

# OTTERY ST MARY PARISH CHURCH

Part of the Otter Vale  
Mission Community



## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May Seventh Sunday of Easter

Today we welcome Rev Mac Dick to lead our Sunday morning service in church.

This week's St Mary's Musings has been recorded by Rev Lionel Stock and will be available from Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at <https://www.otterystmary.org.uk/online-services>

**10.00am**

**Morning Service**  
John 17:6-19

Rev Mac Dick

### Today's Collect

**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.**

### Collection for India

There will be a retiring collection for India, currently overwhelmed by Covid-19 with the health system unable to cope. There will be a bowl at the back or you can use the card reader on the Welcome Desk.

**Next Sunday – Pentecost – 10am Morning Service**  
**Rev Canon Dr John Hall**

## Reflection for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter from Caroline Poultney

Recently I had a short unforeseen stay in hospital; it was a scary episode because it took me and my family back to the time 18 months ago when I was far more seriously ill, and once again I gave myself over to the expertise of our medical services to prevent the possibility of worsening health. The stability of my family's daily life changed instantly: no longer was I wishfully 'in control' of events as we tried to manage this new anxiety and to keep closest friends and family informed without worrying them unduly. My work commitments were hastily shelved; I was no longer 'in control' in my business environment either and I had to let go and trust in all the help that was offered.

In a practical sense submission to medical resources and minds infinitely superior to my own was essential. Without any question we applaud the NHS: for their systems, their procedures, their medicines, their research – but mostly for their people. From the '111' telephone service to the GP, and then to the hospital with its teams of doctors, nurses, laboratory workers, administrators, cleaners, porters, caterers and more: they all showed such kindness and compassion to me in my time of weakness.

'Care' is a simple four-letter word, but its significance is huge. I thank anyone who works in our health system for my care, and for the care of the many other people who I came across during my brief stay in hospital. But there is more to 'care' than physical repair and maintenance. We can find strength in weakness, within ourselves, and in others.

In John 17:6-19, one of this Sunday's lectionary readings, Jesus prays for his disciples that they may be kept safe by the name of Jesus as they are sent into the world. My friends, family and colleagues prayed for my safety; and I too spent much time in prayer and in reading from the Bible. These are some examples of where I found myself in my reading:

- Psalm 41:1 "Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble." A reminder of so many people who are employed in care services whose dedication and loving kindness is a reflection of Christ's own ministry to the sick.
- The Book of Job which inspires unwavering faith in God through immense suffering. How much more are other people currently suffering than I with my own relatively trivial health scare.
- The Book of Ruth demonstrating courage, service, and love of others before oneself.
- Finally 2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my prayer is made perfect in weakness."

As well as being able to return home to recuperate I was able to reflect on that theme of finding strength in weakness, for this is where we find God's care. God's care works through others, and I pray God's blessing on all who minister healing and care whether in hospital, at home, or in the workplace, and on all those who receive it.

My closing words are from Psalm 27:13-14 "I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

May God's grace strengthen us all, protect us, and keep us safe, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

## Church Diary for the w/c 17<sup>th</sup> May

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10- <b>11.30am</b> 12.00pm Afternoon	Morning Prayer, Dorset Aisle Church Open for Private Prayer Funeral Service for June Rogers OVMC Parish Visits (prior to the interview)
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am 7.30pm	Interview Day Knightstone Manor Interment of Ashes (June Rogers) Emergency PCC Meeting via Zoom
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10am-12pm 11.30am	Church Open for Private Prayer Funeral Service for Mick Broadhurst at East Devon Crematorium

## Church News and Notices

**In our prayers** – Gill and Michael White, Dorothy Ward, Myra Risk, Jayne Costello, Hazel Abley, Pat Cottrell, Patricia Jackson, Anne Decent, Ruth and Barrie Swift, Derek Baxter, Pat Roy, Rosemary Dafforn, who is still in the RD&E, and her husband Ken, Ben and family, John Sweeting. We pray for the bereaved, especially the families of Mick Broadhurst, Pam Whiteley and June Rogers, who was a member of our Mothers' Union.

**Private Prayer on Wednesday** – Please note Private Prayer will finish half an hour early this week at 11.30am, for June Rogers' funeral at 12.00pm.

**APCM** – At our APCM on Wednesday evening, Margaret Whitlock and Rosie Hall were elected as churchwardens for the coming year. Sue Clayton, Ruth Sims, Steve King, Sheila Williams and Michael Farley were elected to join the PCC. Mark thanked Mark Rix, retiring from the PCC at the end of his three year term of service and Grenville Gilbert, retiring church warden.

**Coffee & Chat** – We are hoping to be able to start up our Coffee & Chat mornings on Tuesday in the Dorset Aisle from Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am-11.30am. More information to follow.

**“A Handful of Thoughts on Pentecost”** is a booklet put together by Pat and Roy McClymont for the Tuesday night house group members, but copies can be made available to anyone who would like one. Please speak to Brian Cammack or contact the church office.

**Churches Together initiative to pray for local shops and businesses** - As the shops and businesses in our community emerge from a tough year we would like to get behind them in prayer. This is one way in which we, as Christians, can seek to be a blessing to our neighbours. We'd like to invite individuals from across our churches to join with us by taking on responsibility to pray for one particular shop or business on a regular basis. If enough people are willing then, between us, we could have all of them covered. If you would like to join us in this way, can I invite you to let us know by return or, even better, to email Heather Broadbent directly at [heatherbroadbent2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heatherbroadbent2000@yahoo.co.uk) In your reply you may wish to:-

1. nominate a couple of shops / businesses that you already feel some connection with. If they are not already matched then Heather will allocate you to pray for one of these
  2. volunteer to pray for more than one shop / business, if you feel you have time.
- Anna Roderick, Love Ottery.

**Toddler group, Monday afternoon, from June 7<sup>th</sup>** – It's not too late to put your name forward to help with this important initiative, reaching out to young families. Please let Margaret Whitlock know or contact the church office and please pray for this new venture!

### **Charity of the Month – Mercy Ships**

You can support Mercy Ships via our contactless card machine in church, by cheque payable to "Ottery St Mary PCC" and posted to our treasurer at Keppel Gate, Higher Ridgeway, Ottery St Mary EX11 1TJ. Please write Mercy Ships on the back of your cheque. Or by BACs to The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ottery St Mary Sort Code: 09-01-29 Acc no: 36273067, using Mercy Ships as your reference.

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