

## Wimborne Minster

The Parish Office  
Church House  
High Street  
Wimborne Minster  
Dorset BH21 1HT



21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parishioners

Another month has passed since my last pastoral letter. In speaking to many of you I realise that we are all having different experiences of the effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic. For my part, life is different but is still fully engaged in the Lord's Ministry. Thank you for your ongoing support in this.

Today is Ascension Day, Easter is forty days ago. The church enters The Kingdom Season and looks forward to Pentecost (31<sup>st</sup> May) and beyond. In all our observances of the Christian festivals we are gathering together parts of our story. All are important – otherwise our faith becomes incomplete, with pieces missing from the 'jig-saw', the picture deficient. For the first Christians, life through these weeks from Lent to Pentecost were very uncertain times of anxiety and fear. What's happening, they must have wondered? I invite you to draw some clear parallels to our present troubled times for yourselves!

Jesus Christ whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love. We have felt the agony of his suffering and death on a cross. We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death and enjoyed his risen presence with us. We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow. We await, with the followers of his own time, the coming of the promised Holy Spirit – to bring us life in all its fulness in the face of all our present difficulties. Yes, the Church is greatly affected by the forced closure of our buildings, as I write it seems they might be permitted to open for private prayer in July, but in the meantime, our worship and fellowship in Christ continues, in many respects is strengthened by an increased commitment to prayer.

The Minster has a sign on its door which states that the building is closed, the church is praying at home - using our internet connected devices. We have fully established a new regular worship pattern using the Zoom On-line Application. If you need help with this, please ask. If you do not have the technology it is important that you know that you can use your home telephone to connect to Minster Worship by simply dialling-in on **0203 481 5240**. An automatic response will ask you for the current meeting ID which is **883 2976 1518**. Press # when asked, there is no password required. Morning Prayers are at 8:30am every day, except Sunday. Evening Prayers are at 5:00pm every day. A spiritual form of Holy Communion is offered at 9:30am on Sundays and Wednesdays, led by the Clergy. On selected Sundays we are also offering informal worship at 11:30am.

Links to all these acts of worship are available from our website [www.wimborneminster.org.uk](http://www.wimborneminster.org.uk) Please visit to access bible readings, prayers, news, Parish Magazine, etc. and don't forget we also have a FaceBook page: Search for Wimborne Minster Church. If you get this letter by post it is because we don't have your e-mail address. We are praying for each other and staying in contact by telephone. If you need support, or know of other's needs, please do not hesitate to get in contact with myself and my colleagues. We do want to serve you and help you! My telephone number is 01202 882340.

Praying every blessing for you and your families and loved ones.

Yours in our risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ,

Andrew Rowland, Rector, on behalf also of Peter Cook and Andrew Patrick, Church Wardens.



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