

Emergency Bulletin 7: 1 May 2020

Where is God in Coronavirus?

While the brightest and best minds are researching new vaccines against COVID, or developing policies to relax the lockdown safely, the rest of us need to keep our minds active. You may enjoy Sudoku or cross-words but we also need to think theologically and biblically:

Where is God in this crisis?

Some sceptics are quick to say that the existence of evil just proves there is no God, I will begin to address these questions in Sunday's livestream sermon, which you will also be able to read in a fuller version on the church website. Why not read John 11.1-44 before Sunday in preparation?

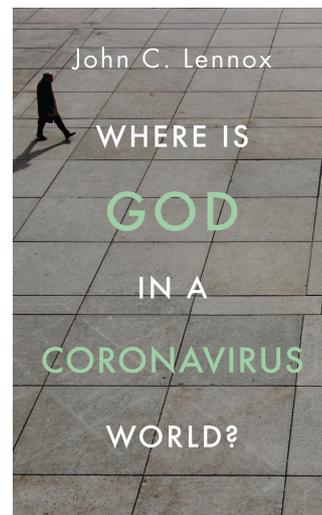
It is easy to leap to wrong conclusions, so we need to think carefully, and to seek God's wisdom through humble and prayerful reading of scripture. God has given us the gift of reason, and his trustworthy revelation in scripture. A living faith will seek understanding. Until we have begun to discern God's will we will hardly know how to pray. I need to keep saying this: each one of you needs to be reading the bible and praying daily: I can't do it for you!

My deepest concern is not that we reach theological agreement, but that we learn urgently to pray aright. While our leaders are thinking hard about our

problems, they are not calling us to prayer, as King George VI did on 26 May 1940 when disaster threatened the British army trapped at Dunkirk. Then the nation prayed. Our prayerless silence today reveals the practical atheism that pervades our culture.

I long to see a movement of prayer, crying to God for deliverance from our troubles, and for a revival of faith in Jesus Christ. We will be setting out plans for a week of prayer at the end of May, but you don't need to wait till then to start praying, and to start thinking.

So I would like to commend a short book by John Lennox, emeritus Professor of Mathematics from Oxford, and an able Christian apologist. He brings a helpful mix of scientific sense and Christian faith to the question. You can order a [copy online here](#), or I can post a copy to you for £3 (we'll sort payment later!).



yours in Christ,
Graham

PPT CHURCH FINANCE LETTER

Thank you to the 29 people who have contacted the treasurer in response to my congregational letter of 17 April. Their generosity- new and increased pledges- will raise about £7500 a year, which will enable the PCC to save some staff posts, but not all. If you regard PPT as your church but have not yet made a response, please contact the treasurer Mrs T Percy, 5 Long Barton, Kingsteignton, TQ12 treasurer@pptbovey.org.uk by Sunday 3 May, so that the PCC may make financially prudent decisions at its next meeting on Wed 6 May.

COUNTY LINES DRUG GANGS

The police are cracking down on 'County Lines' drug gangs: if you see anything suspicious in your neighbourhood, such as unknown characters or lots of comings and goings from houses, then please report it through our online contact

channels: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/> Alternatively you can call CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report online: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> .”

DAILY HOPE by telephone

The Church of England has launched a free telephone line with hymns, thoughts and prayers, introduced by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Each message last about 20 minutes, and is FREE!



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

		<u>Contacts</u>		
Vicar:			Play Worker:	
Rev Graham Hamilton	833813		Rachel Knightly	07914 884261
e: pptbovey@mac.com			Ministry Assistant: (on furlough)	
			Mark Alexander	07955 716329
Readers:			e: mark@pptbovey.org.uk	
Eleanor Oelmann	682643		Sick Visiting Co-ordinator:	
Carolyn Laycock	832335		Jill Hosford	832966
PPT Churchwardens:			PPT Church Office Manager & Safeguarding Representative	
Roy White	832771		Mark Sugden	07508008143
Mike Limb	832705		e: admin@pptbovey.org.uk	834835
St Mary's Churchwardens:			(normally Thurs & Fri; 0900-1700)	
Frances Swan	437895		Website	
Miles Pomfrett	331062		https://www.pptbovey.org.uk	
PCC Hon Treasurer:			Facebook	
Tafline Percy:			https://www.facebook.com/pptbovey	
treasurer@pptbovey.org.uk				

Online Services this week

Sunday: Churches Together in Bovey Tracey, Heathfield, Lustleigh, Liverton and Hennock invite you to join the [10.30am Livestream Service](#) with a children's talk from Abi Evans. Graham is preaching on John 11.17-44. During and after the service [for 15mins] live-chat comments will be open on the youtube broadcast page. Parents can request children's resources by e-mailing hello@boveychurchestogether.org.uk You can also listen through Zoom

Future plans

The livestream channel was set up as a temporary response to the lockdown. By working rapidly and co-operatively we have been able to continue to support and serve Christians in the Bovey Valley community. We have received feedback that the Channel has been an encouragement and has reached a wider audience than regular church attenders. In the coming weeks we will be reviewing the service taking into consideration the long-term picture.

Pray with us for 30 minutes each day:

Monday

9am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Tuesday

7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom: note a different Meeting ID: 203 925 6192

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2039256192>

Wednesday

9am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Thursday

7am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Friday

9am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Saturday

7pm Night Prayer on Zoom

You can join in all these meetings from your phone! Call 0203 481 5240, and then enter the meeting ID 102 163 519#. From a tablet or computer either use a web browser <https://zoom.us/j/102163519> or enter the meeting ID102 163 519 on the free Zoom app.



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Most of the plans to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the War in Europe

have been cancelled because of the Lockdown. But you could mark this historic occasion at home by making bunting and holding a 1940s tea party at home, with games and activities for children: for ideas go to <https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/plan-your-ve-day-party/>

- Winston Churchill's famous victory speech will be broadcast at 3pm.
- A two minute silence at 11am
- Her Majesty the Queen will address the nation at 9pm on BBC1
- The nation sings "We'll meet again"
- The Sunday Livestream service on 10 May will also mark VE day.

VOICES OF BOVEY VALLEY

We are now looking for amateur singers young and old (*especially who feel part of the Bovey Valley community*) to join this online choir to sing the modern Hymn 'In Christ Alone' to be broadcast on Sunday 17th May during the livestream. If you would like to be a part of 'Voices of Bovey Valley' e-mail hello@boveychurchestogether.org.uk We will send out instructions on the 4th May with the closing date for singing on the 12th May. Call Jon Evans on 07971 422431 if you have any questions.

Prayer Diary: *with readings and psalms for Morning Prayer*

Mon 4 May: Ps 103, Exodus 32.1-14

Pray for the families of John Parry and Elizabeth Driver, whose funerals are being held at Exeter Crematorium today

Tue 5 May: Ps 146, Exodus 32.15-34

Pray for the Government review of the Lockdown and safe plans to relax the restrictions and revive the economy

Wed 6 May: Ps 135, Exodus 33

Pray for the Parochial Church Council meeting tonight to review our finances and to make plans for restoring public worship and groups

Thu 7 May: Ps 118, Exodus 34.1-10, 27-end

Pray for researchers and doctors seeking to develop reliable tests and effective vaccines, and for volunteers in human trials.

Fri 8 May: (VE Day) Ps 33, Exodus 35.20-26.7

Give thanks for the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2, and pray that the nations of Europe may work together in peace.

Sat 9 May: Ps 34, Exodus 40.17-end

Pray that Heatree Activity Centre may resume its work and witness with schools and churches when the lockdown is eased

Sun 10 May: Ps 30, Ezekiel 37.1-12

Pray for fresh vision for the churches as they seek to prepare for new and flexible ways of working as the lockdown is eased.

Pray for the sick: Donald Sykes, Lorna Seidel, Lizzie Hamilton, Avery Matthews, David Alexander, Rob Martin, Pam Awcock and family, Michelle Sadd, Margaret Woodmansey, Dani Tanimowo, Mathew Percy, Eric and Marion Lodge, Christine and Graham Downing, Lawrence Hall, Nancy Adams, Rose Maina, Jonathan Duff

For the bereaved family of:

Wyn Mear, who died in Kingsmount nursing home, Paignton, aged 91
John Underwood who died at home, aged 89

Collect: Prayer of the week - The fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

