

The Parish of Halas

Together in Christ

CRADLEY HALESOWEN HASBURY LAPAL ROMSLEY



Dear friends in Halas

There can have been few times when we are more united in being acutely aware of the pain and the wonder of love: the pain, in separation from and anxiety for others and in the griefs which we know are all around us; the wonder, in the extraordinary courage and kindness we see all around us too.

We enter this week into the time of year which Christians set aside very specifically to remember and enter into the mystery of the love which, in St Paul's famous words, 'bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things'. In the crucified Christ we believe we see such love revealed as the nature of God. In the risen Christ we see such love as God's final word, however hard that may be to grasp amid the very real anxieties and sorrows of this present time.

It may be a strange and painful Holy Week, both because of the present circumstances of our world and because we will be unable to celebrate it in our churches. But both online and through the post we will be sharing resources for prayer and worship which, we hope, will help us to enter into the mysteries of Holy Week and Easter deeply and faithfully; and it may be that this present time and being separated from our churches sheds new and different light on those mysteries.

It might seem odd to speak of Holy Week and of money in the same letter. But if we are to have ongoing church buildings and church life once this present crisis is over, then talk of money we must. In the coming days those who give regularly to our churches will receive a letter requesting that you consider how you give. We will be making three suggestions:

- that you consider giving by electronic means, by Standing Order or by one-off Bank transfer, for which Parish and church account details will be provided*
- That you might wish to give by cheque, perhaps in your usual envelope, for which addresses by post or by putting through a door will be provided*
- That you keep your cash giving in your usual envelopes until such a time as it is safe for you to give them.*

The past few weeks have made us feel more keenly than ever just how precious are the communities of the Halas Team, in mutual prayer, love and support and in prayer, love and support for the wider community. The ongoing life of our community depends on our financial resourcing, so we pray that you will consider your response to that. It depends too upon our faithful entering into the mystery of God's grace and love. So we pray that we may yet have a good Holy Week, keeping faith with Christ in the pain of love, finding hope with Christ in the triumph of love.

With every blessing

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Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4.6-7

St Kenelm's, Romsley.

Here is forgiveness, and with forgiveness peace

PART OF THE HALAS TEAM MINISTRY



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