

## ISOLATION: Keeping in Touch

### Was Easter Sunday only last Sunday?

I don't know about you, but this week seems a very long week. There is a sense of anti-climax. All the four Sundays pre- Easter – during this self-isolating/social distancing period – are named: Mothering Sunday, Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday then the great climax of Easter Sunday. Today? It is sometimes called **LOW SUNDAY** or simply the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter. Low Sunday perhaps seems to reflect the mood of the disciples after the Resurrection. 'Where do we go from here?'. Does it reflect our mood currently? We are supposed to have reached the climax of Covid 19: now for the long downhill run. We will get there in the end, things will improve, but like the disciples at Whitsun and the coming of the Holy Spirit, things will be different. *(Another suggestion for Low Sunday is fewer people in church after the numbers for Easter Sunday or the lack of hymns – to give choir and organist a rest after the celebrations of the previous Sunday!)*



Perhaps you think I've carried analogies too far, but that's the way my mind has been working this week! I've had some lovely country walks this week and managed to get my daily average this week over 4 miles. Left is the little church in Stert. Right – looking west towards Potterne church and the end of the Plain.



That is until this morning, when it was pouring with rain. I couldn't keep to my developing routine. The weather had conspired against me. In the end I gave up waiting for the rain to stop and went out about 9.30am. And guess what? It stopped raining just as I got back



home- a town walk of 3 miles. The view was looking down to avoid the puddles. They weren't quite as bad as this sign on a house in Gloucester Street Faringdon!

Today seems to be a day of many names: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the Easter period; Thomas Sunday because the gospel reading is of Doubting Thomas not fully believing the disciples when hearing of their experience of Christ appearing amongst them – I have great empathy with Thomas! – and Mercy Sunday, so perhaps this lovely hymn is appropriate.

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.

2 There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment given.

3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

4 If our love were but more faithful,  
we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving  
for the goodness of our Lord.

Written by Frederick W Faber in 1862.