

# The Parish of Halas

## Together in Christ

CRADLEY HALESOWEN HASBURY LAPAL ROMSLEY



Lockdown eases, but tentatively. Some children make their way back to school. It is hard to guess when, how and even if things will “get back to normal” but it increasingly becomes a focus for the national conversation. In its own little way, the church year gets back to normal this weekend. The Feast of Pentecost marks the eruption of life and energy that comes with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit fifty days after Easter, and in other years our church buildings would now again be decked out in the green of everyday growth, and the Easter Candle would make it’s way to the font, or its place of work-a-day rest, as our “Alleluias!” fade to a quieter echo of the praise of heaven.

So it seems a good time to ask what Eastertide felt like for you this year...

- What was different about these past fifty days, if anything was?
- How was it to keep Holy Week and Easter without being gathered together?
- Were there parts of the Easter Story that struck you in fresh ways because of lockdown?
- Is there a photo, or a bible passage, or a poem, or a saying that sums it up for you?
- What has given you strength or resolve or hope or a thankful heart?
- What has touched you with compassion or sadness or frustration with God?

We just thought it would be good to share some of these things. It’s an idea we began to float in the Vicars’ Letter a couple of weeks ago. One of the problems with these days for us as churches is that it takes us back to quite an old fashioned place: where the clergy do all the talking, and the people get to listen, and there isn’t even the same chance for a conversation over coffee or a chat at the church door.

Around Good Friday, many of you may have shared in the fourteen meditations on the Way of the Cross that were written by fourteen different members of our churches, lay and ordained, and we’d like to try something similar to reflect on journeying with the Risen Lord as we move into the long days and lush growth of the green Trinity season. Think of the moving and inspiring thoughts from our Readers over these past weeks.

- Could you write a reflection on what any one (or all) of these fifty days of Eastertide have meant for you - either typed or handwritten - perhaps half a side, maybe less, certainly no more than a side of A4 paper?
- Is there a photo that sums it up for you? It could be a photo to go with what you’ve written, or you may feel you’d like to send a photo instead. We’re guessing for many of us, photos of our children, grandchildren or godchildren might be the things that give us hope or joy, but we can’t publish photos of our children if we’re going to keep them safe; however, there may be photos of things they’ve made or done, of their painty hands or muddy feet, and that would be fine.
- Do you write poetry? Or are you not easy with words but read something that says it all better than you can? If so, you need to tell us where it’s from, because we have to be careful with copyright, but that would be great.

You’ve heard and read enough about what the clergy have to say this Easter! Now it’s over to you. Can we make a collage of faith in Lockdown Easter 2020? We can put it on line, print some of it, and display it in our church buildings when they open.

If you have a contribution, e-mail any one of us, or to [parishoffice@halasteam.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@halasteam.org.uk), or send your contribution to **Halas Parish Office, 32, High Street, Halesowen, B63 3BB** or to any our vicarages. The more people involved, the truer the picture of our life together, so however humble you feel your offering may be, give it a go. You are an indispensable part of the jig-saw that is the Parish of Halas.

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