

Dear Friends,

16th April 2020

Happy Easter! Have you seen our wonderful 'Christ the Redeemer' banner which Jane Coulson has created on our behalf? It's modelled on the statue in Rio, with a shadow of multi-coloured life and compassion which the risen Christ brings to the world. The banner might look tiny here, but it's actually 8.5 by 4 feet and will go in the chancel arch as soon as church reopens.



At this very strange Eastertide, we know the strength of hope and love and yet it can be difficult to engage because anxiety, uncertainty and mourning are very present. The risen Christ meets us where we are, as we are, with what we have. Mary at the tomb on Easter morning initially didn't recognise Jesus after his resurrection, even though she knew him so well, and perhaps it's really hard for us to try and make sense of all this from inside the experience.

Services on Sunday 19 April are 8am Communion (BCP), 10am Parish Communion and 6pm short time of prayer – all live-streamed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/greatmissendenchurch (choose 'Live' from the left menu if we don't pop up) and uploaded at www.missendenchurch.org.uk/video soon after.

Lots of people are keeping in touch with one another by phone and we're hearing this is really helpful, so thank you! We're working on a phone tree to help us all stay connected and supported, as we don't all have each other's phone numbers. Sam Howells, one of our young adults who was part of the REACH youth group, is putting together the phone tree. If you'd like to join in and haven't yet let us know, please contact Harriet our Parish Office Manager or Elizabeth by Tuesday.

Our prayer chain is well-established, and if you have a prayer request for the chain, please contact Mary Saywood or Slava Miles. Mary: 01494 868746 m.saywood@btinternet.com Slava: 01494 863128 slavamiles@gmail.com

So much has changed and we'd love to understand the best ways of communicating at this strange time, and how we can better meet everyone's needs. Please could you complete our short questionnaire? It takes only a minute or two. Paper copies should arrive at the parish office by 27 April or please complete online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VGSYK3F> by 27 April.

Do get in touch if you'd like a chat, a prayer or help. We will write again next week.

With our love and prayers,

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