

# Distant but United

## St Martin's Parish Church



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 5<sup>th</sup> April



Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

'Alleluia' is my favourite word in the Bible, and when I do school assemblies in Easter Season, I teach the children to shout it at the

top of their voices. They always love that, but I'm not sure the teachers did.

It means 'rejoice', and despite all the pain and anxiety in the world, we are still a people of rejoicing - 'we are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song', as Pope John Paull II said.

There may be cynicism about the 'Clap for Carers' initiative (surely better to fund and equip them than clap...) but we have loved being a part of it. We rejoice and give thanks.

'Give thanks', in Greek, is 'Eucharist'. It's another thing we are called to as Christians, and yet, the Eucharist is something we cannot physically share at this time.

But nevertheless, we can give thanks. I give thanks for the team at church - Chris, Thelma, Graham, Ian, Jackie, Helen, Simon, Joan, Peter(s), Fiona, Paulette, Christine, Deborah, Hazel, Rose, Geoff, and all those who have been so compassionate and caring in these last few unforgettable weeks. Thank you. Alleluia!

*Rev Jonny*

## Weekly Services

I really enjoyed writing and recording the short acts of worship and reflection that I sent out to you in Holy Week. I cannot tell who (if anyone) is listening to them, but I hope they may be of some comfort and encouragement to you at this time.

I have decided to continue in that style for the next few weeks and see how it goes: each Saturday evening I will send out a short order of worship with prayers, readings, reflection and a song. The words are there if you want to read, and the link to the audio recording as well if you would like to listen along.

I'm unlikely to get much more technical than that, as I like to keep things simple, but if you have any constructive and compassionate feedback, I will always look to adapt things as we go along.

It is sad that we cannot gather together for worship - but none of us are forgotten. We all hold one another in prayer and the unity of our community will outlast any adversity. So, I encourage you to pray for one another and for the World.



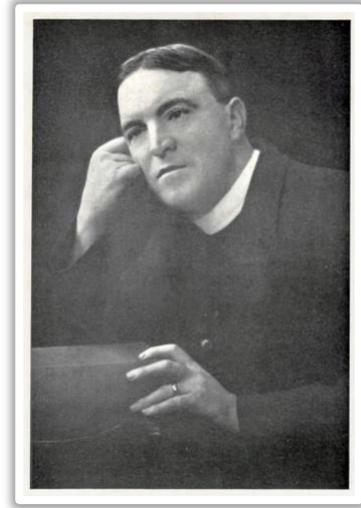
**ASTER**

## Canon John Russell-Wilford

Also, a reminder that Episode 3 of the Occupation Diary of a Country Rector (the memoirs of Canon John Russell-Wilford) is being broadcast **Sunday morning at 9.40am.**

I hope you've been enjoying these, and thank you to those of you who have written to me with your own memories of Canon Wilford.

A remarkable priest.



## Knitted Blanket Squares.

Jackie and Joan have come up with an idea that we could knit a red and white blanket representing St Martin for Mustard Seed.

Mustard Seed do incredible work bringing hope and essential items to people struggling in Romania.

We would be grateful if anyone is willing to knit red or white 6" squares in garter stitch on 4mm needles. Further details can be obtained from Joan on: 854913/07797729745

## Your Generous Giving

On behalf of the church, can I please say a huge 'thank you' to those who have continued their giving, even in the absence of a collection plate. The ministry of the church will continue, come what may, but with your help we can ensure we will meet the costs ahead. Everyone's financial situations are changing as a result of this crisis, so please think carefully of your own needs before you decide whether and how to give.

For details on how to give, ring Thelma on 852709



To speak to Rev Jonny, please ring: 07797 939692 or email: [smartinsrector@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsrector@gmail.com)