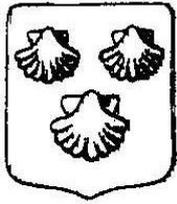
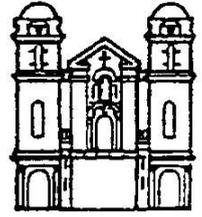


12/20



This week at the Church of
St James the Greater
Leicester

www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk
office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk



22 MARCH 2020 – MOTHERING SUNDAY

Prayer for the Week

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Our Prayers are asked for:

Those working in our healthcare system, those working to secure our food chain from farmers to supermarket delivery drivers, those working in essential infrastructure and the teachers looking after keyworkers children.
Those whose incomes have been lost and those working in the civil service who are ensuring that the unemployed get the benefits they need.
Our scientists and others who are working around the clock to produce a vaccine to protect the most vulnerable.

We remembering this week

John Goadby : David Muddimer : Conceição Fernandes

Unwell

Renie Lewis : Ann Blanchard : Anthony & Barbara Green

Owen Shepherd – now home : Josephine Chizema (Tony's mother)

Rest in Peace

John Raven

Welcome to the first bulletin from all of us at St James the Greater. We hope to be able to produce this weekly newsletter (barring sickness of course) to bring you news, stories and keeping you in touch during these difficult times.

THE VICAR WRITES

On Mothering Sunday Christians have traditionally given special attention to their mother church, whether that is the cathedral, their parish church, or their “home” church, perhaps where they were baptized. Yet of course, across much of the world churches are closed, there are no posies for mothers and grandmothers, and many may be worried about their own parents or grandparents.



We also think of the “mothering” of the Church as a whole, that special brand of nurturing, tender, sustaining love we particularly associate with mothers (rightly or wrongly), and which is the duty of all Christians, and which has its source in God’s love for all.

Practising that love may seem difficult and strange in this time of “social distancing”, but there is in fact much we can do. Prayer is the first and best resort, for those we love and cannot visit, for all those ill, worried, or mourning. Prayer for health workers and scientists, for politicians and business leaders, and for journalists striving to keep us informed without increasing fears.

We are blessed that technology gives us many means of maintaining human contact – ‘phone, email, video messaging and social media. Here at St James I am of course available on the ‘phone and by email. We also have a website and facebook page: www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk and www.facebook.com/St-James-the-Greater-100660021339625/ where regular news and updates will be published. In the near future we hope to set up a youtube channel, where video of services will be available.

In addition the plan is to open the church as often as possible for private prayer. Initially this will be on Saturdays 11.00-12.20 and Sundays 10-12.00, but we hope expand this greatly. If you are able to volunteer to be present in the church when it is open (and are not over 70 or in any other risk category) please let us know. If you do visit the church to pray, please ensure that you keep at least two metres away from other people!

OFFICE HOURS As you will expect, the Church Office is now closed to all visitors. Annabel will continue to work either at St James or from home so please don’t hesitate to get in touch – 0116 254 2111, her mobile number is on the answering machine if nobody answers, please restrict calls to during working hours unless an emergency.

CHURCH OPENING HOURS We have been encouraged to open the Church for private prayer by the Church of England, therefore we will continue to open on Saturdays between 11am and 12.30pm and on Sundays between 10am and midday. No formal worship will be taking place. The Church will also be open during weekdays by arrangement, subject to personnel being available, please contact the Church Office before you leave home.

If you are able to volunteer to help steward the Church during opening hours, please call Andrew on 0116 254 4113 or Annabel on 0116 254 2111. To comply with self-quarantine advice, only those under 70 without underlying health conditions please!

LENTEN HOUSEGROUP at Cherry's. As a group we have decided to suspend our gathering together on Tuesdays during the current crisis. We will however continue to study the material remotely. We continue to look at our responsibility for managing God's created world. A prayer from R. Niebuhr (adapted) "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference". Eco hint: wherever possible, recycle, upcycle or freecycle.

ARTICLES If you would like to share what you are doing during your isolation, perhaps a recipe to use those tins we have all stockpiled or a poem/joke to brighten our day, please email to office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk by Wednesday midday for inclusion.

GIVING TO ST JAMES We know that many of you will see your income reduced and other hardships so we are most grateful to all those who have already pledged to continue their giving through this difficult time. ***If you normally give through gift aid envelopes, stewardship envelopes or cash on the plate, please contact the Church Office if you are able to switch to a standing order, we also can accept cheques through the post.***

CONCERTS All concerts are cancelled until the end of May. If you have tickets please contact the Church Office for a refund.

HELP NEEDED If you are in need of help to collect shopping or other essentials, I have been contacted by members of our community who are offering assistance to the vulnerable who are self isolating, ***please contact the Church Office if this applies to you, or you can volunteer.***

KEEPING IN TOUCH This bulletin will be emailed every week if possible - if you do not have access to the internet please ask a relative or friend to contact the Church Office to be included. ***For those who cannot arrange to receive this digitally, please call the Church Office.***