



## **St Paul's Egham Hythe, Thorpe Road TW18 3HJ**

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*"We are a diverse community of people who receive God's love and seek to show, share and tell of that love to everyone."*

**COVID-19:** The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings have had to be closed. Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but we must physically distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020** *Passion Sunday*

*Don't forget to change your clocks!*

**No services in church – please pray at home**

**10am – Morning Worship where we are.**

**We stand on holy Ground. Reflecting on Exodus 3.**

We are a scattered community, but God is with us. Step aside and see his glory. Please download the service sheet if possible, and pray at home at 10am.



And if you'd like to and able to join in on Zoom using a phone or computer we're going to have a go at praying through the service together that way too. Details of how to link are on the back of this news sheet.

**Sunday worship on the BBC:**

**8.10am** A service for **Passion Sunday** on BBC Radio 4

**13.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise** BBC 1 Songs of Hope with Stephen Cottrell

**Caring for one another in the St Paul's family**

Thank you for looking out for each other through these times – we can't be together but we're still a family and I've very much valued the different encouragements and answers to prayer we've seen this week. If you'd like to sign up for our email updates or to connect through WhatsApp please let us know. Do keep in touch and if you need practical help with something or to have a chat please ask, and also let us know if you can offer to help. We're working with the various agencies to serve our wider community too and more information about that is on the back. Most of all, keep praying!

## Reflection for the week. Benedict

*Steve Baynes reflects on finding a rhythm for these times...*



When I was studying Theology at college I fell in love with early Church History. More specifically, I fell in love with the development of its spirituality. From the solitude of the Desert Fathers to the discernment of Ignatius all of the disciplines spoke deeply to my own soul.

However, the one man, and his order, that stood out for me was Benedict of Norcia. The Rule that he wrote resulted in him becoming the most influential monastic leader in the Western church. At its heart was a pattern of work and prayer which, rather than operating as two individual processes, were woven together to form a distinct pattern for each day.

I don't know how anyone else's week has been but mine has been frantic – a never ending round of video conferenced meetings stuck in my shoffice (we have a shed that is operating as an office...). I have lost track of time and, to be honest, I'm not really sure what actual day it is. I am without structure and floundering.

As we have all adjusted our lives in this unparalleled time, it is our new structures that take some getting used to. The regularity of when we do things, where we go, who we see, what time we eat may seem out of our control and disorganised – especially when young children are involved. To balance this, we need to put structure in place to create order and apply some rules. Then we can be productive, be focused and get on with what we need to do.

And it's in times like this that I start to lean back on my learnings from Benedict. Just as we need order and structure physically so we need it spiritually. Introducing a rhythm of work AND prayer into our daily lives helps us to deepen our relationship with God and to serve Him more faithfully. Setting a structure for the day that includes time to reflect, pray and listen is fundamental for our Spiritual development. Committing to a set time to pray the Daily Office from the sheets that were distributed prior to Mothering Sunday is a good way to engage in this process and a great way to start the day before anything else gets in the way.

Creating a space for Christ to be present with us amongst the challenge and difficulty of these times is the one certainty we can create. Benedict's first attempt to establish a monastery was disastrous and the monks tried to poison him (see how tough it was then Rosie!?). But he persisted in his walk with Jesus and some 1500 years later his Rule still resonates with millions of Christians as a set of principles and practices they build into the rhythm of their daily lives.

It doesn't have to be Benedict - feel free to also investigate the Franciscan, Ignatian and Carmelite Orders amongst others. Ian Adams says, in his book, *Cave, Refectory, Road*, that we should "scrump apples in the monastery orchard". But whatever route we choose his further point stands true, "We cannot create a holy moment. We cannot manipulate the divine. What we can do is create a space for the possibility of encounter." May we create our rhythm, find our space and listen for God. We may then just hear his heart beat.

**AMEN**

## **We pray**

**In our cycle of praying for roads in the parish, today we pray for those living in:** Huntingfield Way, Hythe Field Avenue, Hythe Park Road

**For those who are sick or needing our prayers including:** Ria, Edna K, Laura, Sammy, Sarah, Kevin T, Stamford, Peter, Bill, Marylin, Colin and Tom P.

**For those who have died** and at their year's mind George Hickmott, William Taylor, Florence Cox, Elizabeth Smithers, Leslie Smither, Tony Otterwell, Margaret Crowie, Patricia Armsworth and Harry Otterwell.

**For our world,** and our local community as we respond to these times. For all the NHS and other key workers. For our local Foodbank, Runnymede Council, and all the local agencies working together to support the most vulnerable.

**A Prayer from the World Council of Churches:** God of life, you have promised to be with us every day, also in difficult days, like in times like these. Give us clarity in our minds, strength in our work and discernment, rest as we sleep, peace in our minds. Be with those who need help more than we do ourselves help us to see what we can offer from your love. Amen.

## Working with our community

We have taken time to ensure that any response we can give as a Church joins up strategically with the main support focus that is being created. Runnymede Borough Council are working alongside a Community Group called Egham & Englefield Green Mutual Aid as their main support function. Steve is involved in planning and discussions with them as they structure their response into Egham Hythe alongside that in Egham Town and Englefield Green. We'll keep you up to date with what's happening – do look out for information on Facebook and the website.

## Instructions about connecting to Zoom

Anyone who wants to should be able to join in on Sunday either by phone or a device (smartphone, tablet, PC or Mac) and full details of how to participate will be posted on the website. If you are already connected through iKnow you will automatically receive an e-mail but if you are not please e mail [churchwarden@speh.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@speh.org.uk) and Steve will be in touch with details.



## “Zanna’s Paws”

Thank you Zoe and Rebecca for this lovely picture of Zanna. Watch out for updates from the Vicar’s cat. But today she’s just sitting in the sunshine!

**Please keep in touch!**

**[www.speh.org.uk](http://www.speh.org.uk)**

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