

PRAYER PAGE

If you know of anyone who needs adding to the prayer list, please contact the parish office 7636 8008.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you or anyone you know need prayer urgently call Chris on 07717 523512 who will pass your request through the chain and praying will begin.

Prayers for this week

- Father God be with us all during this time of confusion and bewilderment. Help us find safe ways to support our family, friends and neighbours and guide us in wise actions.
- As we enter a sustained period of isolation please hold the bereaved in your prayers. May the love of God surround and sustain those in mourning who can't have physical contact and support of loved ones.
- Pray also for all the parents now attempting to home school and entertain their children during school closures—particularly those who don't have access to open space.
- Many people will now be facing increased financial difficulties. Hold our Government in your prayers that God may open their hearts and minds to the challenges ahead and find compassionate solutions.
- As we all enjoy the spring sunshine, even if it's through an open window, give thanks for God's promise of new life.

Only you can move the mountains

Only you can heal our land

Christ alone our hope and glory

Christ alone in you we stand.

Tim Hughes

Pray for God's healing and peace for

*Andy Burton
Vince Taylor
June Plumb
Denise Crampsie
Jenny Tedds
Jan Leivers
Barry Richardson
Edna Leighton
Sharon Neale
Nan Bellew
Anne Hammonds
John Hartshorne
Pauline Skelcher
Maureen Mason
Lara*

Those who mourn for

*Joyce Elliott
Jeff Hammonds
Margaret Wagstaff
John Simmons
Alan
John Rowlands
Shannon Bridget Beck
Keith Morris
Mary Jephcote*

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Today's Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them,

but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophecy

and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

John 11:1-45

The death of Lazarus

Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.'

When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.'

'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?'

Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.'

After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.'