



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 121

July 2020

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

BAPTISMS: All Baptisms at St Jude's remain suspended for the time being. If you have already booked a Baptism or made a Baptism enquiry, please do contact St Jude's. Once things return to normal we promise to facilitate the baptism of your child as soon as we can.

WEDDINGS: The Government has renewed permission for weddings to be held in church. However, they will be still subject to considerable restrictions, both national and local. These restrictions allow an absolute maximum of 30 people attending a wedding, and this will include both the clergy person and the organist. Social distancing rules will have to be observed. At St Jude's it will very much depend on the outcome of our risk assessment as to when and whether we can reintroduce weddings. For further essential information please see the Coronavirus section on the Church of England website and find the Weddings section under frequently asked questions. Please contact the Vicar if you already have a wedding booked at St Jude's in 2020 or if your wedding is due to take place elsewhere but you need your Banns to be read at St Jude's.

FUNERALS: Whilst the Government has given permission for funerals to take place in church we cannot at present offer this option at St Jude's. Our Vicar can conduct a funeral service in a local cemetery or crematorium, where we must continue to respect the COVID 19 guidelines to which they adhere. It will be our privilege to offer you a Memorial Service for your loved one at St Jude's at a later date.

The above guidance is expanded on the CofE website www.churchofengland.org and is updated regularly. If you would like to discuss these matters further please contact us on 01784 434133 or vicar@stjudeschurch.info

Concert

with Catherine Porter
and Elizabeth Porter (cellos)
and Geoff Chew (piano)

Saturday 4th July at 4.00pm

This will be streamed on
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU_BcMnFpfC4PvBe0mqRp4Q

The course ahead

I was glad when they said unto me "Let us go into the House of the Lord"

(Psalm 122:1)

But not quite yet...Those familiar words are best known for their wonderful setting by Hubert Parry composed for the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902. Today they seem to have an especial resonance.

Like all churches, St Jude's has been closed since mid-March. At the time of writing the Government has just begun to lift the restrictions on church use set in place then.

As a church community we want to be able to welcome everyone back into St Jude's as soon as we possibly can. But we want above all to be able to do that safely and well. We feel very keenly our responsibility to our village and the duty of care we owe to you all.

Over the coming weeks we shall be completing a COVID 19 Risk Assessment on the Church and on the Monsell Room within it. These Risk Assessments are mandatory under the current guidelines and will need to be in place before we can use the church for private prayer or any other form of worship, and before we can resume the letting of the Monsell Room to community groups.

Until we can in some way re-establish worship in Church, we shall be continuing our YouTube services which premiere at 9.30am each Sunday. We are enormously grateful to Guy Bunce, who puts these services together for us, and to everyone, within the village and beyond, who has taken time to take part. Thank you all.

We shall be in need of additional help to support our eventual reopening. We shall have to establish a regular pattern of cleaning and deep cleaning and we shall also need a team of stewards to be present at opening times. It is likely that we shall begin with a limited programme of opening, probably on a Saturday afternoon, as has been our previous practice.

Sadly, we are also conscious of the financial loss that we have incurred as a church during lockdown. Our regular programme of concerts, which is enhanced by generous donations from those who attend, has had to be set aside, although we are grateful that we shall now be able to listen to some pre-recorded performances on our YouTube Channel. The absence of a congregation Sunday by Sunday also inevitably means that our income is reduced. In the coming weeks we shall be facing extra cost as we seek to make St Jude's a safe place for worship in the months ahead. Even without that outlay it now costs £1800-£2000 per week to keep the little ship of St Jude's afloat.

We are indebted to the people of Englefield Green for your care for us and for the significant financial support we receive from you. If you feel, please, that there is any further support you could offer us at this time I know our Treasurer would be very glad to hear from you! If you are one of our regular givers you may perhaps be willing to set up a bank standing order instead of relying on our envelope scheme. Again, our Treasurer would be happy to help, or you can find all the information you may need on our website Giving Page www.stjudeschurch.info. We also now have "donate" buttons on our website and Facebook Page. Thank you all so much.

In one of my recent "Daily Jottings" I quoted from a hymn I loved as a teenager: *I do not know the course ahead*. I think perhaps many of us are feeling that as never before. I wish I could offer you more reassurance and give you a much better idea as to when we as a church can make steps towards the "new normal". But in these ever changing circumstances that is hard to do. Let me quote in full from the verse of that hymn:

*I do not know the course ahead, what joys and griefs are there
But one stands near who fully knows, I'll trust His loving care.*

I know that all of us are living with uncertainties of our own. We have fears for the future as well as hopes. But, whilst the doors of St Jude's may still be closed for a while, the heart of God is always open. And His arms of love are visible in all the many acts of kindness around us every day. God bless you all.

Judith Allford

Spotlight on Services

Please use our St Jude's website www.stjudeschurch.info and/or our Facebook page to access our regular Sunday Worship service, premiered from 9.30am each Sunday on YouTube. You will also find a daily "Jotting" or "Thought for the Day" from our Vicar.

Online services continue throughout the Staines and Feltham Methodist Circuit to which we belong. They can be accessed through the circuit website which is: www.sfmc.org.uk

We have recently introduced a Bible Study via Zoom. We meet on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm or a Thursday at 3pm. The programme is the same for both sessions. If you would like to join us at one of these please get in touch and we'll send you a Zoom invitation.

As time goes on we shall consider introducing other study activities via Zoom. This may possibly include a series looking at an introduction to the Christian faith. Again, please contact us if this would be of interest to you.

Email: vicar@stjudeschurch.info

Readings at Communion

5th July (Trinity 4)	Zechariah 9. 9-12 Psalm 145. 8-15 Romans 7. 15-25 Matthew 11. 16-19, 24-end
12th July (Trinity 5)	Isaiah 55. 10-13 Psalm 65 Romans 8. 1-11 Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23
19th July (Trinity 6)	Isaiah 44. 6-8 Psalm 86. 11-end Romans 8. 12-25 Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43
26th July (Trinity 7)	1 Kings 3.5-12 Psalm 119 129-136 Romans 8. 26-end Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

Food Bank

At St Jude's we have been supporting the local food bank in Egham (which has been open each Monday morning) with regular weekly donations of non-perishable foods and other basic supplies.

Under lockdown, we can no longer do this. But support is still urgently needed, and now only through cash donations made direct to Runnymede Food Bank in Chertsey, for the food banks in Egham, Addlestone, Chertsey and Weybridge. Such donations can be gift-aided if you are a taxpayer. Donate online at <http://runnymede.foodbank.org.uk>.

Other contact details: phone 01932 988350;
email info@runnymede.foodbank.org.uk;
main location 95 Guildford Street, Chertsey KT16 9AS.

Concerts

Our concert series has been interrupted owing to the lockdown, since March, but we shall be streaming some concerts online at 4pm on first Saturdays in the month, beginning on 4 July with a cello recital by Catherine Porter (together with her sister Elizabeth). Among other pieces this will feature an Impromptu for cello and piano by Guy Bunce, well known to many people locally. After the "premiere" online the concert will be available for later listening too. Please tune in!

It will be free as our concerts usually are, with an encouragement to make donations to the church.

Diary for July

- 4 Saturday 4.00pm "Streamed" Concert Catherine Porter, Elizabeth Porter (cellos) and Geoff Chew (piano)
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU_BcMnFpfC4PvBeOmqr4Q

All services, concerts, activities etc in church are cancelled for the time being

Email: enquiries@stjudeschurch.info

The Village Centre www.villagecentre.org.uk

We are very grateful to the staff of our Village Centre for their patience and support throughout lockdown. As you know our Manager, Ali Watts, has continued to work throughout the last three months and has provided invaluable support to the Egham/ Englefield Green Mutual Aid Programme. But, at the same time, we had to take the early decision to furlough other members of staff. This was not an easy decision and we do want to pay tribute to them for the gracious way in which they have continued to bear with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

The various programmes established by Mutual Aid have continued over the last month. With the gradual easing of lockdown, requests for help with shopping have become fewer and the prescription collection service has now been streamlined to operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, unless there is urgent need. The telephone buddy service continues and has been a real source of support to those who are especially isolated.

"Lockdown Babies" continues to offer support to growing families. "Lockdown Birthdays" and "Lockdown Books" are still bringing smiles to a number of faces in the village. Please contact 07526 360704 for further information on all of these or please use the Runnymede Borough Council triage line which is 01932 838383.

Plans for the eventual reopening of the Village Centre are still very much under discussion, as they are at St. Jude's. Under discussion also are longer term plans as to how the Centre might look in the future. It remains essential that we give careful thought and considerable planning to the requirements of social distancing and other means of staying safe. Plans for refurbishment have to be strictly guided by the special requirements that apply because the Centre is a Grade 2 listed building.

The Village Centre has a Management Committee chaired jointly by our Methodist Minister, The Revd Andrew Reed, and our Vicar, The Revd Judith Allford. We are particularly grateful to Andrew for his wise and committed leadership over this difficult period. We should also like to thank our committee members including, not least, those who have joined us most recently. COVID 19 has meant that their various roles are not quite what it said on the tin! Special thanks must be reserved for Ali herself, who has added sanding, varnishing and a whole host of technological talents to her skill set during these past weeks. She has also continued to offer support to many people, by phone or in her socially distanced person. Thank you all.

We are still very mindful that in September the Centre will have been in operation for ten years. During that time it has provided considerable support to many people and it has become a focus of meeting for many villagers of all ages. We still have a special celebration in mind, even if that celebration may perhaps be a little delayed. Time will tell!

We shall keep you in touch with our progress towards reopening via social media and our website: www.villagecentre.org.uk We shall shortly be installing a "Donate Now" button on the website which may help those who would like to support our work financially. If you would like to become a Friend of the Village Centre and contribute to its work on a regular basis please contact Ali on manager@villagecentre.org.uk.

From the Registers

Funerals: (22nd June) Maureen Patricia Bright; (29th) Geoffrey Charles Beere.

Web: www.stjudeschurch.info