



The Benefice of Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme

Welcome to our first midweek mini newsletter!

The announcement on Monday that we should not gather together has made a big difference to our daily lives. It is very strange that we are not able to meet up at the things we are so used to doing. We will miss seeing one another and catching up.

So we have decided that we will send out two newsletters each week, one in the middle of the week and one for Sunday.

They will include some worship, prayers and a little reflection. They will also include news, information and advice, and I hope that we will be able to include messages from people too.

While it is impossible for us to meet in the church building it certainly does not mean that our normal church life of care, prayer and worship does not continue.

We hope that this will help!

With every blessing,

Richard

Midweek worship:

Take a moment to be still.

God is with you and unites his church by His Spirit.

Almighty God,
Unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Today's Reading: Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

See, just as the LORD my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all

the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—

Reflection:

God tells his people not to forget. They must remember the commands that he has given them and they must remember his goodness.

When I lost things as a child, my mum would always ask me “Where did you put it?”

It was a crazy question really. If I knew the answer to that, then the item wouldn't be lost! But there is a truth in the question. It is not that I have lost it, it is rather that I have forgotten where I put it. I need to change my “forgetting” to “remembering”.

God tells the people never to forget his ordinances, but always to remember them. And they must do this for a very important reason: “to show wisdom and discernment to the peoples” and to show the closeness of God to his people.

This is part of the call given to us as God's church in this unusual time. There will be many who will find our confinement and physical separation difficult, it is easy to lose sight of our community and to feel lonely.

But as the Church, we must remember and live out the commands that God has given: Love God and Love our neighbour. If we do this, people will see our wisdom and discernment, they will see our love and care and they will find hope and promise. They will be reminded that God is with us all and his hope is sure.

Prayers:

Call to mind your family and friends

Remember the promise of God's presence

Pray for those in hospitals and emergency workers

Be thankful for good things

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth, as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen

May the blessing of God rest upon you and all those you pray for today. May you see the presence of God and show his hope to others.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

Information:

Sunday Worship:

Sadly our churches will not be able to gather together for worship in church on Sundays, but we hope that you will join together for worship at the same time wherever you are. We will send out a short order of service and hope that everyone will gather together at the same time.

We expect to hear more from Bishop Nick, the Bishop of Leeds, later today about the plans across the diocese, so we when we have that information we will let you know more.

Light a Candle:

The Archbishops of York and Canterbury have asked people to have a special day of prayer on Sunday, Mothering Sunday. As part of this they have asked people to place a candle in one of the windows of their homes at 7pm on Sunday evening.

It is such a good idea that we have decided to do it every night at 7pm. Make sure you light it safely! If you have a pretend candle that would be even better.

Light it and put it in a window at 7pm each night. "It will be a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished."

Our Churches will not be completely shut!

Each weekday someone will be going into our churches to pray. We will have more information in our weekend newsletter.

When we go there, we will ring the church bell (where there is one!) so listen out for it!

We will let you know the timings so that you can join us from wherever you are!

If anyone needs shopping or medical supplies delivering:
If you or anyone you know is in need of shopping or you need something collecting from the chemist, please let us know. There are several people who have said that they are willing to help our community in this way. Just ring Rev'd Richard on 01535 273758 or Rev'd Suzy on 01535 270687.

Follow our Benefice Facebook Page:

If you are on Facebook, search for

“Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme Benefice”

There are lots of uplifting things in our Facebook community and there will be more regular features in this time when we cannot meet as we normally do!

If you have any news to share:

If you have a birthday, a message of greeting, a prayer request or any news you would like to share through this newsletter please let us know.

You can always contact Rev'd Richard on 01535 273758 or email: ecrb@live.co.uk or richard.burge@leeds.anglican.org

Please pray too for all our local leaders. We have been in contact with those charged to implement all the plans for these kinds of situations. Our churches are available to be part of the response and we have made ourselves ready to help our communities in any way we can. And we can all do our bit by continuing in our prayers too.

May God bless you in the today and in the days ahead!