

Prayer update 10th April 2020

From: Ruth Ridge

Sent: 10 April 2020 18:45

Dear All,

I pray that this week's prayer letter finds you safe and well. It seems strange indeed not to be meeting face to face for this time of Holy Week and Easter, however there have been a wide variety of opportunities for prayer, worship and reflection across different media and perhaps we are seeing the story in a different way as we recognise parallels with our own situation. The disciples were fearful, hope seemed gone and after the horror of Good Friday they remain locked in the upper room, paralysed by grief and despair. Holy Saturday is an empty day and even the news of the resurrection takes a while to sink in. At first the disciples are confused by the empty tomb and it is only as Jesus appears to reassure them that bewilderment is replaced by wonder and joy. We who know the outcome of Good Friday tend to forget that period of emptiness and waiting before Easter Day and perhaps this year as we wait in our homes to be able to meet and pray and praise once again it is a valuable time to remember. Easter Day will come, Jesus is risen and this is the hope we have. Meanwhile we watch and wait and pray...

As part of our prayers this week, David Ford has sent the [attached sheet](#). He has also spoken to Elizabeth Ellis who sends her greetings and who is in good spirits. Elizabeth, formerly of Great Waldingfield, is now in residential care. A long-time supporter of the prayer breakfasts

We continue to pray for those affected by the corona virus. We pray for those who are ill, for those caring for loved ones in isolation and for those who have lost loved ones.

We pray for all key workers. For those working in the health service on the front line, for carers seeking to support the vulnerable in their homes, for prison workers and for those keeping essential services going. We pray for their safety and give thanks for their commitment.

We pray for all who are bereaved at this time, that they will find comfort and peace. We pray especially for those unable to share together in funeral or memorial services and for families unable to see one another and share their grief. We remember too funeral directors working under very difficult and stressful circumstances and ask for strength and peace of mind for them.

We give thanks for all those who have volunteered to help in different ways. We pray for protection for them and for strength and courage. We pray for the work of those co-ordinating volunteers, for 'Good neighbours' schemes and the Sudbury Community Network.

We pray particularly for the work of Storehouse as they cope with increased demand and new ways of working. We pray that donations will continue to come in and that those who usually donate will find ways of continuing to pass on donations. We pray too that those who need it will be able to access referrals.

We pray for our church families as we celebrate Easter in our homes this year. We pray that we will be able to rejoice in the news of resurrection hope. We give thanks for those providing worship that we can join with on radio, television and online. Help us to remember that we are part of a worldwide family and that we are united in Christ.

We continue to pray for our leaders. We give thanks that the prime minister is making a recovery from the virus and we pray for those who have taken on extra responsibility in his illness. We pray that political leaders will work together to seek the common good and that their guidance will be accepted.

We thank God for the beauty of the earth, for the wonder of springtime and for the beautiful weather we have enjoyed. We give thanks for the signs of new life all around and we remember those who work to protect the planet. We remember the work of A Rocha and we give thanks for the Foxearth reserve where over 500 different species have now been observed. What a wonderful world you have made!

To close, verses from my favourite Easter hymn!

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love Whom we had slain,
Thinking that He'd never wake to life again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Up He sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Up from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
By Your touch You call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

God bless.

Ruth.

An additional prayer request- continued prayer is asked for Rob and Liz McNeish who continue to make a slow recovery from the virus. One of Rob's sisters has now been hospitalised because of it so please hold her in prayer too.