

Hi Everyone,

Easter greetings from RLBC! Hope you are all surviving lockdown - Stay safe! Stay Sane!

I know that everything has changed, but Easter hasn't and we are trying to celebrate Christ's resurrection as much as normal.

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Matthew 28: 8-10)

May the joy of the resurrection grip our hearts this Easter and may we have opportunities to share that joy and hope with others. Our nation is afraid, may we be filled with joy ... like the women on that fateful day. Please continue to pray for those grieving and for those struggling with the coronavirus.

Yours in Christ, John.

### **Maundy Thursday (today)**

There will be no daily devotional at 12pm but there is a Tenebrae service on FaceBook and our website at 8pm.

### **Good Friday**

11.15am Joint service with Elmfield - live-streamed on FB and our website

### **Saturday**

12.00pm Daily Devotion on FB

### **Easter Sunday**

11.00am Easter service Livestreamed on FB and our website. Please find a resource sheet attached to help all ages engage with the service.

### **Easter Monday**

There will be no daily devotional and no one will answer the Church Office phone. We are 'shutting down' for one day deliberately to encourage a pattern of rest and 'holiday' in this season where every day feels the same.

Tuesday - Friday daily devotions and the Church Office phone (0208 868 6772) are back to normal.

### **Sunday April 19th**

This will be a 'summary service' reviewing all we have learnt in Matthew 23-25 and Matthew 27-28 (over Easter). We're not sure exactly how this will work but please start re-reading Matthew and thinking about questions and comments. Start emailing them in to the Church Office.

### **Harrow Foodbank @RLBC**

We live in unprecedented times. Sadly, due to volunteers having to stay at home, several Foodbanks have had to temporarily close. Harrow Council and Harrow Foodbank are desperate to open a temporary distribution centre in Rayners Lane during this crisis. While our premises are empty we have a great opportunity to serve our community in Jesus' name. The temporary Foodbank will be open on Mondays from 11am-3pm, starting from April 20th. Please see the attached sheet from Debie for more details.

### **Support @RLBC**

We appreciate that most people are being well supported by family and neighbours. However, if you do need someone to get some shopping for you, pick up your medicine, or whatever do call the Church Office - 0208 868 6772. We have a team of volunteers are willing to help. We are distributing hard copies of this email with audio CDs of the sermons to church members who are not online. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this then please contact the Church Office.

**RLBC finance update**

Several members have asked how covid-19 is affecting us financially. After a couple of weeks it is hard to tell but the LT is tracking this carefully. Celia has provided a helpful update - attached. We plan to send out a report like this every month during the crisis.

**Associate Pastor update**

The LT have decided not to interview anyone in this present crisis. We will re-advertise in the future when things are more certain.

**RLBC private FaceBook group**

While we still want people to post comments and prayer requests on our FB live page, we do want to remind people that this page is public and therefore (theoretically) anyone could read your comments. Therefore we have set up a private group as part of that page for regular attenders to share personal prayer requests. That way only people who are members of the group can read them. The way the group works is that you have to be invited by someone in the group to join and then accept their invitation. If you would like to join the group and have not received an invite then please call or email the Church Office - 0208 868 6772 / churchoffice@rlbc.org.uk .

**Spring Harvest @ Home - 13th-17th April**

Details at: [www.springharvest.org](http://www.springharvest.org)