

# Berrow Benefice Newsletter 2



Dear Friends

During the time of the 'Lock Down', I have been lighting a candle in the window near my office each night. With our neighbours, we have been standing outside each Thursday night and banging our saucepans, clapping our hands as one way we can reach out to say "Thank you" for all Key Workers and especially those in the N.H.S.

The lighting of candles speaks to those who have faith, and those with none. The light overcoming darkness is something we can all recognise. Many birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated very differently this year. Through social media, we can join together in "virtual" celebrations, as well as joining together for church services. Its so important to explore many different ways to bring us together, including the voice on the phone and even a letter sent through Royal Mail! We are standing together not only as friends, family, the church and neighbours, but as a community, and hopefully the world, in fighting this common enemy of Coronavirus. Until we have a way to combat it, it is stretching our creativity, our own resources of resilience and patience and our steadfastness in the face of being isolate, frightened and uncertain of what the future may bring. We are threatened on all levels, whether our health, wealth or security.

For many with faith, the Easter message of the good news of Christ's resurrection gives us a focus and a sense of purpose in these challenging times. As Her Majesty the Queen said, "May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future."

Keep safe and keep well. The church buildings may be closed, but we as the body of the church – the people – are very much still here!

With God's blessings,

Revd Julie James

# Phone Church

The idea behind Phone Church is to enable the community to still come together, worship together and socialise together, even though we can't actually be in the same place at the same time. We have a shortened service of worship every Sunday at 11am, and an informal service of morning prayer at 11am every Wednesday. The idea is that after each Wednesday morning service, we can all take a turn to update everyone with how each person or family is doing, so that we can stay in touch and help each other out.

We're doing it through a system called Webex, which means that people can participate either by phoning in or via the internet, depending on what's easiest for them.

The instructions for joining a service by phone are very simple;

Dial in on one of these two numbers:

020 7660 8149

or

020 3478 5289

You will be asked to type in an access code or meeting number using your phone keypad; in both cases the number you need is:

957 933 830

followed by the hash key #

That's all there is to it. If the host (Rev Anthea) is not yet at the meeting you'll probably just hear phone music but once she is online you'll be able to speak to her and all the others who have joined the meeting either online or via phone.

Our next scheduled service is at 11am on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, so if you think you might like to join us and can't get hold of a service sheet via the internet, just give Rev Anthea a call on 01684 833 278 and she'll get one posted through your door by someone nearby.

# Appeal for Material, Buttons and Sewers to help out NHS

Tess over at Redmarley is organizing folk to sew scrubs, wash bags and headbands for local NHS staff. The headbands are to enable them to hook their face masks over the headband rather than their ears, as their ears were getting rubbed raw by constant mask wearing. They need buttons – slightly larger than a shirt button but no upper limit, pillowcases, sheets and duvet covers to transform into headbands and bags. If you could drop them off with Rev Julie or Rev Anthea we will sort out a way to get them to Tess and the team – alternatively contact one of us and we will arrange pickup. And if you are talented with a needle or sewing machine and want to help out, let Rev Anthea know and she'll put you in touch with the group.

## Local Businesses

Many local businesses are doing sterling work at keeping our communities going so I wanted to give some of them a mention here.

- Yvonne at Pendock shop is very much open as normal and will do deliveries as and when she can. She can be reached on 01531 650 034
- Neil at the Farmers Arms is doing Neil's on Wheels, meals to be picked up from the pub, and orders can be placed on 01684 833 308
- Les Hill at the top end of Birt Street is selling a wide selection of fruit, veg and bread and is open 10am to 6pm 7 days a week.
- The Rose and Crown at Redmarley are doing take away meals, including Sunday lunch, and frozen meals and can be contacted on 01531 650 234
- Staunton Garden Centre have changed their business and are now supplying meat, fruit, veg, bread and milk
- Ben Creese the butcher is doing a delivery service and can be contacted on 01452 840510
- The village shops at Ashleworth and Bromsberrow are also well stocked and happy to help in these difficult times.

If you are aware of other businesses who could do with a mention, do let Rev Julie or Rev Anthea know and we'll include them in the next Newsletter.

# Contacts

**Rev Julie James** is the main contact and co-ordinator for all our efforts in the benefice. You can contact her by phone on **01531 651 795** or via email at **julie.m.james@btinternet.com**. She would be equally glad to receive offers of help or requests for help, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Cathy Powell-Chandler** is our pastoral visitor, organizing phone calls and much else to help people out, so she is your next go to person if you'd like us to give you a call. Her phone number is **01452 780 444**, email **katepowellchandler@gmail.com**.

There is also a very active Covid19 Pendock Support Group, co-ordinated by Sarah Valentine, who you can contact either via the Pendock/Redmarley Area Coronavirus Support Group Facebook page or this email address - **pendockareacovid19@gmail.com**. They are organizing prescription delivery/collection service and making sure folk in isolation have all the essential items they need, and just generally co-ordinating help for those who need a hand.

Finally, many of you are receiving this Newsletter because we are unable to print the Parish magazine in large numbers in the usual way. It is available at

<https://berrowbenefice.org.uk/parish-magazine>

to download or to view online.

**If you are unable to access the magazine in this way, please contact Mrs Melanie Roberts, our Parish Administrator, on**

**01531 650 698**

**And let her know your name and address so that we can get an individually printed version delivered to you.**

---

*The Parish Office  
Church Lane  
Berrow  
WR13 6AX*

---