

Community Help Initiative:

If you need help during this difficult time contact:

for Wilden	Martin & Susie Cooper wildennews@hotmail.com
for Colmworth	Jeremy & Gillian Freedman j.freedman@sky.com
for Ravensden	< ravensdenhelpline@gmail.com > or phone 772230
for Keysoe	Laura Barry PcIlrLaura@outlook.com
for Bolnhurst	Jane Browning janebrowning50@gmail.com

We have received a rather special gift of 5 carved standing crosses for our family of 5 churches.

These 5 crosses are carved by Peter Dawson – a member of our church in Bromham where I live. When we first moved here 18 months ago Peter carved one for my wife Catherine who is Vicar of Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden. You may have noticed it featuring in my contributions to the 'Words of Hope' recordings we've been doing since Lockdown. Peter asked me a while ago if I'd like some crosses for our churches for which I was grateful but reminded him we have 5! So I was very surprised when he delivered 5 to the house a week or so ago!

They are beautifully carved and all slightly different. I have thought about which one will go to which of our 5 churches, and I have inscribed the church and carver on the back of each one.

My intention is that, whilst they will be 'based' in each of our 5 churches to be displayed somewhere, when we gather together we bring the 5 together to show both our unity and our individually uniqueness as churches and communities. I will also take one to schools assemblies from the church in which the school is situated, as well as to other services, meetings and other occasions when we meet as a church or as churches elsewhere. I'm also intending to display all 5 at our Sunday 'Words of Hope' online acts of worship.

The cross is the universal symbol of the church. It is a sign of both suffering and hope. Indeed real hope because the simple cross is empty as a reminder of Jesus' resurrection and victory over sin, suffering and even death itself. Themes always relevant to our world, but especially so in this current pandemic virus outbreak.

Someone also remarked to me recently 5 is very significant in the sufferings of Jesus in the 5 wounds that are often depicted on crosses – sometimes in jewels on our Communion Tables. His head with a crown of thorns, the nails in His two hands, the one in His feet and the spear in His side.

So I pray that these very special crosses will continue to be a sign of hope at this time.

Timothy Wilson

Editors: Revd. Timothy Wilson revtimwilson@wcrchurches.org
Eunice Welbourn newsletterwcr@btinternet.com 01234 771583

Wilden with Colmworth & Ravensden St Mary Keysoe with St Dunstan Bolnhurst

www.wcrchurches.org

NEWSLETTER

July 2020

Living God's love

Our Diocese of St Albans has this as its strapline and Bishop Alan and others speak passionately about it. There is so much in those three simple but powerful words. It starts with a verb and speaks of vitality and action. It has God in the centre stating that's what we're really about. And it has the greatest of relationships too. 'Love' - especially in the languages of the Bible says so much about commitment and loyalty to God and one another.

But then there are the 4 words saying how we should be Living God's Love. With 'Generosity', 'Joy', 'Imagination' and 'Courage'. And in these present times of disruption in this Coronavirus Pandemic these 4 words have a new depth of meaning. Despite all that is around us, we are still called in true real hope to be Living God's Love with Generosity, Joy, Imagination and Courage. We used Bishop Alan's recorded sermon on this in our Online Sunday 'Messages of Hope' on 24th May. And it's still available on the St Albans Diocesan website as well as ours if you missed it.

We have seen remarkable Generosity, Joy, Imagination and Courage in communities in our own country and across the world where this pandemic is still raging. And we are challenged as God's people still to live like this.

Historically the church has and continues to be at the heart of our local focus of support for each other. As our Mediaeval forebears who built our beautiful church buildings knew, in times of crisis something needs to bring us together locally. And the churches continue to be best placed to do this. I am so encouraged and amazed at the support our local churches receive from their communities often through our 'Friends' organisations, and recently so many signing up to our E Mail networks. And more than twice as many who are watching our weekly Sunday 'Words of Hope' on line than the total numbers attending the services we held in our 5 Parish Churches up until lockdown.

So, can this increase our Generosity, Joy, Imagination and Courage? Yes, in the time and gifts and money being given to all that goes on in our communities. And through the networks on our website we hope this will continue to grow. We are in the process of setting up 'on line giving' on our church website as the old ways of giving cash at services and in donation boxes and having fundraising events is just not possible at present and may not be fully possible again for some time yet to come.

We are 'Living God's Love' with Generosity, Joy, Imagination and Courage. Please continue to stand with us and support us as the local churches, as we seek to continue to stand with you and support you and with you to support our local communities

Timothy Wilson

**During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic,
please look at our website: www.wcrchurches.org
which will give you the days and times our churches are
open for private prayer.**

**Each Sunday there will be a short ‘Message of Hope’ on
the website led by Tim, Geraldine & David**

Sunday 5th July - 4th after Trinity

Readings: Genesis 24.34-38,42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45.10-17 or Canticle: Song of Solomon 2.8-13 Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 12th July - 5th after Trinity & Sea Sunday

Readings: Genesis 25.19-34; Psalm 119.105-112; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 19th July - 6th after Trinity & Rural Mission Sunday

Readings: Genesis 28.10-19a; Psalm 139.1-11,23,24; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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.

Sunday 26th July - 7th after Trinity

Readings: Genesis 29.15-28; Psalm 105.1-11,45b or Psalm 128; Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Collect

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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.

Don't forget to go on line and participate in our “Words of Hope” service each Sunday. www.wcrchurches.org

We also have a Zoom gathering every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. Leave a message on the website or email Tim for the Zoom link or join by phone.

Evensong by Zoom is also being held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6 pm with our five churches and Bromham, Oakley and Stagsden. You are very welcome to join us, just email Tim for the Zoom link or join by phone.

Circumstances change very quickly during this trying time so do check on the website which is kept up to date
