

St Peter's Rectory,
67 Church Road,
Woolton,
Liverpool
L25 6DA
phone: 0151 428 1853
email: rector@stpeters-woolton.org.uk
www.stpeters-woolton.org.uk

12 March 2021

Dear friends

- **Mothering Sunday**

For me this is a day when I give thanks for my mother and for those who have been like a mother to me. On this day we give thanks those who are mothers, through birth, fostering or adoption, and for all those who fulfil or have fulfilled that mother-like parenting role. We give thanks for their labour of love and sacrifice, praying they may know the love, strength and gentleness of God with them.

'God tends his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart. He gently leads those who have young.' Isaiah 40.11

I'm sure you're aware that for some this day brings sadness, especially those who have lost their mothers, or parents during the pandemic or before.

Here is a prayer by Pete Greg, the founder of the prayer movement 24/7 that helps us as a Jesus shaped community not only to 'rejoice with those who rejoice', but to keep in our hearts those who are sad at this time:

Lord, for mothers today, we pray for joy.

For orphans, comfort.

For not yet mothers, hope.

For single mothers, grace.

For those who are lonely, family.

We ask for grace today

For the mothers of prodigals,

And for those who have lost children,

And for those who don't know where their children are.

May the embrace of grace displace shame

For mothers in prison,

For those who can't feed a baby,

For those who miscarried

Or had an abortion.
And Lord, may those who never held their own child,
For whom today is sadder than it is happy,
Know the love and joy of parenting
In the family of God
Amen.

- **Services back in church**

We are planning to have the church open again for our Easter services, beginning with Good Friday at 10.30 am. This will be a quiet, reflective service. An all-age activity, more suitable for children, is being planned for the afternoon of Good Friday - details will follow shortly.

On Easter morning there will be a simple Communion service at 10.30 am.

As before, there will be no need to book, but we encourage you to arrive in good time as places will be limited due to the usual social distancing guidelines.

- **Online services**

These will continue for the time being, and we hope to have a Holy Week meditation as we did last year.

- **The pandemic**

This time last year the Bishop of St Albans suggested Four Golden Rules for responding to the pandemic. I think they are still very relevant so here is a summary:

Golden Rule One. Each one of us can think about how we can protect and support our neighbours.

Golden Rule Two: Think about who may be suffering more than me. There's nothing like a friendly voice to offer comfort when someone is worried. A smile can bring cheer, even on the phone.

Golden Rule Three. Practise the Christian discipline of sharing. Ask your neighbours what they need and do your best to help them get it.

Golden Rule Four. Live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6. 25 – 34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not be afraid.

- **Our young people's ministry at St Peter's**

Some sad news to share. Lorraine Fletcher, who leads our children's and youth work, will be moving to a new job in April. Here she explains it in her own words:

"I wanted to share with you that this week I have made the decision to leave my role with the church and my last working day will be 11 April 2021. I have decided to accept a position working with children and young people with autism at home, in schools, colleges and into

employment with a charity called Autism Initiatives to provide strategies of support to ensure they are able to thrive as much as possible.

I will be sad to leave my role as I have loved working with you all and with the children and young people at St Peters and I will miss everyone very much.”

All of us at St Peter’s will miss Lorraine’s ministry enormously, and we are hugely grateful for her strong leadership, passion, energy and wholehearted commitment to our young people, all of which has been undergirded by her love for God.

Let’s pray for Lorraine as she finishes her role here and starts a new chapter, and let’s pray for the continuing ministry to young people at St Peter’s.

With my love and prayers.

Kip