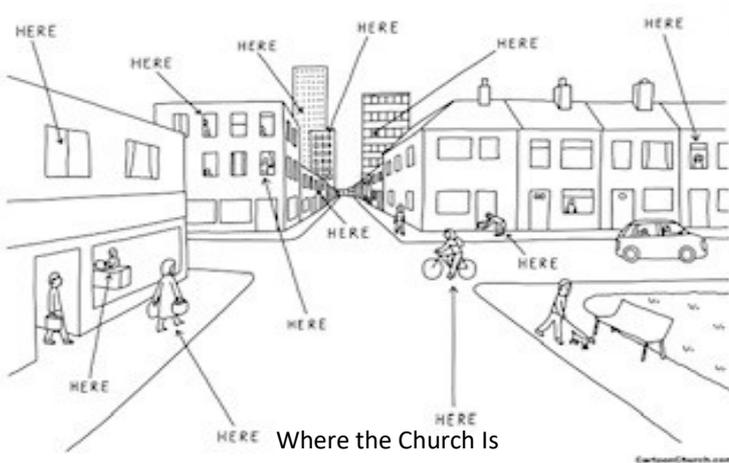


# Usk Ministry Area



Our church communities reaching out to you

Keeping us together whilst apart



## On the radio and tv

**Sundays 7.30 am and repeated 6.30pm**  
**Celebration Radio Wales**

**Sundays 8.10 am Sunday Worship Radio 4**

**Sundays 11.45am Sunday Worship BBC1 TV**

**Sundays 1.15pm Songs of Praise BBC1 TV**

## Via the internet

**Sundays 10.30am Weekly Service by BishopCherry**  
<https://youtu.be/o9DB74PPX9U>

There are many streamed Sunday services available.  
 Please refer to the Monmouth Diocese website

**Father Graham writes...** We all come at times to despair and we all tend to lose hope that the suffering in our lives and in our world will ever end. I share with you my faith and understanding that the suffering and the anxiety we are all experiencing can be transformed and redeemed.

There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case. Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. Scripture confirms that God created order out of chaos - and God can do so now! - in our personal lives - and in our lives as nations, globally! Indeed - God is transforming the world now -- through us - because He loves us!!

One thing many of us are doing right now, during this challenging time of Covid-19, is sharing hope and encouragement on social media.

How can we pass along trusted advice and encouragement?  
 Find a prayer partner and contact each other weekly for prayer.  
 Find ways to share God's love and truth with someone you've been praying for.

There are times in life when we are limited. In his Letters to Timothy, Paul was writing from a dungeon prison. You are most likely reading this from a house you are now bound to, apart from maybe a trip to the grocery store or a walk outside in your garden. A large portion of the globe is currently housebound due to the global pandemic.

But, Paul reminded Timothy, the Word of God is NOT bound! Even in the technologically challenged age in which Paul was writing, the Word of God was spreading: through letters, through God's people, through the growth of the early church, even through persecution.

**Nothing can stop God and His Word! Thanks be to God!**

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

Kitty O'Meara

## We are here for you

You cannot come and meet us in church. We cannot come and knock on your door and come in for a cuppa and a chat. But we are still here for you. We can talk to you using Skype or FaceTime. We can use e-mail or if you are not into all of that, we can talk on the phone. But we do need to know how to contact you. If you think we do not have your contact details please get in touch with us. And who are we you say. We are the clergy team serving the Usk Ministry Area and with us we have our Lay Minister and our team of Pastoral Visitors. And it's not just all talk, we can help you with other problems you have. We may not have all the answers, but we will be able to get you help if we cannot provide it ourselves. So please let us know your phone number at the least so we have it if we need to contact you. We are –

Rev'd Graham Opperman  
 Rev'd Pamela Love  
 Rev'd Bob Greenland

Tel. 01633 450811 e-mail: [Graham@deanery.info](mailto:Graham@deanery.info)  
 Tel. 01633 450347 e-mail: [RevdPL@deanery.info](mailto:RevdPL@deanery.info)  
 Tel. 01291 650231 e-mail: [Bob@deanery.info](mailto:Bob@deanery.info)

## : Reflection on the Passion of Christ : Jesus and Sign Language

John Davies the Archbishop of Wales, in his 1997 book, *The Crisis of the Cross*, discusses how important for establishing the truth and miraculousness of the Resurrection is the recognition that Jesus Christ was both fully human and fully God. He felt the agonies of the Cross in a fully human way which calls forth our admiration, gratitude and love. He makes this point, which I think those who have been watching the PM's press conferences may find interesting:

"The scars are the royal insign-

nia of Jesus.

When deaf people, for instance, wished to create a sign in sign language for Jesus, they could easily have based a sign on the existing signs for 'power', 'glory', 'king', 'lord', or 'leader', but they chose the scars, the sign for Jesus is simply to point to the centre of the palm of each hand in turn. The scars show there has been a genuine victory over death and over the powers of prejudice and of forgiveness, over all the destruction that can be caused

by hatred and malice, over all the corrupted motives of religion and state and public opinion which led to the death of the son of God. The scars of Jesus show that this victory has been achieved in human experience, and it is therefore a possibility for human beings to experience it for themselves. - - - - " Bishop John concludes, "Easter is when, face to face with a verifiable human being, you find yourself driven to cry, *My Lord and My God*."

Pamela Love.

## Keep Praying

Now might be the time to take out your photo albums. Look through them. Let the photos cast you back to happy times spent with those you are now away from. Bring each one of them to our Father. Think about those who are no longer with us. Give thanks to God for all they have meant to you. Don't forget to pray for yourself, that you might be re-united with those you love.

### I wonder if.....

It's strange. Here we are sitting in our own homes and isolated, yet in one way I feel more together with the local community than ever. It's probably because I can feel the community pulling together as it tends to do in times of crisis. And this is the greatest crisis in my memory and the community spirit is correspondingly stronger than I have ever known it. Some people who we rarely see because they are so busy with work and family, are offering to go shopping or collect prescriptions, offering to work in food banks, or do whatever is needed to help those stuck at home. It is one of the most encouraging things to come out of this sorry mess. And it makes me think.

Back in the days of the Old Testament, thousands of years ago, God sent Moses to lead the Israelites out of captivity and to safety. Centuries later they were in trouble again and this time it was Jesus who came to put them on the right track. His message was simple "Love the Lord your God and love your neighbour as yourself." Just imagine if we had listened and acted. We would be in a much fairer society, free of war and terror and the atrocities that have scarred our history. So I wonder... I just wonder if after all this is over we will continue to show acts of kindness to each other as he told us to do. God loves each of us more than we can imagine and He is suffering with us at this time

Bob Greenland

A priest asked his congregation to send him photos of themselves so he could place them in the pews during the closedown then....

Somebody saw this and complained that another person's photo was in their spot.



### Humour will help

**Crow Esquire** @CrowSaorAlba1 Another good reason for not coming to the Highlands at the moment is if the supermarkets run out of food and we turn to cannibalism, we've decided to eat the folk in campervans first.