

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Parish Church of St Laurence Frodsham

“To know God and to make God known”

New Website: <https://slfchurch.org> **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/saintells/>

15th MARCH 2020

A strange and very different newsletter this week.

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice.

St Laurence Church will remain open during the day where possible but it is with sadness that we have to let you know that no public worship services, groups and events will place until further notice.

This includes cancellation of the Spring Lunch and Noddfa Retreat.

Prayers will be said in church each day on behalf our congregation and the parish of Frodsham. Please continue to leave prayer requests on the prayer board or email them to saintells@gmail.com if that's easier.

Overleaf is the Gospel reading for Sunday and some thoughts that may add to your reading of it. You'll also find prayers, at least one of which is suitable for children and prayers for particular people.

You may find the prayer diary in the Parish Magazine would be useful. Copies are still available in church.



This Sunday, Mothering Sunday, the church will be open for prayer from 8am onwards. By 10am posies of flowers made by MU in their own homes will be available for people to pick up.

We will also arrange for posies to be distributed to those we know will be unable to pop in church.

Light a candle of hope: A national call to prayer

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic we are called, together with all churches around the world, to a National Day of Prayer and Action.

At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.



If you would have concerns, need help or would like to talk to someone either email saintells@gmail.com or ring Betty.

Food Bank You will still be able to drop items for the Food Bank in church. Current needs are particularly for UHT milk and tinned tomatoes. Please note that they can only use food that is in date. The Foodbank is operating through the current crisis. Visit the website runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk to see other ways to help - e.g. volunteering, donating funds, or how to access a food voucher if you need help.

Many people will now find it difficult to make their usual weekly contributions to the church. If you like to contribute directly our Bank Account details are as follows: Sort Code: 09-01-55 Account No: 42559803

Please let Kath know any information for the website to keep it up-to-date and relevant, particularly at this time. Contributions for the Newsletter should be emailed to saintells@gmail.com by midday on Thursday. We encourage you to share your experience of this time that may be an encouragement to others.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. **Amen.**

John 9 Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind New International Version

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked. ¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” ¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” ²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” ²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?” ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshipped him.

The difference Jesus made to the life of the man was immense. I wonder do we always acknowledge, or even allow, God to make a similar difference in our lives. Many questions are asked during the reading both by the disciples and the pharisees. Are there questions you’d like to ask Jesus about the story, or indeed the man? As you read, did you notice particularly any words or phrases?

I am reminded of words from Prayers to Start my Day that are used within the daily worship of our church, ‘We are as Christians, a Resurrection people. We believe that tombs are only temporary resting places. Yet we can live a very different reality in our daily thoughts and plans. We tell ourselves that we will never overcome some problem or issue. We tell ourselves that some people are beyond help or forgiveness. We believe in Resurrection, but we live at times among the tombs of disappointment.’

At this time of pandemic, when much seems out of control, let us be reminded that this is a testing time for us as individuals as well as for us as a community. What is our prayer today? Where will we catch glimpses of God’s love and compassion in the days and weeks to come?

The peace of the Lord be always with you. Amen.