

Dear all

We have finally received some loosening of restrictions on the use of the church, from our bishops. I'm afraid that they are still very limited, however. Essentially only incumbents (vicars etc.) are allowed to go in, with members of their immediate household only, for private prayer, to livestream services, and to ring a bell (e.g. to announce services, to enhance clap for carers etc.). I will therefore be saying the Daily Offices in the church from Monday onwards.

I regret that it is not open to others yet for private prayer. Hopefully this will be sorted soon! I will let you know as soon as there is any change.

Unfortunately, the church has not got wi-fi, therefore it is not possible to livestream services from the church. At our virtual PCC meeting last Wednesday, I asked them whether, as a representative group of church people, they would prefer to have a recorded service from the church building, or a livestreamed service from the vicarage. The split was almost 50:50. Therefore, I am going to try to record a service from church, and livestream the same from the vicarage at 10.00am as usual.

Attached is an [order of service](#), with the hymns included, as well as the links from YouTube performances. You may wish to sing along. Please note, I missed out a hymn in the recorded service. *Thine forever* should go at the place of the offertory. Also attached is a music file of [the Fisk](#) family performing *Here I am, Lord* which starts the service.

The YouTube link for the recorded service is at

<https://youtu.be/q8SXQlzleu0>

After posting the link to the Celtic version of *In Christ Alone*, Philip Astle has shared a link to a beautiful a capella version of the same hymn:

<https://youtu.be/rjiiF83q7G0>

Yesterday (Friday 8th) was not only VE Day, but also the festival of Julian of Norwich. Our Archdeacon, The Ven Justine Allain Chapman posted the following interesting reflection:

Knight in shining armour

When I am weary and restless, fed up and frustrated I long for someone to just come and make it all better. To be whisked away by a knight in shining armour perhaps, not to have to deal with difficulty and decision making, to be able to escape - seems like heaven.

Julian of Norwich, familiar with the Medieval tradition of courtly love describes Jesus as a Courteous Lord. This Lord might sweep you off your feet and make you feel that you are a prince or princess - that is valuable, special and loved, but this Lord will not take you away from your life or yourself. There are times when I imagine that God sits in judgement of me, disapproving and distant. That picture of God is a God who orders me about, compels and restricts my freedom, so I want to turn or run away. I am inspired and moved by Julian's picture of Christ as a Courteous Lord, endless and unchangeable in his love. This Lord however is no smitten pushover. 'How courteously he protects us and makes us know that we are going astray,' and how 'steadfastly he waits for us, and does not change his demeanour, for he wants us to be converted and united to him in love as he is to us.'

Too much time alone can have us become inward looking and self-critical and we long to escape. In the shining armour of the Courteous Lord we can see our weakness and sin as in a mirror. Close enough to see our reflection is so close we find we are under his gracious protection, protected from despairing of ourselves. Lent courage by the Courteous Lord we can look at and beyond what hasn't been good, what will take time and patience to acknowledge and to heal, and know acceptance and love. Heaven, eternal life, is a quality of existence for this world as well as the next. Our Courteous Lord enables us to face rather than escape the world and its problems and live from a deeper place within, knowing protection and love.

Stay safe

Blessings and love

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