

Rogation at St Mark's 2020: Introduction

Some of you may remember that in May 2017, as a gathered congregation in church we held a virtual 'beating the bounds' service celebrating where we have been placed as a community of faith.

Pictures of the boundary of the parish were stuck around the church walls; we gave thanks for all that is good and held in mind all those who live, work, study or relax in the parish. At the very end we made a circle around the pews for a prayer of commitment- before turning to face outwards and look beyond.

Today, we are not physically present to one another yet we are still gathered - virtually- and the interactive map will show where we actually are.

Rather than following the same parish boundary trail, at each stopping point today we will hear a brief comment. Sometimes it will reflect some of the issues that people are facing in their day to day lives. We will also hear how some people are creating sacred space at home and what is giving them hope at this time. The comments and liturgy are held together with a prayer bidding and response
- and a song of gratitude.

Thank you those who have contributed and to Hannah for the signing which she will lead during the service. You might have to juggle with your screen viewing to find her.

This May we are unable to gather together; the church building stands empty as we, the church, hold sacred spaces in our own homes. But today as Christian Aid Week begins we have an opportunity to affirm our sense of calling and identity as the Parish Church of St Mark as we remember those who have connections with the parish and recommit ourselves to honouring God's world and loving and serving all people.

This morning's service starts with us, right where we are - for we are all on holy ground.