

# GRAPEVINE

29th March  
2020

## Our Vision:

Letting people know about the love of Jesus Christ



"Unable are the loved to die. For love is immortality."  
– Emily Dickinson

## Welcome to St Peter & St Mary's Church

Some years ago I planted a magnolia tree in my garden and this year the large petalled flowers burst out into bloom just this last week. It was looking quite spectacular. But as the nighttime temperatures have plummeted so too those promising flowers have all turned brown and died. Something that seemed so cheerful and full of life is suddenly gone.

Except it's not completely gone. The shrub is well-rooted and is still alive. And when all its flowers have all fallen off and will be rotting in the earth there will be leaves that will bud and burst through with an expression of a new form of life on its branches. Throughout the rest of the year, its beauty will be shown in a different way as it draws strength from the sun to help it survive through another winter.

This weekend the clocks go forward, but in our loss of being cheated out of an hour, we gain the lighter evenings and the promise of the summertime to come. So it's not all bad.

With life comes loss, with love comes pain, but in Christ is the assurance of care in our times of trouble, comfort in our loss and life everlasting.

*Michael*

**Vicar:** The Revd Michael Eden - theedens@talk21.com Tel. 678623

**Curate:** The Revd Richard Stretch - richardstretch@btinternet.com Tel. 676219

### Church Warden:

Mrs Marion Gray - churchwardens@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk 07835 246995

### Church Office CLOSED

office@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

 Stowmarket Parish Church

 @stowmarketcofe

**Website:** www.stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

**Regd Charity Number 1132857**

Since last Sunday so much had happened. The Archbishop of Canterbury has ruled that all Church buildings will be closed completely. The Prime Minister has limited all activity, other than that which is essential. This means that our Church Halls and Cafe 52 have closed down too. St. Mary's Hall did stay open early last week so that our St. Peter & St. Mary's Pre-school could look after a few children of people who are key workers, but now that need has gone.

The new Pastoral Network of Geographical Support Groups is available for all of you to link into, so please do get to know a bit better those from Church who live near you. If you are a social person you will really enjoy it. If you're not, it will be a chore. BUT, if you go down with the Coronavirus, this is a contact that could save your life, so do please get involved.

There was a slight hiccup with the Geographical Support Groups and I believe a small number of ladies didn't receive their Mothering Sunday flowers. I do apologise for this. We do love you all and reporting back when people get left out is the right thing to do. That way we will improve and get better. Let's all make this work.

Last week's Sunday Service online worked well and I thank you for your positive comments. If you can think of ways that it can be improved, please let me know.

If you are a leader of one of the groups in Church I am still planning to compile the Annual Report of Church Activities so please can you submit reports to me, if you haven't already done so. And you might consider doing something collectively at the time when you would normally meet, using the telephone, Facebook, Twitter and others.

Unfortunately, we can't deliver Grapevine so I would appreciate it if leaders of the Geographical Support Groups, could read it down the phone to those without internet access.

I'm sure that the restrictions on movement will get even tighter in the weeks to come. If you are over 70 you must not leave your house or have physical contact with anyone. If you need help with shopping or to pick up prescriptions use the Church Pastoral Network or call the Vicarage. (01449 678623)

As we come closer to Easter remember that Jesus didn't just say, "I am the resurrection and the Life." He proved it by overcoming death and the grave.

Keep faithful, keep safe and keep washing your hands.

*Michael*