

Dear friends,

It only seems such a few days since we reluctantly decided to cancel our Lady Day service to be held at St Giles' Church, Exhall.

And here we are, unable to even leave our own homes except perhaps for essential shopping, and sadly only too aware that, like St Giles', our own much loved churches are locked up and deserted.

I am praying that you are all safe and well, and cared for by the support of family members, neighbours and of course our own Mothers' Union network, united as ever by a web of prayer. Many of us have computers with which we are more or less familiar, from which we can collect information, and news of friends near and far. I enjoyed, through the wonders of technology, belated though no less welcome, Eucharist for Mothering Sunday from Chelmsford Cathedral on Monday afternoon in my own study. Quite an unexpected blessing!

And I hope many of you joined me, from your own living-rooms, sharing in the special Songs of Praise for Mothering Sunday- I hope too that you sang along with "Tell out My Soul", as we had intended to do today!

Upholding our pattern of common worship is, I suspect, going to be increasingly vital as the weeks go by. We already, of course, have our Midday Prayer built into our identity as MU, and it will be so helpful, I'm sure, to everyone and especially the most vulnerable, to be aware of a wave of prayer rising up from our community of love, and including all, wherever they may be.

And you should have received by now the Diocesan Prayers for April. Please, if you can safely do so, ensure those of your branch or group, have access to a copy. Could you possibly print a few copies, and pop them through letterboxes on your daily exercise? Again, knowing we are all using those prayers is a beautiful means of linking together in prayer and thought for one another and our sisters in countries far away, where their situations may be far more difficult than ours.

The blessing for Lady Day-

May the love of the Holy Family surround us, may the joy that was Mary's refresh us. May the faithfulness that was Joseph's encourage us, may the peace of the Christ Child fill our lives. AMEN

Love and prayers from Pam

