

**The Rectory
Rectory Close
Radyr CF15 8EW
vicki.burrows@me.com
Tel 029 20842417 or 07515 965781**

Dear Friends,

*...for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
In sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part*

On Saturday 17th April 2021 at 12 noon The Reverends Belinda Huxtable and Simon Freeman were married in St Mary's in the Parish of St Fagan's. Their wedding, conducted by Bishop June, will be witnessed by only a handful of people and recorded for family and friends unable to join us. A few hours later, The Archbishop of Canterbury will conduct the funeral of Prince Philip in St George's Chapel, Windsor. The congregation will be tiny but millions will watch at home giving thanks for a man whose life of service and devotion inspired us and touched the lives of countless people but most especially the Queen and her family.

The Covid Pandemic has affected so many families' significant moments. Weddings and baptisms have been cancelled or deferred, funerals have taken place without friends or family, and mourners have wept alone. We want to believe that life is beginning to return to normal but in truth we are still learning to live with Covid and its unknown mutations. Simon and Belinda's wedding and Prince Philip's funeral reflect the difficulties so many of us are facing.

I'm delighted to announce that on 2nd May we shall begin a gradual reopening of our churches for public worship. Services will take place at 9.15am in St John's, 10am in St Mary's and 11am in Christ Church and at least one service each week will be recorded or live streamed. Once again we will make every effort to ensure that you are kept safe through social distancing and thorough sanitisation. We hope to reintroduce our 8am and 6pm services and small afternoon baptisms before too long.



Week by week during Lent we set aside time individually and corporately to reflect on our own shortcomings, to repent of our sinfulness but now, in this Easter season, what should we do? Here is the answer according to one of the Collects for today,

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. **Amen**

Rather than writing at length this week, I would like you to write to me. Please spend some time thinking and praying the Collect Prayer until you get a sense or idea of how God might be calling us to proclaim Christ's risen life in our communities. I am tempted to make suggestions, share some plans or even tell you what I think the churches could or should be doing as we begin to emerge from this lockdown. But I will resist this temptation and, trusting in "the priesthood of all believers", wait to hear from you.

Next week I plan to share your ideas, so please take this opportunity to think and pray and imagine how our churches could proclaim the gospel afresh in the aftermath of Covid. I promise you this Collect does not say "strengthen the clergy to proclaim your risen life" but makes clear that we, who are the body of Christ in this broken and hurting world, are in this together. I hope that in the coming days I will receive emails and letters with ideas and suggestions. After all, if I have understood correctly, we are all called to be witnesses to the resurrection.

In hope and with love,

Vicki X