

Lordsbridge Life

News from around the Lordsbridge Team Churches



The parishes of Barton, Caldecote with Childerley, Comberton, Coton, Dry Drayton, Great and Little Eversden, Hardwick, Harlton, Haslingfield and Toft

As we start to take the small steps that will bring us, however unevenly, out of lockdown, we are taking stock, nationally, personally, as the local church. What will the 'new normal' look like? What have we learned in the last few weeks that will change the way we do things? What were we forced to set aside and find we would prefer not to pick up again? Can we see where God's Spirit is working?

In Lordsbridge we have seen, even more, the value of working collaboratively across churches. It may not be entirely visible from the pew or the sofa, but much of the decision making about what to offer and how to support you has been made at team-wide level, where rapidly acquired skills and knowledge have been shared. The Worship at Home and family resources you have received have been created once, then tweaked and circulated to most churches. The extra work around schools, weddings and funerals is possible because we are pooling resources and not reinventing the wheel in 11 different places. Our central Resource Hub with Gemma and Robbie, and our weekly Core Team Zoom meeting of incumbents and curate holds it all together. So thank you for supporting the vision of us being a connected team of worshipping communities and parishes. Being a network like this makes so much more possible than would be the case if it was 'each church for itself'.

“What will the ‘new normal’ look like?”

Connecting this bigger picture to the local, we have the vital activity and ministry of those of you in each place whose focus is in your own village. Thank you to those who have stepped up to pastor and care at a very local level, and have been both reinforcing the relationships of the dispersed church community and reaching out beyond them to friends and neighbours. The presence of the parish church - including online and via social media - has become stronger in some of our villages, and we must build on this.

“Can we see where God's Spirit is working?”

Thank you too to those of you who have taken seriously the challenge to deepen your own practices of faith as families and individuals, away from your church communities. This is not easy, but will increase your strength in weathering future storms. There is wisdom we can humbly learn from each other in this, as Pauline's story shows (page 3).

Then there are the things we are learning about better extending the hospitality of faith to those who find meeting in church, in person, difficult at the best of times. Some of these have felt more, rather than less, connected over the last few weeks. And we must be flexible enough to respond to the

new connections - the curious, the prayerful, the anxious, some anonymous, some known - that we have picked up by operating in new ways.

As we say a final goodbye to Becca with this issue of Lordsbridge Life, please pray with me from Ascension Day (21st May) to Pentecost (31st May) for the work and the guidance of God's Spirit, as we re-shape life locally and nationally, in church and beyond it. Father, may your Kingdom come.

With love and prayers in Christ,

Revd Canon Alison Myers

To pastures new...

After nearly 6 years as the Lead Minister in Harlton, Barton, Haslingfield and Coton, Becca Gilbert is moving out of the Lordsbridge Team and venturing north. In early March, before the world turned on it's head, I caught up with her to reflect on her time as a part of the Lordsbridge Team.

Robbie Thomson

So how should we write this thing?" - this was the first question I asked when I sat down with Becca back in early March at the vicarage in Haslingfield. Having spoken on the phone the week before we both thought an interview would work well, but not being overly versed in the techniques of interviewing and asking questions, I turned up with a few scribbled notes hoping to be struck by some inspiration as we began talking. "Let's just have a chat and we'll see where we go." was Becca's reassuring response.

And so we chatted - firstly about the situation the world found itself in, COVID-19 putting the brakes on in a number of areas in all of our lives, before turning closer to home and her imminent move out of the area to take up a position in a benefice in Cumbria.

"We're off to the Western Dales, in Cumbria to live in a village called Dent" she explained. "I'm taking up the position of Pioneer Minister for the Western Dales Mission Community. It's an ecumenical role which includes the URC, Methodist and Anglican Churches. It's a position that enables me to support, encourage and enable new ways of doing church with those already making connections in that way - and noticing with them and others what new things God is already doing in our midst that we hadn't spotted before and joining in!"



In a ministry that has edged from the urban to the rural in gradual steps, London to Cambridge to Cumbria, it became clear that, at least partially, the adventure of pioneering in a rural community was a large part of the appeal with the move. "A lot of it is unknown, which is exciting and scary - and so it should be."



It's an opportunity to focus on the local communities - and ask how does following the ways of Jesus work in our particular situation right now, maybe in news ways and with those who don't ordinarily connect with church usually. Especially now in light of our current challenges, perhaps it's about asking what can we learn together through this time, how can we grow and have the courage to be willingly transformed - which might mean that as a community of faith, groups of friends, families - we may end up looking very different to how we've looked before and include those who may never have been to church before, resulting in doing life together following Jesus' way which makes sense for today and in our current climate."

Whilst looking forward to what comes next, it was impossible to not look back at the last five and a half years and reflect upon how experience gained in the Lordsbridge Team would stand Becca in good stead for the job ahead.

"The Lordsbridge Team has been a great place to be. It's been a fantastic opportunity to learn from some brilliant people, gain wisdom from those around me and I definitely wouldn't be equipped as much as I am without those who have gone before me and those I've shared life with over the past 5 years."

"To be part of a team that is committed and willing to work together, to help others and share in ministry, particularly with the Core Team and the wider Team Chapter, has been a fruitful model of team ministry in many ways."

"And I feel like I've contributed my piece of the puzzle, as I've been part of the team. I look back to my job description and I'm sure it said that a 'good sense of humour' would be helpful, and I like to think I have brought fun to the role and to the team and the churches I've been a part of. I've always been a big believer in never taking myself too seriously, but always taking God seriously."

As Lead Minister of Harlton, Haslingfield, Barton and Coton, Becca has also played an integral part in local ministry, as well as the wider team perspective.

"I'm really grateful to all of the parishes I've been Lead Minister for - for always being up for new things, embracing different ideas and entertaining fresh possibilities. But I've also loved accompanying them faithfully continuing to minister in season and out in the brilliant ways they've done things."

"As my first post since curacy, being part of these churches in this team has been hugely formative for us as a family too. It's been a joy to see our children grow in confidence within the community we've loved being a part of. To be supported and given the freedom to flourish as a family has been incredibly special for us."

So, as Becca, Rich and their family's compass turns north, I had to ask what she would specifically miss about being in this part of the world.

"Perhaps the temperate climes! I'll miss Cambridge and the area, it's been our home for the past 12 years since my training began and we have lots of friends here. The kids will miss their school of course and their treasured Sunday Club. And I'll miss my favourite coffee shops but I'm sure I'll find some new ones!"

"This is all coupled with the excitement for what comes next. I look ahead with anticipation for what lies ahead - for ministry, for our family, for new friends and communities in which to belong, and as we look north, we will look back fondly with thankfulness for being a part of the Lordsbridge story - the privilege it's been to play a small part in what God has been doing here."

As we finish chatting and looking at what comes next, I ask her what advice she would give to the person coming next, to play their part in the Lordsbridge story.

"Embrace, enjoy and be open to learning from those around you, as you give generously of your particular and special gifts. You will learn much - but most precious of all - I hope and pray you will see a wonderful glimpse of God's overwhelming generosity, for which I know I've been eternally grateful."

At time of publication, Becca, Rich and the family were still awaiting the go ahead to make their move to Cumbria. Please continue to pray for them as they navigate this all in challenging and unprecedented times.

Lordsbridge Lives



Pauline Bunyan talks us through how she maintains and sustains her prayer life

Over these last few weeks, many of us have been looking for ways to sustain a daily and weekly life of prayer and faith without being able to gather in church as we do normally. Different people will have found different ways, but as some form of lockdown seems likely to continue for some time yet, many of us may still be asking that question. Pauline Bunyan is an older member of the congregation in Dry Drayton. She lives alone and less mobile now, and it has been quite some time since she was able to worship in church. We asked her for some insight into how she sustains her spiritual life.

"I have no special expertise but when I wake each morning I say either in my head or out loud: 'This is a day the Lord has made. Let me rejoice and be glad in it.'"

"I pray for my daughters in Australia, for all my friends and for all those affected by the corona virus. I pray for people and situations who are in my mind that day. I am very aware of the limitations of my prayers and ask the Lord to intercede for me, specially for those affected by the Coronavirus at this time. I sometimes offer arrow prayers during the day and I also believe in trying to practise the presence of God in my life."

"Then at bedtime I give thanks for my day. Lastly, I ask for forgiveness for trying to live in my own strength instead of in the power of the Lord."

Praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' in the Lordsbridge area

21st - 31st May 2020

Across the nation Orthodox, Catholic, Methodist, Pentecostal, Free Church and Anglican churches will again pick up the ancient tradition of praying for 11 days in preparation for Pentecost in the movement initiated by our Archbishops in 2015 and known as 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Here in Lordsbridge we are encouraging you to pick one or more of the following to help you focus your prayers on two things: on our churches & their villages and, more personally for some specific friends and neighbours.

Short daily online reflections from Alison to help focus your prayer each day.

'Prayer and care': care for those you are praying for, pray for those you are caring for. Choose 5 people to pray for over the 11 days.

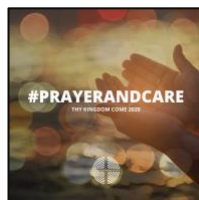
Digital family prayer adventure map with app. [Download or order your free map](#) (postage only) and download the app.

Independent walking to churches, during your daily exercise over the 11 days walk in a spirit of prayer and pilgrimage, to pray for life and for mission in the Lordsbridge area.

Compline (night prayer). Join one of the Zoom complines already running across the Team. Or use the newly created video version from David each night.

Lordsbridge children's service premiering on the afternoon of Sunday 24 May locally created for Lordsbridge - see page 5 for more info.

'Virtual pilgrimage walk' on Friday 29th May 'visiting' each church for 10 mins, using Zoom, on a 'route' spread throughout the day. At each 'visit' there will be an opportunity to pray for that church community and its mission. Organised by John & Clare Crang from Comberton



Please join us in focused prayer over these 11 days for the challenges we still face locally and nationally, and as we shape a 'new normal' and all that will bring.

For any more information about Thy Kingdom Come in the Lordsbridge Team please visit

www.lordsbridge.org/thy-kingdom-come/



Recently the Lordsbridge Team have moved online. As our churches have had to close their doors for the time being we have

facebook

Lordsbridge Team

tried to find new ways to encourage, resource and enable worship in the home. One way we have done this is by expanding into creating a Lordsbridge Team YouTube channel. Why not search for "Lordsbridge Team" on YouTube and browse the various things we have up there?

Another aspect to the Team's online presence can be found by visiting Team Rector, Alison Myers' blog where regular reflections and resources are posted. It can be found here - [Alison's Blog](#)

[St Mary's Hardwick](#)

[Dry Drayton Church](#)

[St Mary's Comberton](#)

[All Saints, Haslingfield](#)

[St Peter's, Coton](#)

[The Eversdens](#)

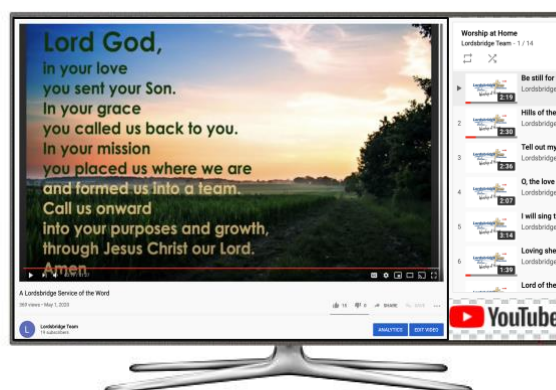
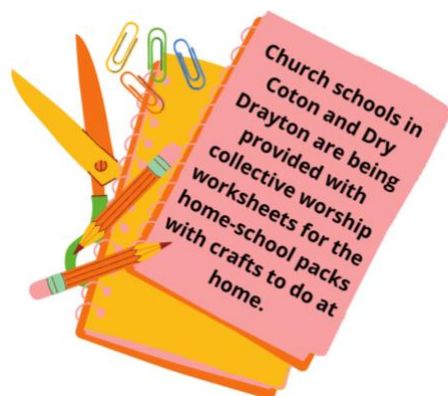
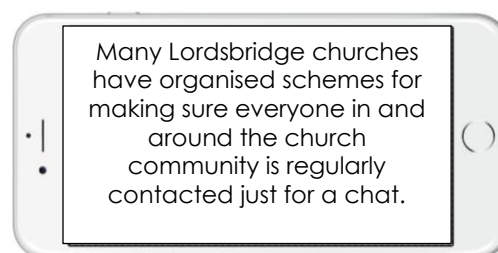
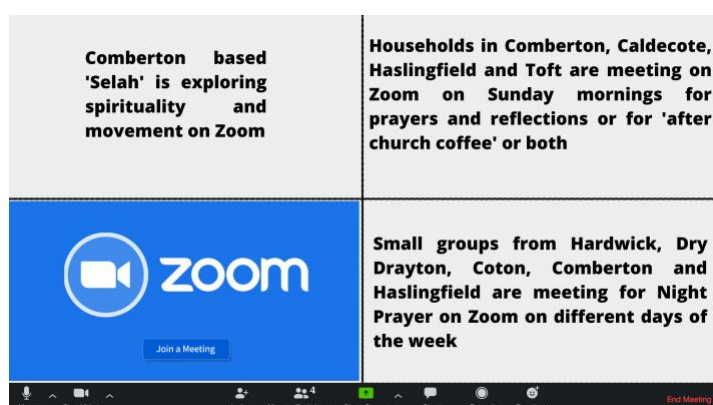
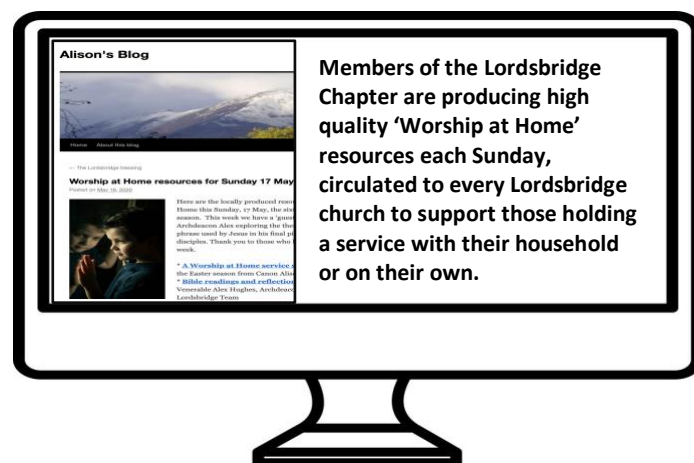
[St Peter's Barton](#)

[Caldecote Church](#)

[Harlton Church](#)

Lordsbridge in Lockdown

The Lordsbridge Team churches are responding creatively to lockdown. Here's just a sample of what's going on:



Lordsbridge video services, created by the Core clergy Team, have been premiered on YouTube on the 5th Sunday of March and on Easter day and watched by hundreds. Next one premieres on 31st May for Pentecost!

PRAYER DURING COVID-19

tearfund

TEARFUND RECENTLY COMMISSIONED SOME RESEARCH INTO THE ROLE OF PRAYER DURING THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THEIR HEADLINES SUGGEST PRAYER IS PLAYING A MORE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN THIS CRISIS THAN PERHAPS MANY WOULD HAVE THOUGHT...

OVER TWO IN FIVE (44%) UK ADULTS SAY THEY PRAY, INCLUDING A QUARTER OF ADULTS (26%) WHO SAY THEY PRAY REGULARLY (I.E. AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH OR MORE OFTEN).



A QUARTER (24%) OF UK ADULTS SAY THEY HAVE WATCHED OR LISTENED TO A RELIGIOUS SERVICE SINCE LOCKDOWN (ON THE RADIO, LIVE ON TV, ON DEMAND OR STREAMED ONLINE).

OVER HALF (53%) OF UK ADULTS WHO PRAY SAY THEY HAVE PRAYED ABOUT FAMILY DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN. A THIRD SAY THEY PRAYED ABOUT FRIENDS (34%).



TWO THIRDS (66%) OF UK ADULTS WHO PRAY AGREE THAT PRAYER CHANGES THE WORLD. A THIRD (33%) OF UK ADULTS WHO PRAY SAY THEY PRAYED SINCE THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT PRAYER MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

KIGALI DIOCESE

FOOD PARCEL APPEAL

As a team and as a diocese, we are linked with the Diocese of Kigali in Rwanda.

In Rwanda, a large part of the population is reliant on making some money each day in order to buy food. They, as the Bishop of Kigali has said recently, *"eat what they worked for that day"*.

Lock-down in Rwanda looks very similar to lock-down in the UK. Travel is restricted, schools are suspended and services have moved online.



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF RWANDA
KIGALI DIOCESE

The Church is trying to support people in the local communities by setting up the equivalent of our Foodbanks. Now however they are beginning to run out of money to buy sufficient food.

In addition, Diocesan office staff are being laid off because the funds to pay them have dried up.

The Bishop of Kigali writes: *"Greetings from Rwanda in Jesus name. Everyone is making the necessary effort to adhere to the regulations, there are no reported deaths from the virus still and there is great solidarity and hope. We are truly under God's care, but as the days roll by families who were dependent on what they make each day are finding it tough to feed their families and if these lock-down days are extended again, it is only going to get tougher."*

We are all living in difficult times, but some more than others. As a result, as a Diocese we will be sending them a gift to help at this time.

If you could like to help support our brothers and sisters in Kigali, please go to this webpage <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ely-diocese-kigali-food-parcel-appeal>



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Available 24 hours a day – FREE Phone line



COMING SOON!

Sunday 31st May

Pentecost - A Lordsbridge Online Service

Details will come from your Lead Minister as to when and where to view the service