



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH *Mottingham*

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Rector: Rev Ian Welch M.A., B.Th. (Hons)

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you all for the Season of Ascension-tide and the coming Festival of Pentecost.

I very much hope that this finds you well and in good spirits, and that you are keeping yourselves refreshed in mind, body, emotion and spirit, despite the evident challenges of these times of lockdown, which began back in Lent. Certainly, the Easter message of new life and hope in the Resurrection of Christ Jesus is a great comfort in these times of self-isolation, social distancing and grave concerns about health, well-being and the financial future.

In Ascension-tide we have the opportunity to join Christians across the world in praying *Thy Kingdom Come*, the aspirational words of our Lord's own prayer. Diocesan resources for this period between Ascension Day and Pentecost, specially adapted the current context, may be viewed at <https://southwark.anglican.org/tkc>

In addition, in this Season in which we reflect and take stock, there are parish resources for doing this through the Service of Night Prayer, to be held on Tuesday 26 May, 8 pm, on Zoom, with the usual ID: 675-014-6024 and Password: 859013, as well as a mid-week Eucharist at 10 am on Wednesday 27 May, and Morning Prayer on Friday 29 May at 10 am (with the same link details). It would be great to see you for any of these services, and join together in praying for the church, the world and for one another.

It is very good to remain connected through a pattern of prayer and worship, and I greatly appreciate your support and encouragement in making this possibility come to fruition, most recently indeed, this very day in the uplifting 'Read-in and Sing-in' in favour of Christian Aid. My very warm thanks to you all for making this fellowship a reality, and to all who contributed to and supported this most enjoyable afternoon of entertainment and reflection. Let's pray that it bears great fruit in generating much needed funds in support of a very worthy cause!

These last weeks have not been easy, and have held challenges of various kinds for us all, and some of these can be cumulative and take us unawares. In facing these pressures, please be assured of the prayers and empathy of myself, Revd Tim and Revd Anne, and please do not hesitate to contact us, if you are seeking a listening ear and pastoral support.

With my warmest thanks, as ever, for our shared fellowship in the Gospel and the sacramental life of Christ, as we await our celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the Spirit's gift of the breath of new life and fiery zeal to the church, which resources all that we do in the Lord's service.

With best wishes and every blessing,
Ian

Revd Ian Welch