**Wednesday 25th March**

Isaiah 52: 1, 2a

Awake, awake, Zion,
    clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendour,
    Jerusalem, the holy city.
The uncircumcised and defiled
    will not enter you again.
**2**Shake off your dust;
    rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem

 I’ve been thinking how extremely timely our series on Awakenings at St Mary’s was at the start of this year. When we were planning it, we could not have imagined that a matter of weeks later the whole landscape of our lives and the way that we do church would be so radically altered. There is a temptation when we are not able to meet together in person, and when our normal routines are disrupted to drift off. The Lord is calling his people to awaken and to rise up, to put on the robes of the righteousness of Jesus, and the splendour he has gifted to us. We do this by being beacons of his light, by partnering with the good purposes of the Lord in prayer and recognising that he has set us up to prevail in prayer!

 *Father God, we thank you that through Jesus you have made us a ‘chosen people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood’. We pray for your church throughout the world. As we come to terms with dramatic changes to all our lives, we ask for your grace to stay alert to your voice, and responsive to your prompting. Show us what it means to love you and love our neighbours in this climate. We pray your healing power to be at work in the sick today. We pray your protection over homes and families where demands are great, finance is stretched and tensions may rise. Speak your peace. Bring your hope. In Jesus name. Amen*

 Be Gods Beacon Of Light