

Dear Friends,

5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

It seems we often say this, and yet it's true again: much has changed since we last wrote, and lots remains uncertain.



Pentecost and our celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit was necessarily done apart, and yet there was something very special about Compline streamed from the blazing sunshine at St Mary's Ballinger, and also the way several households came together online to reflect, pray and enjoy music for Pentecost (see left). To catch up, visit [www.missendenchurch.org.uk/video](http://www.missendenchurch.org.uk/video) and scroll down to

Pentecost.

Our Christ the Redeemer banner, designed and created by Jane Coulson, is now in church waiting for our return with the purple Lenten altar frontal purposely left in place. It depicts all that Christ brings to the broken world. We have small printed flyers of the banner so everyone can have the same image of Christ in their home now, even while we can't gather. Please get in touch for your copy.

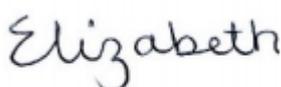


George Floyd was killed in the US last week – just the latest in a series of racist atrocities, and as a result there is a renewed emphasis and recognition that Black Lives Matter. This is an issue of justice and our common humanity; that all people are made in the image of God. "I can't breathe" on the approach to Pentecost in the middle of a pandemic in which the respiratory system is vulnerable and black and minority ethnic people have been disproportionately affected is striking, and calls for a response to this specifically and the broader patterns it reflects. I'm discovering I need to learn how to be positively anti-racist rather than just not racist and this kind of learning needs discussion, prayer, openness and commitment to freedom for all people. As in all things, God is with us and God unites us all, pointing us to change which fully recognises and embraces the value of people who are marginalised.

Our life of prayer, worship and activity continues with 8am, 10am and 6pm services livestreamed on Facebook on Trinity Sunday, and the option of phoning in to listen to audio only by contacting David Harris on 01494 868 237, Zoom coffee on Wednesdays and the choir and children's and youth groups meeting by Zoom. There is also a reflection video live or recorded on Facebook on each weekday at [www.facebook.com/greatmissendenchurch](http://www.facebook.com/greatmissendenchurch)

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

With our love and prayers,



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