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16th October 2020

Dear Friends

'I met my girlfriend while she was working at the zoo. There she was in her uniform – straightaway I knew she was a keeper.'

I like the joke. It makes me smile, but how much more do I smile when I read in the pilgrim Psalm, Psalm 121, that 'God is my keeper'. The word keeper does not mean one who keeps me trapped but one who protects. Protection is a burning issue for a pilgrim who is travelling arduously and through a lonely country. So I encourage us all to lift up our eyes during this pandemic just as those pilgrims looked up to the hills, and drink in afresh that God is our keeper. The old Welsh hymn puts in beautifully:

*Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.*

God will give us our daily bread by providing for our needs day by day and we can know that nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from his love. God is our keeper.

In Genesis, Cain rashly asked God 'am I my brother's keeper?' I guess he expected the answer 'No'. But the answer developed through the Bible is 'Yes!' We are one another's keepers, who are to look out for each other. As God cares for each of us, let's continue to look out for one another and so fulfil Jesus' command to love one another.

As pilgrims journeying 'through this barren land' of the pandemic, here is an update of things that are going on in the life of St Peter's. You can find more details of everything on our website.

St Luke's Day

This Sunday the church celebrates St Luke's Day and our online service will focus on healing. Do join us in praying for healing for ourselves and for others.

You may find that travelling through this time of prolonged restrictions is a real struggle for you or someone close to you. You will find some really helpful resources by following this link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources>

Woolton in Prayer

This Sunday at 4pm on Zoom. Prayers will be led by different members of the churches in Woolton. Please do join! Joining details are on the website, and the church Facebook page. Thanks to Louise Brown at Strawberry Field for organising this.

APCM

The church annual meeting will be this Wednesday at 7.30 pm.

I hope many of us can join in. In order to be sent joining instructions please email Julia: curate@stpeters-woolton.org.uk

Light Parties

We'd love for you to join us for two events happening on Saturday 31 October!

Pumpkin trail: let's light up Woolton with a message of hope and love at this challenging time by being part of this.

Online pumpkin themed party: for children age 3-6 at 6-6.45 pm and children age 7-11 at 7-7.45 pm using Zoom. Booking is required for the party.

All the details for both these events are on our website.

Caring for creation

We're delighted that this week we heard that we have been awarded the Bronze eco-church award. Thanks to the eco-crew who have worked hard to help St Peter's achieve this. If anyone is interested in helping us work towards the Silver award, please get in touch.



With my love and prayers,

Kip