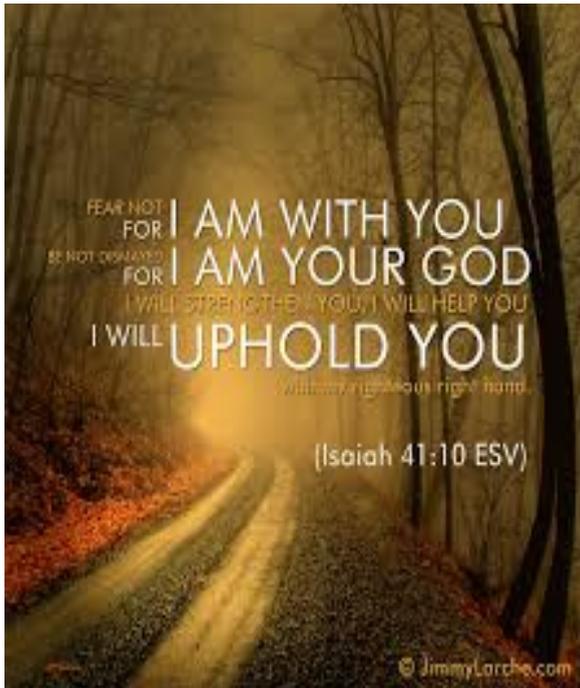




# Seven Towers Benefice

*Down Hatherley; The Leigh with Evington;  
Norton; Sandhurst; Staverton with Boddington.*



## Praying at home

## Prayers for those affected by Coronavirus

God of healing and hope,  
in Jesus you meet us in our places of pain and fear.  
Look with mercy on those who have contracted the new virus,  
on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel in danger.

Through this time of global concern,  
by your Holy Spirit bring out the best not the worst in us.  
Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other,  
and of the strength that comes from being one body in you.

Through Christ our wounded healer. Amen.

*The Rev' d Dr Sam Wells Vicar of St Martin's in the Field*

Loving Lord,  
We pray for your love and compassion to abound  
as we walk through this challenging season.  
We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load  
of making decisions with widespread consequences.  
We pray for those who are suffering with sickness  
and for all who are caring for them.  
We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable  
to not succumb to the risks of virus.  
We pray for misinformation to be curbed  
that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.  
As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide  
may we also approach each day in faith and peace,  
trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us. Amen.

*Mothers' Union*

This booklet has been prepared to help those who are self- isolating at this time. Jesus said,

‘Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

It’s comforting to know that we are never alone, and we never pray alone. By praying the same words as the rest of the Church, even if we cannot see each other physically, we know that we join with all the angels and saints of heaven whenever we pray.

*For as long as is possible, morning prayer will still be said in one of our churches, on Tuesday’s and Thursdays at 9am.*

*Some Churches are ‘streaming’ services online. Please keep an eye on our website (<http://seventowers.org.uk>) for social media links to these services.*

Please let us know if you are self-isolating so that we can pray for you, help you in any way we can, and keep in touch by telephone or email.

Ring : .....

(please leave a message if no one is available to answer) or email

Please call one another on the telephone, and stay in contact online, so that we can support and encourage each other.

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The 'Daily Prayer' app can be downloaded onto a smartphone or tablet, and each service is available to view online at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Using these links means you will be saying the same Psalms and readings as the rest of the Church.

## Morning Prayer (Church of England)

### Gathering

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.  
Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

*Keep a short silence; still your heart.*

As God's people we have gathered in God's presence,  
Separated by distance but united in God's love.

Let us pray.

Come Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful people,  
and kindle in us the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

### Prayers of Penitence

In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

*Keep a short silence; leave your sins at the cross.*

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.  
We are not worthy to be called your children.  
We turn to you again, have mercy on us,  
bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead  
but now have life through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

May the Father forgive us by the death of the Son,  
And strengthen us to live In the power of the Spirit  
All our days. Amen

## The Bible Readings (see pages 20-24)

### The Creed

We affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
He ascended into heaven,

He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

Amen

### Prayers of Intercession

We intercede for others in the quiet of our hearts.  
Lord meet us in the silence and hear our prayer.

*Pray for yourself in your isolation that God would sit with you.*

*Pray for others in their loneliness.*

*Pray for our country.*

*Pray for the world.*

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Faithful God, may we who share in this time of worship  
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
our salvation and hope,  
who reigns as Lord now and for ever.

Fill us, Good Lord with your Spirit of love;  
and as you have fed us with your presence,  
so, make us one in heart and mind,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

*Silence is kept*

If you want to live out your faith in your isolation, why not telephone someone, to encourage them and let them know that they are not alone.

*“The Lord will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you.  
Do not be dismayed.”*

*(Deuteronomy 31:8b)*

*Liturgical material adapted from Common Worship © 2000 Archbishops  
Council*

## Morning Prayer (Celtic tradition)

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen

### Opening Sentences

One thing I have asked of the Lord,  
this is what I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life;  
to behold the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek Him in His temple.

Who is it that you seek?  
We seek the Lord our God.

Do you seek Him with all your heart?  
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your soul?  
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek him with all your mind?  
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your strength?  
Amen. Christ, have mercy.

## **Declaration of faith**

To whom shall we go?  
You have the word of eternal life,  
and we have believed and have come to know  
that You are the Holy One of God.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of endless glory.

## **Bible Readings** (see pages 20-24)

### **Prayers of Intercession**

We intercede for others in the quiet of our hearts.  
Lord meet us in the silence and hear our prayer.

*Pray for yourself in your isolation that God would sit with you.*

*Pray for others in their loneliness.*

*Pray for our country.*

*Pray for the world.*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever.  
Amen.

## **Canticle**

Christ, as a light  
Illumine and guide me.  
Christ, as a shield  
overshadow me.  
Christ under me;  
Christ over me;  
Christ beside me  
on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;  
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.  
This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Christ as a light;  
Christ as a shield;  
Christ beside me;  
on my left and my right.

## **Blessing**

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
May he guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.  
May he bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders he has shown you.  
May he bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

In the name of The Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

## Compline (night prayer)

\* It is recommended that a time of quietness should precede Compline, emptying out all the tensions and concerns of the past day and shifting the focus of our attention back to God.

If it helps you can make the sign of the cross silently before starting the spoken prayers.

## Compline (Church of England)

### Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. Amen.

*\*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.*

Most merciful God, we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins,  
heal us by your Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever.

Amen.

## Hymn

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray:  
protect us by your mighty grace,  
grant us your mercy and your peace:

Bless us in sleep, that we may find  
no terrors to disturb our mind;  
our cunning enemy restrain  
guard us from sin and all its stain.

O Father, may your will be done  
through Jesus Christ your only Son;  
whom with the Spirit we adore,  
one God, both now and evermore.

**Psalmody** (*anyone from those below could be used or one of your choice*)

## Psalm 4

Answer me when I call to you,  
O God who declares me innocent.  
Free me from my troubles.  
Have mercy on me and hear my prayer.  
How long will you people ruin my reputation?  
How long will you make groundless accusations?  
How long will you continue your lies?

### *Interlude*

You can be sure of this:  
The Lord set apart the godly for himself.  
The Lord will answer when I call to him.  
Don't sin by letting anger control you.  
Think about it overnight and remain silent.

Offer sacrifices in the right spirit, and trust the Lord.  
Many people say, "Who will show us better times?"

Let your face smile on us, Lord.

You have given me greater joy  
than those who have abundant harvests of grain and new wine.

In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.*

### **Psalm 91**

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High  
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare about the Lord:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;  
he is my God, and I trust him.

For he will rescue you from every trap  
and protect you from deadly disease.

He will cover you with his feathers.

He will shelter you with his wings.

His faithful promises are your armour and protection.

Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies in the day.

Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness,  
nor the disaster that strikes at midday.

Though a thousand fall at your side,  
though ten thousand are dying around you,  
these evils will not touch you.

Just open your eyes, and see how the wicked are punished.

If you make the Lord your refuge,  
if you make the Most High your shelter,  
no evil will conquer you;  
no plague will come near your home.  
For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.  
they will hold you up with their hands  
so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.  
You will trample upon lions and cobras;  
you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!

The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me.  
I will protect those who trust in my name.  
When they call on me, I will answer;  
I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honour them.  
I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation."

*Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning  
is now and shall be for ever. Amen.*

### **Psalm 134**

Oh, praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
you who serve at night in the house of the Lord.  
Lift your hands toward the sanctuary,  
and praise the Lord.  
May the Lord, who made heaven and earth,  
bless you from Jerusalem.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning  
is now and shall be for ever. Amen.*

## Reading

*One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read.*

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name;  
leave us not, O Lord our God.

*Jeremiah 14.9*

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling  
round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour.  
Resist him, strong in the faith.

*1 Peter 5.8, 9*

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God,  
whose name will be on their foreheads.  
There will be no more night:  
they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun,  
for God will be their light,  
and they will reign for ever and ever.

*Revelation 22.4, 5*

## Responsory

The Nunc dimittis

Save us, O Lord, while waking, into your hands,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel  
Save us, O Lord, while waking, into your hands,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.

*Luke 2.29-32*

### **Or in Easter**

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.  
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.  
For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. Alleluia, alleluia  
Keep me as the apple of your eye.  
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

### **Prayers**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray  
and drive from it the snares of the enemy.  
May your holy Angels dwell with us and guard us in peace  
and may your blessings be always upon us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen.

Prayers are offered which may conclude with:

In peace we will lie down and sleep  
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.  
The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon us  
and be gracious to us,  
the Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace.  
Amen.

*All Common Worship material is © The Archbishops' Council*

## The Patrick Compline (Celtic tradition)

In the name of the King of life:  
In the name of the Christ of love;  
In the name of the Holy Spirit:  
the Triune of my strength.

I Love you , O Lord my strength the Lord is my rock,  
my fortress and my deliverer.  
My God is my rock in whom I take refuge.

I will praise the Lord who counsels me.  
even at night my heart instructs me.

I have set the Lord always before me.  
Because He is at my right hand,  
I shall not be shaken.

I am placing my soul and my body  
under thy guarding this night, O Christ.  
May Thy cross this night be shielding me.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.

The God of life with guarding hold you;  
the Loving Christ with guarding fold,  
the Holy Spirit, guarding, mould you;  
each night of life to aid, enfold you;  
each day and night of life uphold you.

May God shield me;  
may God fill me;  
may God keep me;  
may God bring me this night;  
to the nearness of His love.

The peace of the Father of joy,  
the peace of the Christ of hope,  
the peace of the Spirit of grace.  
The peace of all peace be mine this night  
In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

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## **Collects and Readings for each Sunday:**

### **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

1 Samuel 16.1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5.8-14 John 9.1-41

Merciful Lord,  
you know our struggle to serve you:  
when sin spoils our lives  
and overshadows our hearts,  
come to our aid and turn us back to you again;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)**

Ezekiel 37.1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50.4-9a

Psalms 31.9-16 Philippians 2.5-11 Matthew 26.14 - 27.66

True and humble King,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

## **Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12.1-4[5-10], 11-14 Psalm 116.1,10-17

1 Corinthians 11.23-26 John 13.1-17,31b-35

God our Father,  
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end  
and drank the cup prepared for him:  
may we who share his table  
watch with him through the night of suffering  
and be faithful.

## **Good Friday**

Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10.16-25 John 18.1-19.42

Eternal God,  
in the cross of Jesus  
we see the cost of our sin  
and the depth of your love:  
in humble hope and fear  
may we place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Easter**

Acts 10.34-43 or Jeremiah 31.1-6 Psalm 118.1-2,14-24  
Colossians 3.1-4 or Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18 or Matthew 28.1-10

God of glory, by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **The Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2.14a,22-32 Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1.3-9 John 20.19-31

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.

### **The Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2.14a,36-41 Psalm 116.1-3,10-17 1 Peter 1.17-23  
Luke 24.13-35

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2.19-25 John 10.1-10

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7.55-60 Psalm 31.1-5,15-16  
1 Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17.22-31 Psalm 66.7-18 1 Peter 3.13-22  
John 14.15-21

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Ascension Day**

Acts 1.1-11 or Daniel 7.9-14 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1.15-23 or Acts 1.1-11 Luke 24.44-53

Risen Christ,  
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
now and for ever.

## **Sunday after Ascension Day**

Acts 1.6-14 Psalm 68.1-10,32-35  
1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11 John 17.1-11

Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin  
may find forgiveness and know your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Pentecost**

Acts 2.1-21 or Numbers 11.24-30 Psalm 104.26-36,37b  
1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 or Acts 2.1-21 John 20.19-23 or John 7.37-39

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.