



ST JOHN'S NEWS

29th March 2020

www.stjohnschap.co.uk

UNEXPECTED SLAVE

MARK 10:35-45

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

If you are a visitor today, we hope you enjoy your time with us and feel at home. If you'd like to know more about us, ask our Welcome team for our "What's On" leaflet – or check out our website...

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sun 29th <i>LENT 5</i>	10.30am	Online Worship – www.stjohnschap.co.uk
Mon 30th	9.00am	Morning Prayer – www.stjohnschap.co.uk
Tues 31st	9.00am	Morning Prayer – www.stjohnschap.co.uk
Wed 1st	9.00am	Morning Prayer – www.stjohnschap.co.uk
Thurs 2nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer – www.stjohnschap.co.uk
Fri 3rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer – www.stjohnschap.co.uk
Sat 4th	9.00am	Morning Prayer – www.stjohnschap.co.uk
Sun 5th <i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	10.30am	Online Worship – www.stjohnschap.co.uk

PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer needs: If urgent prayer is needed for someone ill, in hospital or any other reason, please ring Judith Winks on 257 0477.

VICAR'S LETTER – 29 MARCH 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope your first few days 'locked down' have not been too trying. It's placing pressure on all of us, I am sure.

Amidst all the pressures and anxieties we have all been living with, I have been heartened by many encouragements over this last week. There were folks who have emailed or rung or posted on Facebook to say 'thank you' to the team who prepared our first Online Worship (a big thank you to Carl, Fee and Paul who made it happen!). There've been countless tales of phone calls, or little supportive messages that have just lifted people at the right moment, specially when some of us feel very alone. Just taking my daily exercise and keeping appropriate distance, I've had more time to listen to my neighbours down the street and met a real warmth of welcome. In the midst of the stresses, plenty of blessings.

I thought it might be helpful to update you on how we are trying to keep serving the Lord and each other over these weeks. On Monday evening, your Church Council met for the first time ever via Skype (an online phone call complete with video so you can see each other), and this is some of what we discussed...

Worship, prayer and growth

We are keen to help each other continue to connect with the Lord through this crisis, and many have found the Sunday online worship and live Morning Prayer (Mon-Sat now) at 9am a real bonus. So you know, the pattern we will be following for the moment will be that the first, second and third Sundays of the month will be an act of Morning Worship (with a short children's slot), and the fourth Sunday will be a Family Service for all ages. My view at the moment is that it doesn't seem appropriate share Communion in any way online (and I see that Bishop Pete has advised against it too).

I'd also like to commend the Sunday morning worship on BBC1 at 11.30am – many have found this a real help if you don't have a computer or smartphone. We've already had some great feedback and suggestions for how we can improve this further. We are learning and so keen to do what we can to make this even better, so keep on letting us know how you find things.

Pastoral care and support

Many of you will know that we are seeking to set up a network of support so that no one in the St. John's church family is forgotten or left without a listening ear, a friendly voice and the offer of help where it's needed. We are doing this by asking a good number of Cell members to offer to be a 'buddy' to those who are not in a Cell group. That is beginning to take off, and my hope is it will be well-established in the next week or so.

Can I stress if that for any reason you are feeling anxious, isolated or needing help, we would like to help you. Please feel free to email office@stjohnschap.co.uk or call myself on 0114 257 0966 or Sylvia our Pastoral Worker on 0114 246 8028.

Service and sharing the gospel

As I mentioned last week, one of our prime callings at present is to be a *servant people*, a blessing to our wider community. Physical limitations mean there is only so much some can do to help others, but others may be able to offer with collecting and delivering shopping for the housebound or vulnerable – maybe being part of the army of volunteers who've signed up to help the NHS and others. ***Please try and be part of this*** if you are able and have the time. You can do so by going to this website: <https://goodsamapp.org>. Note the name, and whose teaching it echoes!

This week I spoke to our MP, Miriam Cates, and she has added St. John's to her list of local groups in Chapeltown ready to offer volunteers to help others in our community. She was delighted to know we already have a number of church members who have offered this.

I am sure that like me you are holding in prayer the amazing folks who are working hard to look after us at the moment: from NHS staff to supermarket workers to Police. If you know or meet any, it's never a wasted comment to let them know how much we appreciate them.

We're also keen to keep sharing the hope of Christ in a time of great anxiety. Our good friend, the evangelist Roger Carswell, has recorded a message for those who are anxious. I hope that by the time you read this it will be available on our website. Do share it with friends and family!

Young people and children

Our Youth Minister Carl has been busy putting together a range of ways to help our young people and children to keep growing in their Christian life – some are available through social media such as Instagram, others by resourcing families to share Bible stories and messages with their

children. Take a look at the Online Worship page on the website and click on the right where it says 'Sunday Club Activity' for more.

Keeping in touch

The big challenge just now is how to keep everyone in the loop so we all know what is going on, how we can help each other, and keep building each other up in our faith. For those with access to the internet, our website should be your first port of call, and particularly the Coronavirus page which is being regularly updated.

If you are not on the internet, please feel free to contact either Fee our Parish Administrator, myself or Sylvia Charles if you need any information or have any questions or concerns.

Flourishing in anxious times

Lastly, can I encourage you to watch a series of three short video messages I will be sharing on our website, called 'Midweek Messages'? These will be on the website every Wed for three weeks – the first one is already there, entitled 'How to flourish in anxious times'. Each will tackle an aspect of God's call to us just at the moment. I hope you will find them inspiring and stimulating through the weeks ahead.

If you would like the 1-2-1 resource that is mentioned in the first message please email Fee and she will happily send that to you.

Can I assure you that you are very much in my prayers, and that Christ is very much keeping his promise, and building up his church, even today?
Every blessing,

Fee

READ THE SERMON!

If you'd like to still benefit from our preaching week by week, but struggle to access the website, you can still read the sermon for yourself if you'd like. Please just email Fee office@stjohnschap.co.uk to email you a copy and we will make sure you get your own to read!

TECHNOLOGICAL GIFTS?

As we adapt to becoming church online, we have been very grateful for the gifts of our Youth Minister, Carl. But we are keen to form a small team of folks who are familiar with putting together videos for YouTube or Facebook or similar, and in particular can use iMovie, so that we can improve the quality and ability we have to share in

worship, prayer and evangelism over these coming days. If you could help with this at all, please contact Carl at youth@stjohnschap.co.uk - and as soon as possible please!

FOODBANK CHANGES

Because of the latest safety restrictions on movement, the High Green Foodbank is operating rather differently. If you have gifts you would like to make to it, please **take them to a member of staff at ASDA in Chapeltown.** If you have any queries more generally, please call Nicky Wareing on 07962 625931.

KEEPING GIVING GOING

If you normally give to St John's at one of the Sunday services in the offertory you may wish to consider giving by different means whilst we are unable to meet together. You can give by bank transfer if you use on-line banking our details are Chapeltown St Johns sort code 050823 account number 28194176, or by standing order with your bank -a standing order form can be e-mailed to you from the Parish Centre or by sending a cheque to the Parish Centre 21 Housley Park Chapeltown S35 2UE. For anyone at church if you are unable to continue with your normal giving because of changes to your situation we understand about this but please let Steve Brook the Treasurer (stevejubrook@gmail.com or 01142463017) know that you need to change your giving. Thank you to all who give so generously to St Johns

THANKS FOR THE QUIZ!

A huge thank you to all who came to this year's Parish Quiz or donated in any way. We raised a massive £515 for St James's Hospital Liver Transplant Centre!



ONE LESS HOUR IN QUARANTINE!!!

Don't forget the clocks go forward one hour this Sunday.