



# The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



“He is Risen!”

‘Church in the Home’

Edition 9

Sunday May 17th – Saturday May 23rd

## From the Vicarage

Bravely stepping into the supermarket for the first time since ‘lockdown’, I noticed a man nervously steering his trolley around the aisles, carefully navigating the guidance tape on the floor and ensuring he maintained the statutory 6 feet away from all other living creatures, save for the screaming, bellowing baby that was sat in front of him. Softly, but repeatedly I heard him gently say, *‘There, there, don’t get upset Albert; don’t scream Albert; don’t yell Albert; keep calm Albert.’* As I approached, I thought some encouragement was in order.

*‘Hello there.’* I said, *‘You’re doing a great job calming your grandson Albert’*

The man turned around and smiling at me said: *‘Thank you .... but I’m Albert!’*

Julia DiDuca brings us our reflection this week and in doing so reminds us of the need we all have for encouragement. Within the last eight weeks of ‘lockdown’, I have come across so many different examples of people encouraging one another with a smile, a telephone call, some practical help or perhaps the writing and sending of a card. It makes such a difference and we’ve all needed some encouragement these last week’s haven’t we? God understands that we need encouragement and the Bible is full of examples where he does precisely that by intervening in people’s lives through the provision of food in the desert, deliverance from danger, healing from sickness, direction when lost, strength when weak etc etc.

Without encouragement, we can swiftly feel overwhelmed or overburdened with life. God reminds us to look to scripture to take encouragement from examples of the past, reminding us that He loves us, that He equips us and that we are treasured. Encouragement is a great motivator. It helps us to increase or maintain our efforts, to complete what we’ve started; to reach our potential. That’s why the writer to the Hebrews says: *‘... encourage one another daily ...’* Heb.3v13, and Paul writing to the church in Thessalonica; *‘Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,’* 1Thess.5v11.

Today’s reading from 1 Peter reminds us that we are all called to encourage others by being able to explain gently and clearly the hope and the encouragement that we have found through our relationship with God, and we can do this in so many different ways. **‘Thy Kingdom Come’** is a global initiative started by the Church of England to pray for God’s kingdom to break into the lives of those we love but who do not yet know that reality for themselves. This will run again from May 21<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> - Ascension day to Pentecost. In our present situation, many churches are using an online presence to share God’s love. Over 5 million people have currently watched the Easter service from Canterbury and churches all over the land are experiencing increased contact with worship and prayer through their websites and social media pages. We are no exception with over 2,384 views in April alone. I hope that you are accessing the available resources and finding them helpful. Why not invite people to visit our pages or to telephone the Church of England’s **‘Daily Hope’** on 0800 804 8044. I know of several folks who have already dialled this number and found great support by doing so.

Where ever we can and *whenever* we can: let’s continue to encourage one another by sharing and showing the love of God with those around us.

*Rev Dave*



## The Lord bless you and keep you

<https://youtu.be/PUtl3mNj5U>

Music from  
Sarah

Although you have had this song before, we felt it was important to share with you what has happened since. The song has become a very powerful anthem for these days all over the world. A vicar/worship leader Tim Hughes from Birmingham was asked to unite the churches together in the UK, to adapt the song for our country and sing the blessing over the whole nation. The result has been astonishing, a completely new version with over 1.2 million views. This is the Church of God united. This is the spirit of the Lord doing His work in these difficult times over our land. I encourage you to watch right to the end. "Our buildings may be closed, but the church is alive. "

The Lord bless you  
And keep you  
Make His face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His  
Face toward you  
And give you peace

Amen, amen, amen  
Amen, amen, amen

May His favour be upon you  
And a thousand generations  
And your family and your children  
And their children, and their children

May His presence go before you  
And behind you, and beside you  
All around you, and within you  
He is with you, He is with you

In the morning, in the evening  
In your coming, and your going  
In your weeping, and rejoicing  
He is for you, He is for you

He is for you, He is for you  
He is for you, He is for you  
He is for you, He is for you

Amen, amen, amen

## Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

<https://youtu.be/LsVuApuurNs>

The next one is a great traditional hymn which links up with the gospel reading. We are not left as orphans in sorrow because His presence is with us through His Holy Spirit comforting us and guiding us. We are encouraged that God is with us "evermore " and our hearts should remember that promise.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!  
His the sceptre, his the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood.  
Jesus, out of every nation,  
Has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us;  
Faith believes nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget his promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of angels  
Thou on earth our food our stay.  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea,  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,  
Thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
Earth your footstool, heaven your throne:  
Thou within the veil, have entered,  
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
Thou on earth both priest and victim  
In the Eucharistic feast!

## Sunday May 17th Bible Readings:



Acts 17:22-31, 1 Peter 3:13-end, John 14:15-21, Psalm 66:7-end

Click on this site, type in the reading you want and then listen to David Suchet read it to you.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Gen.1>

# Reflection

I've really been challenged by this week's readings. How can I share the Good News of Christ as my Lord and Saviour if anyone asks? How can I explain how I feel about my love for someone who I have never seen in the flesh, but know deep in my soul? What if people laugh at me and reject my thoughts? After all, I have to live with and meet people in the street every day. I don't want them to think that I'm weird!

One word links the readings from the gospel of John, the book of Acts and Peter's first letter to the Christians in Asia Minor, which is modern day Turkey, and that's 'encouragement'. Let's delve further into the readings to see what God has to say to us.

Today's gospel reading will be very familiar to many of us. Jesus was in the upper room with his disciples and they had been sharing a meal together. He had told them that he was going to leave them. Imagine yourself as one of the disciples in that situation. You've followed Jesus for the last three years; leaving everything to travel with him, eat with him, listen to his teaching. You rely on him...and now he's leaving? You feel anxious, afraid and perhaps abandoned and you're concerned about what will happen next.

Jesus comforted his disciples and encouraged them by explaining that he would ask God to send them another 'Helper'. Some Bible translations use the words 'Comforter', 'Advocate' or 'Counsellor', but the person he was describing was the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, who can be called upon in times of difficulty. Although Jesus had to go away he promised that the Holy Spirit would stay with the disciples, guiding them and strengthening them. They wouldn't be alone. He reassured them that he would love those who loved him and kept his commandments and that his Father, God, would too. What encouragement that must have been!

Our reading from the book of Acts follows Paul to Athens. Paul, previously known as Saul, the persecutor and enemy of Christians. Paul, who was present when Stephen was killed, who held the cloaks of those who threw the stones. Paul, who Margaret reminded us in her reflection last week 'turned to God on the Damascus road where he had his own very personal encounter with Jesus'.

Paul was in Athens waiting for Silas and Timothy to arrive. He was distressed to find that Athens was swamped by idols but he had also found an altar 'TO A GOD WHO IS NOT KNOWN'. He shared the good news of Jesus rising from the dead with everyone; people in the market place, and Jews and Greeks who worshipped God in the synagogue. Finally he was taken to the meeting of the Areopagus, a council of important leaders, who wanted to hear more about these ideas that were new to them. Paul didn't hold back. He spoke about the God who they wanted to know about. A God not yet known to them. Our Creator God, who breathes life into everything, who is in control, and who wants everyone to search for him until they find him. Finally Paul told the leaders that God raised his chosen one, Jesus, from the dead.

The later chapters of Acts, of which this is one, encourage us to tell others about our faith, as the early Christians did. Paul showed us how we can share our faith. He used language that his listeners would understand, and referred to their poet's writings to show that he knew something of their culture and put them at ease.

Although our reading from Peter is contained in the third chapter of five, it was in fact one long letter that was sent to the Christians in Asia Minor, to instruct them and encourage them because they were being persecuted for following Christ. Peter went with Jesus when he heard the words, "Follow me", and he was with him for three years. He saw what Jesus did and said and he wanted to encourage Christians to follow this pattern, because like them Jesus suffered too. This message is also relevant for us today.

In this section of his letter Peter encourages us to be prepared. The New Living translation says, "So don't be afraid and don't worry. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way."

So I encourage you, in this time of suffering, to consider why you put your trust in Christ. What does he mean to you? Do you have an answer that you can give someone that will encourage them? Remember, the first contact you have with 'an enquirer' could be the most important moment in their lives...and yours.

**Julia DiDuca**

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## Prayers

Dear Lord

We give thanks for the wonderful sunshine that has helped so many through the lambing season. We are blessed living in such a beautiful place.

We give thanks for the wonderful wildlife and fauna all around us.  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those suffering at this testing time. Please give strength to all those who need it whether it is the carers or the patient  
**Lord hear our pray.**

We pray for the friends and family who we miss every day. We give thanks for technology that helps us connect with each other. Even if it is a bit hit and miss.  
**Lord hear our prayer.**

Lord please help those who are trying to find the solutions to the problems. Lord guide the decision makers and help them see the light.

Dear God; thank you for new life especially now when lots of people are poorly.  
Thank you for Doctors and nurses who are looking after everyone.  
Thank you for dogs to help us with sheep who bring new lambs and thank you for wood to build with.  
Thank you for our friends and family who we miss and can't wait to see them again.  
Thank you for Rev Dave for being funny and jolly and kind.

**Amen**

Jackie Masterman – Daisy, Jonny and Emma Cloughton

Merciful Father; accept these prayers, for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Visit our Website for more information, resources and messages [www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk](http://www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk)

...This Sunday ..... This Sunday ..... This Sunday ..... This Sunday ..... This Sunday

**Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:30am**  
**Morning Prayer**



To view this Sunday's service:  
Visit the website or  
our FaceBook page :  
[www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk](http://www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk)  
[upperwensleydalechurch-cofe](http://upperwensleydalechurch-cofe)

**TV**  
**Radio**

## Worship on the BBC:

Tune into some of the services on TV and Radio.

**Sunday: Radio 4** Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am Discovering the gifts of  
the Holy Spirit

**Radio 3**

**Sunday:** Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm from St Pancras Church

**Wednesday:** Choral Evensong 3:30 – 4:30pm Christ Church Cathedral Oxford

**Sunday BBC1** Worship 10:45 – 11:15 St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire

Songs of Praise 1:15 – 1:50 with Aled Jones



**Get Ready!**



Join the **Global** movement of prayer

May 21<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

**Ascension day to Pentecost.**

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Last year saw Christians from 172 different countries take part.

*"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."* Archbishop Justin Welby