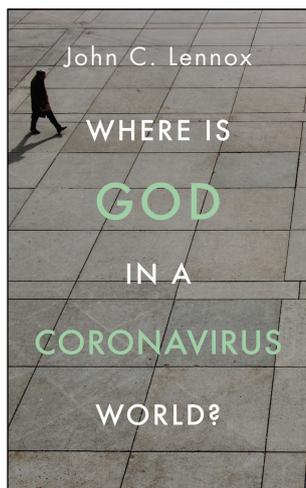
As we pray Thy Kingdom Come, will our lives truly be our prayer extended?

Further information about this year's global 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative can be found online, and a prayer journal can be downloaded from the website — <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2020-04/Prayer%20Journal%202020%20C19V.pdf>

NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- The Church of England has set up a Daily Hope Phone Line. Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line — which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 — has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.
- Practical help is available from many quarters. For those who still find themselves in need of practical help, however, St Peter's have established a network of practical help, and those at St Botolph's are warmly invited to make use of it via stpeterspracticalhelp@gmail.com
- Please note that, from 26th May until 29th May (inclusive), the Vicar will be on Annual Leave. Any pastoral emergencies during this period should be referred to Revd Aella Gage on 07796 475130.

“WHERE IS GOD IN A CORONAVIRUS WORLD?”



How does belief in a loving and sovereign God help us to make sense of and cope with the coronavirus outbreak? This is a warm, thoughtful and clearly biblical response. John Lennox is a maths professor and a lecturer in the philosophy of science, who has been part of many public debates defending the Christian faith against well-known atheists. He also writes very clearly and engagingly.

We hope by now you have received a copy of this new book by John Lennox. We hope you'll find the book helpful. More than that, we hope you might be able to pass it on to someone else — a neighbour? a member of your family? a friend? a colleague? — who isn't yet a Christian, but who might be interested in the questions the book raises. If you would like to know more, there is an interview (about 40 minutes long) with John on the Good Book Company website (<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/where-is-god-in-a-coronavirus-world>).

THE PASTORAL CARE NETWORK

We have expanded our Pastoral Care Network to cover the whole St Botolph's community. If you are in need, then please do not hesitate to contact the relevant PCN Co-ordinators (Margaret Willoughby and Nicky Phillips for 'the north-west', Marion Abbott and David & Marion Branson for 'the south-west', Paul & Sheila Abbott and Gill Poppleton for 'the south-east', and Jack Harker and Pauline Palmer for 'the north-east') — or, of course, you can contact Mark directly on towncentrevicar@gmail.com or on 01206 572641.

THINGS TO LISTEN TO OR TO WATCH...

- on **Radio 4**, look out for the **Sunday Worship** programme
- on the **BBC**, look out for **Sunday Worship** and **Songs of Praise**
- on **Facebook** (*accessible even if you don't use Facebook yourself, via www.facebook.com/towncentrevicar/*), you can join in with **Morning Prayer** with Mark (Sundays at 9:45am, weekdays at 8am; although they can be viewed at any time afterwards), along with various other things on Sundays...

THE READINGS AND COLLECT FOR THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION — Sunday 24th May

Acts 1.6-14; Psalm 68; 1 Peter 4.12-5.11; John 17.1-11

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE READINGS AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY OF PENTECOST — Sunday 31st May

Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.26-end; 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 20.19-23

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**