



Education and Spirituality June 2020

In these strange times, it has been important for St John's to continue to offer a variety of prayer and spirituality resources through online means. Though our usual gatherings and groups have been mostly put on hold we have tried to continue with certain groups via zoom – not just committees and management meetings (important as they are)

Online Worship

We have not only had our 10am Sunday gatherings via Zoom (livecast to YouTube and watchable later also) but we have had video recorded Evensong services which David Strakauskas has put his usual care and creativity into, and to which Patrick has made thoughtful, and lively contributions.

There is posted at noon every Monday through Friday a form of prayer or devotional time. These have used materials from the Iona Community, Society of St Francis, Book of Common Prayer, BAS, Anglican Council of Indigenous People, and a simple form of the Daily Office/Service of the word. We have had contributions from staff members and volunteers, and are also inviting members of the parish community to lead prayers in partnership with members of the ministry team. These online prayers are only an opportunity to explore different forms and styles of worship, but to share liturgical leadership between Clergy and Laity, staff and volunteers.

Ongoing Groups

Though our Lenten Study of Watershed Discipleship was curtailed, I would hope to have some online conversations about this significant subject sometime soon.

Our book group has continued to meet on Monday afternoons, Wednesday Morning's Sermon Circle takes place weekly, and we will be considering how to expand some of our study and discussion opportunities as we continue to explore the possibilities of in-person physically distanced gatherings, and continuing to work with our online zoom and social media resources. Suggestions are welcome!

Moving Forward

I would hope that our teaching/education/learning opportunities will expand in the coming weeks, as we are getting to grips with the realities of our COVID-19 situation. I am grateful that Susan Bangrove had been considering how we might expand our Education and Spirituality programme before the Coronavirus Crisis, and look forward to further discussions with her about how we might facilitate some new ways of engaged and interactive learning.

Alastair