

The Parishes of St Edmund, Allestree and St Matthew, Darley Abbey

Mothering Sunday 22nd March 2020



If life had been normal we would have had 5 services today, instead we have 0. The good news is that Peter and Clive have both posted their sermons on line (there is no avoiding them!). For them, and for other material to help you worship and pray, have a look at

<https://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk/worship-while-our-buildings-are-closed>

Redemptorist Press, who produce the printed sheets we use at St Matthew's, are making them available on line, so you can find the Collect, Psalm and Bible Readings there. This week's is posted on the front page of our website. St Matthew's choir were going to sing 'The Lord bless you and keep you' *John Rutter* and St Edmund's 'Shall we not love thee, mother dear' *Simon Lole* - you can find performances of both on youtube.

Please pray for our world, our families, our NHS, our churches and communities. Give thanks for your mother, your family, our medical staff, and for the technology which is enabling us to keep in touch with each other at this time.

A simple Order for Morning and Evening Prayer has been made available in the April magazines that have been/are being delivered round the parishes. It is also available in the churches and on the webpage. We hope that St Edmund's will remain open during the day, and you are welcome to go in, to think and pray. Please be aware of other people, follow the social distancing rules, and keep safe. Please understand if there are occasions when the church is locked. We will try and have St Matthew's unlocked more often - look for the 'Church Open' signs. Peter will continue to say Morning and Evening Prayer, although (see below) he will now be doing it at home, and will have less of an excuse that he is "too busy". Please pray for us, as we pray for you.

Please keep in touch with each other. If anyone is self-isolating, we would like to know. Peter and Julie are now in isolation on the orders of a doctor who isn't related to us - we are OK and have everything we need. You can contact us on 01332 551404, or email revpeterbarham@btinternet.com. Caroline is mainly working from home, but is checking the office answer machine and emails regularly - 01332 552031, steds.stmatts@outlook.com. The church website is being regularly updated - www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk - and we are using facebook @stmatthewsdarleyabbey, @stedmundsallestree and twitter steds&stmattsderby.

There is nothing happening in the Church Hall or the Fellowship Room this week.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.