

A prayer about the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love. In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

For those in isolation

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For those who are ill

Merciful God, we entrust to your unfailing and tender care, those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Registers

Baptism: On the 8th March **Elsie Bettina Botterill** was welcomed into the Church family in the company of family and friends at All Saints, Ravensden.

Funerals: **Cyril Brown**, an active member of the Keysoe community, was laid to rest on 12th March at Keysoe St Mary the Virgin. Our thoughts and prayer are with the family and friends at this time.

On the 18th March the funeral of **Edith 'Edie' Dean** was held at All Saints Ravensden. Edie lived in Ravensden for many years and was very active in the WI and the community. Our condolences to Clive and Les and sister Inita and all the family.

A graveside funeral was held at Keysoe on Tuesday 24th March for **Sheila Pope**. There will be a memorial service later to celebrate this much loved lady. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Community Help Initiative: If you need help during this difficult time contact:

for Wilden	Martin & Susie Cooper wildennews@hotmail.com
for Colmworth	Jeremy & Jenny Freedman j.freedman@sky.com
for Ravensden	< ravensdenhelpline@gmail.com > or phone 772230
for Keysoe	Laura Barry PcllrLaura@outlook.com
for Bolnhurst	Jane Browning janebrowning50@gmail.com

Volunteers required: The new season is once again upon us and volunteers are needed to help with the grass cutting in Wilden Churchyard. If you can help please contact Brian Hamnett on 01234 771039.

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Wilden with Colmworth & Ravensden St Mary Keysoe with St Dunstan Bolnhurst

www.wcrchurches.org

NEWSLETTER

April 2020

I write as the Coronavirus is tightening its grip on our communities resulting in ever increasing self-imposed necessary restrictions on our lives with new phrases like 'self-isolating' and 'social distancing' entering our common parlance.

Whilst you will read this as we approach Easter, as I write we are just about to enter 'Passiontide' which focusses on Jesus' sufferings (the literal meaning of 'passions') which has a new poignancy this year as we are aware of vast numbers across our world, especially in Europe, suffering as a result of this pandemic - both those who have contracted this virus and those caring for them and facing bereavement. There is of course a lot of fear and worry around us all and obvious concerns for our future as a society.

But Easter with its hope and resurrection is a very present reality in our world, because Jesus came into this world He loves. Jesus suffered and died for this suffering world that He loves and God, who loves us, raised Him gloriously from the dead giving us hope and life and peace not just for beyond this life. Mortality is something we're all facing in a new stark way at this time, but Jesus gives us a hope that breaks into our world knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus as Paul writes to the Christians in Rome, neither death, nor life, nor principalities, nor powers, nor height nor depth nor coronavirus (and I paraphrase!) nor anything else in all creation.

It will be very different this year not celebrating Easter together in our Churches in Public Worship, but through the wonders of websites, social media, phones, radios and TV we can still share and encourage each other with this great message of hope.

David, Geraldine and I will be uploading 'Messages of Hope' onto our church website that will be available every Sunday throughout this current crisis, however long it lasts. Let's be encouraged by the great Easter Hope and by our faith and trust in a God who is greater than all this world can throw at us. We are fearful and worried, but we can trust in a God who can and will sustain us in this life and in the life to come.

Timothy Wilson