

3rd April 2020

It is very strange to be approaching Holy Week from the new world we find ourselves in. Normally the week ahead would be one where I would be very conscious of walking from the triumphant shouts of Hosanna on Palm Sunday, to the sorrow of Good Friday, before the joy of Easter Day. It's a week of great emotion.

This year's Holy Week will of course be unlike any others we have witnessed. For one thing, we will be doing it at home. To that end, I have put together a pack for you to use at home to help you as you walk through Holy Week. They are coming to you soon, if you haven't yet received them. If you are new to our church family, then a downloadable copy will be available soon- though I'm afraid it will be minus a candle and an Easter egg- though I will include a photo of a painted one. Your pack also contains the service sheets for our Easter services, although thanks to Nicky's technical wizardry, I hope this will appear as if by magic on a screen near you for our services.

As we come to the end of our #LiveLent challenge, I wonder how your sunflower seeds are growing? Ours have sprouted, though to aid their future survival, Mike has now taken on the care of them...

Much of this week has been spend preparing the Holy Week & Easter packs so my quilt has not progressed very far. I have laid out the blocks and unpacked the sewing machine so I hope that the week ahead may give me some time to get started. After all, having told you all that I'm going to make one, I'd better to have something to show you all once we come back together!

Thank you to everyone for keeping in touch with your buddies and helping them out when they need it. I know from my phone calls this week, how much this contact has been appreciated by everyone.

I, like you , I'm sure have been spending a great deal of time in prayer- both in thanksgiving and in intercession. Sometimes it can feel as though this is not very effective. However, in these moments, I remember the words of Julian of Norwich:

'Pray wholeheartedly, though it seems to you that this has no savour to you; still it is profitable enough, though you may not feel that. Pray wholeheartedly though you may feel nothing, though you may see nothing, yes though you think you could not, for in dryness and barrenness, in sickness and in weakness, then is your prayer most pleasing to [God] though you think it almost tasteless to you. And so is all your living prayer in [His] sight.' (Julian of Norwich: 14th Revelation)

If you need to contact me, please can you phone between **4 and 5pm** when I will guarantee to be in and not ringing anyone else, or email me anytime on **sarah.quantrill@cantab.net** . I check my emails every day apart from Tuesday (my rest day).

However you choose to spend Holy Week, I pray that you may draw closer to God and that God may draw closer to you.
Yours in Christ

Sarah