

# Website - 22nd November - The Parish of Cowbridge Pews News

## Readings for Christ the King (colour - white)

### Collect

Eternal Father, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

A reading from Ezekiel (34.11-16, 20-24)

For thus says the Lord God: 'I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

'Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

'I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 95. 1-7

R. Come, let us worship and bow down. **Come, let us worship and bow down.**

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence

with thanksgiving and be glad in him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods. **Come, let us worship and bow down.** In his hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land. **Come, let us worship and bow down.**

Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. **Come, let us worship and bow down.**

### New Testament Reading

A reading from Ephesians (1.15-23)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Matthew (25.31-46) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

'Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I

was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

‘Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”

‘And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

‘Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.”

‘Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?”

‘Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ. Post Communion Prayer**

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Text from the Church in Wales – Word of the Lord 2011 copyright © Church in Wales Publications 2011. Collects and Post Communion Prayers from the book *New Calendar and the Collects*. Copyright © The Representative Body of the Church in Wales 2003 ISBN – 1853115495. Quotations and Psalms from *The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition)*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America](#). Used as permitted.*

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*Readings for Evensong Psalm 93, 2 Samuel (23.1-7) Matthew (28.16-20)*

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to join our worship, use this link and joining details: [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID 447 849 545)

## Next week's readings - The First Sunday of Advent (colour - violet)

Isaiah (64.1-9), Psalm 80 (1-7 [17-19]), 1 Corinthians (1.3-9), Mark (13.34-37) (Advent 1, Year B) **Readings for Evensong** Psalm 44, Isaiah (2.1-5) Luke (12.35-48)

## Licensing of a New Clergy Team Member

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*Advent Sunday, 10.00 am at Holy Cross*

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Next week, Bishop June will be joining us to preside and preach at our worship at 10.00 am. During the service, she will license the Revd Jude Peters as a new member of the clergy Team. Jude is joining us after serving her curacy in Llantwit Major. The service will be streamed live from Holy Cross on Zoom. We look forward to welcoming Jude and helping her to settle into her new role here in Cowbridge. To join the service on Zoom, just use the details above. (N.B. If you would like to join the congregation in church, you must inform one of the clergy or the parish offices as places are likely to be limited.)

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ’s birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty.

*(Charles Wesley)*

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains ‘Maranatha’ – ‘Our Lord, come’ (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from

northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society; Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations. The Christian message of Advent is particularly relevant this year to a world thrown into crisis by the Covid pandemic. We are living our lives as never before - distanced from each other, anxious, uncertain, fearful, sick and grieving. Many feel the shadows of darkness and despair all around them.

Our [#DarknessIntoLight](#) Advent campaign aims to draw people to the light - the pure light we find in Christ's message of salvation for all and its reflection through the love and good works of those all around us. With love for those around us, we can help bring the light into dark corners.

We invite you to share these resources and join in the activities.

Be inspired. Bear the torch. Be a light to others.

## Prayer Intentions

**In the Anglican Communion** please pray for the Church of Bermuda (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury) and The Rt Revd Nicholas Dill – Bishop of Bermuda.

**In the Diocese of Llandaff** please pray for the people and clergy of the Parish of Penrhawceiber, Matthewstown & Ynysboeth: South Cynon Valley Ministry Area and for Ben Rabjohns, Vicar.

**In our Benefice** We also pray for the Staff and pupils of Llansannor School, and their Headteacher Stephanie Davies as they deal with the consequences of the current pandemic.

**All who are sick** particularly Dawn Conrad, Maureen Dixon, Charlotte Carpenter, Helen Saunders, William Watkins, Tony Arnold, Doreen Stafford, Ellie Harris, Grayson Finn, Margaret Launder, Crispin Clay, Margaret Harris, Eric Cooke and Stuart Munro.

**Those who have recently departed this life** among them Eileen Brown and Gilbert Williams.

**Those whose 'years mind' fall during the coming week:**

Sun: Fred Elton-Jones, Catherine Yvonne Chick and Rebecca Jenkins  
Tue: Clifford Philips, Richard Owen

Bennett, Llewellyn John and Doreen Ann Brown. Thurs:  
Gwilym Williams Sat: Pamela June Roberts.

***May they rest in peace and rise in glory.***

## Weekly Pattern of Services and re-opening.

updated 22nd November

Our weekly pattern of worship (at the moment) is:

**Monday-Friday:** 9:15 am - Morning Prayer on Zoom: [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID 447 849 545)

**Wednesdays:** at Llanblethian Church

10:00 - 10.15 am private prayer 10:15-10:45 am **Holy Eucharist** 10:45-11:00 am private prayer

**Thursdays:** at Holy Cross

10:00 - 10.15 am private prayer 10:15-10:45 am **Holy Eucharist** 10:45-11:00 am private prayer

**Sundays:**

9:00 am - Sunday School on Zoom - families welcome.

[Link to Sunday Club](#): Passcode: *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID: 842 7508 5595) 10.00 am Holy Cross Parish Church: Holy Eucharist 10:00 am - Morning Worship on Zoom: [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID 447 849 545) 2.00 pm - Llanblethian church open for private prayer; 2:15-2:45 pm Holy Eucharist; 2:45-3:00 pm church open for private prayer 6.00 pm - Evensong on Zoom - all welcome: [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450* (Meeting ID 447 849 545)

**The Church in Wales has issued the note below:**

**"Do I have to wear a face covering when attending a religious service?** Yes, places of worship are indoor public places and so the requirements will apply there as in any other public place. We consider that those leading worship or a ceremony may have a reasonable excuse not to wear a face covering if they cannot effectively do so while wearing one, as long as they have taken other sufficient mitigations such as staying continually over 2 metres away from others and/or wearing a visor."

**Notes**

- *To attend the Holy Eucharist please let one of the clergy know that you intend coming. This will allow us to plan effectively and make sure that no one is disappointed if there is insufficient room. In asking for notice, I am reminded of the rubric in the old 1662 Book of Common Prayer: "So many*

*as intend to be partakers of the holy Communion shall signify their names to the Curate, at least some time the day before."*

**Future Plans** We are now able to live stream the Sunday 10 am Zoom Service directly from Holy Cross, technology allowing! It will still be necessary to let one of the Clergy or David-Lloyd know in advance if you wish to physically attend the Eucharist.

#### **Further Developments**

**Weddings & Funerals** Following several inquiries, we have protocols for holding small weddings and funerals. At present, Holy Cross, Llanblethian and St. Hilary are potentially available.

**Baptisms** During the current 'Fire Break' Lockdown we are not permitted to celebrate Baptism (Christenings) unless in an emergency. **Before formulating any plans, all requests for weddings, baptisms, or funerals must be made to one of the following:**

**Stephen Adams (Rector), Victoria Ashley (Team Vicar)**  
**David-Lloyd Jones (Parish Administrator)** See below for contact details

#### **Penllyn all age worship**

On Sunday 15th November our outdoor all age service moved into the village hall to allow social distancing whilst keeping us dry and a bit warmer. We celebrated Christ the King a week early and the young people decorated crowns - all were so good they each got a prize.

#### **Smile Lines**

**Rooms** When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, Mike has his own room, Jemma has her own room, and Bobby has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."

**Don't worry** A little boy was told that he should try and be good, and that he could ask God for help with this. So he prayed: "Lord, please make me good, if you can. But if you can't, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

#### **God in the Sciences**

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

#### **God of the mountains, God of the valleys**

*Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions?*

*Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?*

Job 38:4-7, 14, 16 (NIV)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking "What have I done to you...? Why have you made me your target?"

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

*This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in [New Daylight](#) (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.*

#### **What's happened to Sunday for our children?**

When lockdown started, one of the challenges we faced was how we would keep the children engaged with God,



church and with each other. Some creative thinking by the Wickett family and Katy Freeland led to a Zoom Sunday club that has now become one of the highlights of our children's weeks. At 9am we gather virtually (pyjamas, breakfast and general chaos welcomed) to share stories of how the week has been and learn about God together. We pray and have our weekly dose of catchy and fast-paced action songs – discovering that these can be surprisingly educational, as both kids and adults find that they can now recite all of the components of the armour of God and tell you (in order) the fruits of the Spirit! We've learned about Giants of Faith from the Old Testament, enjoyed collecting our fridge magnet 'badges' as we ask God to develop the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and are now learning along with the Faraday Institute about God and science, with various fun experiments along the way.

We have had the joy of being joined by new friends from all across the benefice and even across the Welsh border,

and have deepened existing friendships. It has been totally humbling to see the honesty and vulnerability of the children as they offer their big questions and prayers to God, and a real lesson to us as adults about what it really means to 'receive the Kingdom of God like a little child'. The welcome of the kids to new friends is a delight to see – if you're wondering whether your family would enjoy this, then grab your coffee/cocopops and log on!

*Editor: Our thanks to Rev Ian, Rachel and Hilary for letting us know that the work of nurturing our children in the faith is carrying on during this time of Covid. You can find the log on details to join in just below.*

### Sunday Club for Families - On-line

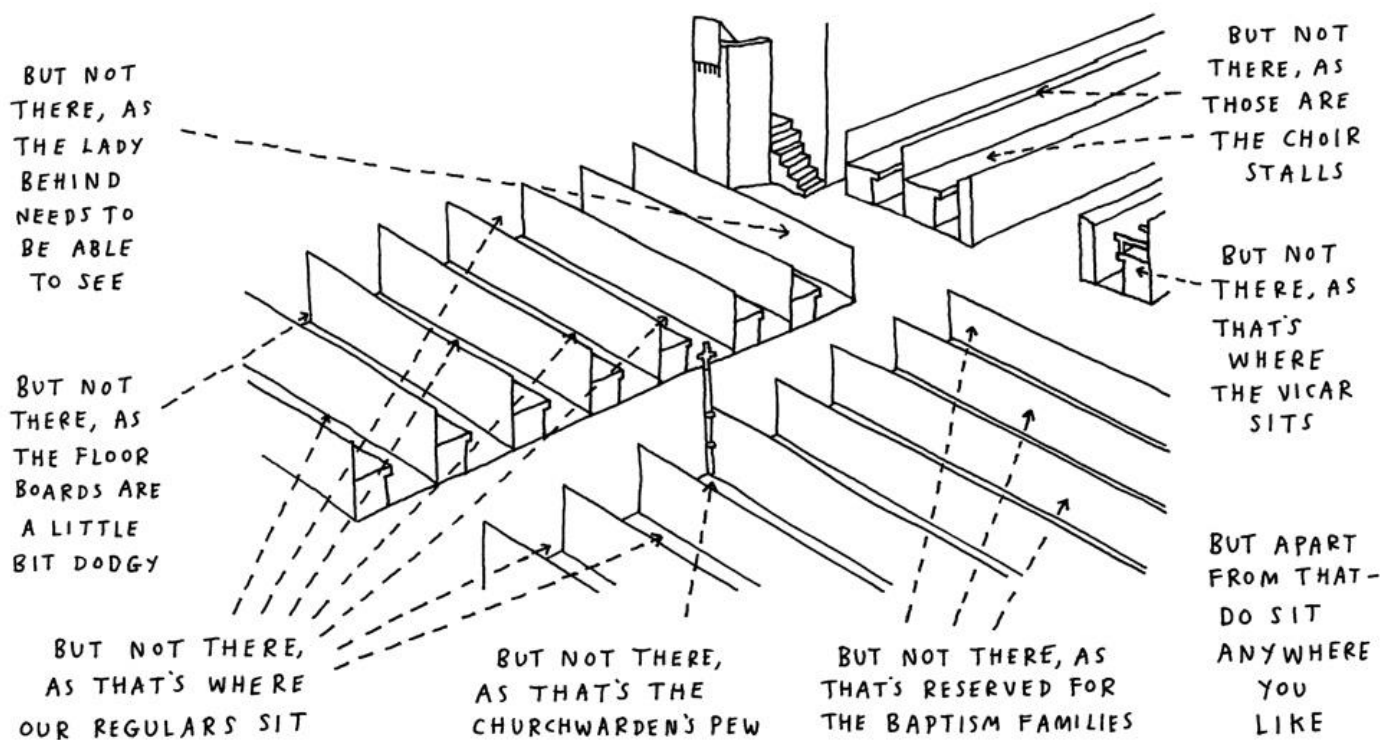
Sunday club is meeting again this week at 9.00 am for worship and activities. You can join them at this link: [Link to Sunday Club](#): Meeting ID: 842 7508 5595 Passcode: *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450*

### Cartoon by Dave Walker

# WELCOME



PLEASE SIT ANYWHERE YOU LIKE



## WHAT IS WORLD AIDS DAY?

World AIDS Day takes place on 1 December each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.

## WHY IS WORLD AIDS DAY IMPORTANT?

Over 103,800 people are living with HIV in the UK. Globally, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

Today, scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment, there are laws to protect people living with HIV and we understand so much more about the condition. Despite this, each year in the UK over 4,450 people are diagnosed with HIV, people do not know the facts about how to protect themselves and others, and stigma and discrimination remain a reality for many people living with the condition.

World AIDS Day is important because it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education.

## WHAT CAN I DO ON WORLD AIDS DAY?

World AIDS Day is an opportunity to show solidarity with the millions of people living with HIV worldwide. Most people do this by wearing an HIV awareness red ribbon on the day. You can order a red ribbon through our [online shop](#).

## BUT WHAT ABOUT AFTER WORLD AIDS DAY?

World AIDS Day may be once a year, but you can still support people living with HIV all year round. Sign up to National AIDS Trust's [mailing list](#) to stay up-to-date with new developments in HIV, and learn how you can get involved as an activist or as a volunteer.

You can also support our work by [donating](#) to National AIDS Trust. We rely on your support to continue championing the rights of people living with HIV.

## News from the Diocese of Llandaff

Each week our Diocesan Communications Officer publishes a newsletter. H

**To get this week's edition, email one of the clergy and we'll be happy to forward it to you.**

[To receive your own copy by email each week click here](#)

## Daily Prayer

During the week we are saying morning prayer together at 9.15 (Monday- Friday) using the same link as for Sunday services. All are welcome to join us for 30 minutes of spiritual refreshment. [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450*

## Resources for Children and Families

The ROOTS for Churches organisation (to which the parish subscribes) provides free resources which you can find at these links – these are very good for both adults and children:

[Link to ROOTS resources](#)

## A new way to support the churches of the parish

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[Click here to go to Amazon Smile and support the parish each time you order from Amazon - at no cost to you.](#)

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## Digital Giving

Several people have been asking about how they can support our churches financially at this time. (Many, of course, are already doing so through their standing order arrangements.) To that end, we have set up a way giving by text in the same way that many charities do when they have an appeal on television.

*To donate £1 please Text GIVEONE to 70085 To donate £5 please Text GIVEFIVE to 70085 To donate £7 please Text GIVESEVEN to 70085 To donate £10 please Text GIVETEN to 70085 Texts cost your donated amount plus one standard rate message*

*After you send the Text Message will be asked if you wish to Gift Aid your donation and then if you wish to make this a regular monthly donation. Please be assured that this information will not be used to contact you in future for any advertising or promotional reason. Thank You.*

## How to access our online Services

[Click here to join Cowbridge Worship](#) (don't worry if a warning shows) This will open the Zoom app (or ask you to download it, if you haven't done so already). This should be reasonably straightforward. It will also ask for a passcode to get into the meeting – see below. *Meeting ID: 447 849 545 Passcode: Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506*

689450) We've kept the same passcode for the last few weeks (for simplicity), and we will let you know when we change it. The details of how to join are also on the parish website: [www.cowbridgeparish.com](http://www.cowbridgeparish.com). We will be online fifteen minutes before each service to welcome people and help with any technical difficulties. We look forward to welcoming you.

**Other ways of joining in** If you're not able to follow us online, you can also download the service sheet from the parish website: [www.cowbridgeparish.com](http://www.cowbridgeparish.com).

It's also possible to telephone into the service and listen. You can choose one of the telephone numbers below. These are all national UK numbers and should incur standard rates or fall within subscription packages.

*Tel: 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240 or 0208 080 6591  
Meeting ID: 447 849 545 Passcode: Please email  
rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506  
689450)*

## Welsh Services

For Welsh speakers, Eglwys Dewi Sant in Cardiff have been putting their services online, and you can find them at this link: [Link to Eglwys Dewi Sant](#)

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