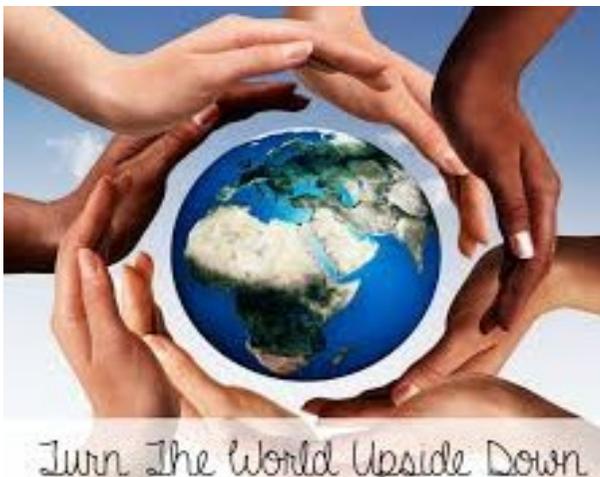




Oh Lord, All The World Belongs To You
And You Are Always Making All Things New.
What Is Wrong, You Forgive,
And The New Life You Give
Is What's Turning The World Upside Down.

The World Lives Divided And Apart,
You Draw Men Together, And We Start
In Our Friendship To See
That In Harmony We
Can Be Turning The World Upside Down.

Oh Lord All The World Belongs To You
And You Are Always Making All Things New.
Send Your Spirit On All In Your Church Whom You Call
To Be Turning The World Upside Down.



Thank you for coming to pray today...keep safe.

NEWBURN PARISH

St Michael's, Newburn with St Mary's, Throckley



19 July, 2020

Good morning !

If you have brought back the stone you were given last week, please place it at the foot of the cross at the steps.



Please follow the guidance of those who welcomed you and the signs in church and as you leave ensure the area where you have been seated is wiped clean to help keep the church free from infection.

Use these prayers as you like while you are here, and then please take them away and use them in your prayer time at home

* * * * *

Some of us may be here for the first time this morning, and been feeling a little nervous as we venture back to familiar places, which somehow just now, don't seem so familiar any more. Our churches had to be locked and so did much of our lives, and now as we step out, much seems different.

The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked. (John 20.19)

Ever present God,
Thank you for staying close by us in our isolation,
for being close to us in our distancing,
for healing in our sickness,
for bringing joy in our sadness,
for being light in our darkness,
and wisdom in our confusion,
for being all that is familiar when much seems unfamiliar,
so as the doors reopen
may we with the zeal of Pentecost
be out in our communities
and speak of your goodness to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake. Amen.



In our isolation many of us may have had heavy hearts at times, we have had difficulty in seeing the light at the end of the tunnel - even when we know Jesus the Light has been right there with us.

But now as we begin to come back together, we are like this pile of

stones, fragile and lonely when isolated, but looking and feeling a little stronger as we reach out to each other, even though still being socially distanced! Take a look at the stones at the front of the church, there may not be many yet, but as each one is added it reminds us that one of our brothers or sisters in Christ is thanking God for his love, or maybe holding out a sadness that they want to bring to the foot of Jesus' cross and lay the burden down and take hope from what the cross means in our lives.

When this strange time started many of us wondered when would we get back to normal, but as time has gone on we have realised that nothing will be quite the same again. We realise that school will be very different for all our children for a long time to come, our access to our doctors is very different now. Job and financial security is no longer there for many, or maybe their job will go at the end of furlough. For many of those in work their experience has changed, no longer going into their place of work, maybe their office is now the kitchen table! And so it is in God's Church. We are in a completely different place and how fast things are changing make some fearful. But even as God calls on us to think about how we too have to do things differently, we are reminded constantly that God is there with us in the midst of all the uncertainty.

*'Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'
(Isaiah 43.18-19)*

We are reminded in the diocese that we are 'growing Church, bringing hope'; in our parish we pray each week that we are leading the Church into growth (LYCIG). Why would God choose me, you wonder. But look at who he chose in the Bible - Moses, David, a shepherd for king, Mary, a teenager to be the mother of his Son, Jesus, and also Peter and Paul as his disciples. They were ordinary, they didn't all understand what was going on, but they went with God. We are all in God's plan, as ordinary as we all are, and even though we may face changes we each have a job to do whoever we are.

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Corinthians 12

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. In the same way, all of us, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free, have been baptized into the one body by the same Spirit, and we have all been given the one Spirit to drink. For the body itself is not made up of only one part, but of many parts. If the foot were to say, "Because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body," that would not keep it from being a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, "Because I am not an eye, I don't belong to the body," that would not keep it from being a part of the body. If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear? And if it were only an ear, how could it smell? As it is, God put every different part in the body just as he wanted it to be. There would not be a body if it were all only one part! As it is, there are many parts but one body.All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. In the church God has put all in place: in the first place apostles, in the second place prophets, and in the third place teachers; then those who perform miracles, followed by those who are given the power to heal or to help others or to direct them or to speak in strange tongues. They are not all apostles or prophets or teachers. Not everyone has the power to work miracles or to heal diseases or to speak in strange tongues or to explain what is said. Set your hearts, then, on the more important gifts.

God is calling every one of us right now. It doesn't matter if we're not clever, that we don't always understand. As members of Christ's family, the Church, we do what we can to love others, because we care. And people will never care how much we know until they know how much we care!

Lord, raise up your Church
to be your well-washed hands
and faithful feet
to be present to the pain
to respond with love in action
if even from a safe distance.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

