



# The United Benefice of St Helen, Burghwallis and St Mary Magdalene, Campsall

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St Helen Burghwallis and St  
Mary Magdalene Campsall

The Churches are now  
**CLOSED**  
until further notice.

I have been trying to keep in touch with as many of you as I can. If you have received this letter by post then that means I don't have your email address. Please give me a ring to make sure I do have contact details for as many people as possible. Chris and I can be contacted with prayer requests also to discuss any pastoral matters.

Clearly, this is going to be a very strange Easter for us all. But it is a time we can make use of by praying. There is a major strand of Christian spirituality that uses the experience of separating ourselves from the world by going into the wilderness to pray and feel ourselves nearer to God. Use these days of isolation to do that.

During the Second World War my father was prisoner of war after being captured on D-Day. The advice he and other prisoners were given was to have a pattern of life for each day. To shave in the morning and to keep themselves and their uniforms clean and also to keep their minds and bodies active. I think this is good advice for us all.

This Sunday's Gospel reading is the story of the Raising of Lazarus. It shows in the tears of Jesus the compassion of God who feels our sorrows too. In the coming weeks there will be days of sorrow for many people as the effects of the virus take hold but, this story is also a story of hope and of Jesus' power over death in raising Lazarus to life. After his rising Lazarus became a familiar figure in the early church – a witness to the power of Jesus to heal.

**May our prayers be for all those who are striving to keep us safe and heal the sick.**

## Contacts

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