



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 119

May 2020

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

With the passing of another month we still find ourselves in a situation where St Jude's has to remain closed and no services can be held within it. I know that regular worshippers are much missing the opportunity to share Holy Communion together. I also know, as I wrote last month, that many others have had to put on hold the marking of huge life events. This is such a painful time and I am so sorry.

It seems right to repeat the information we published last month and I do hope it will be of some help to you.

Sadly we still cannot open St Jude's on Saturday afternoon for enquiries.

The guidance which follows is from the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org Please check the website for the latest advice.

BAPTISMS

All Baptisms in church remain suspended. If you have already booked a Baptism or made a Baptism enquiry, please do contact St Jude's. Current guidance reads: Emergency baptisms can take place in a hospital or at home, though subject to strict hygiene precautions and physical distancing as far as this is possible. Once things return to normal we promise to facilitate the baptism of your child as soon as we can.

WEDDINGS

Sadly, there can still be no weddings in church buildings until further notice. If you have booked your wedding, even though it may be planned for some time ahead, you will need to be prepared for your plans to change. We do not know when restrictions will be lifted. If this happens close to your planned wedding date you may need to be married by Common Licence, rather than by the publication of Banns. The licence can be granted quite quickly and we can help you with the process of application.

I should be very grateful to hear from you 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 will need your Banns to be read at St Jude's. Please contact me as below. Thank you.

FUNERALS

The current Guidance reads: Funerals may now only happen at the Crematorium or at the graveside. Only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) - that is, spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way.

Love your neighbour

We have pedestrian traffic lights at the end of my road. At a press of a button the children from the schools safely cross St Jude's Road. These lights are efficient. However for over twenty five years Sue served the community as a Lollipop Lady. She was always there, her smile, a quick word to mums and children, then with a step of authority she would step into the road and hold up the traffic. How we miss that human touch!

How we miss our visits to restaurants, the pub, the gym and the many clubs that we belong to. We are social animals and we love to interact with other people. I miss going to Church, meeting with others to share in worshipping God, acknowledging his love for us, enjoying each other's fellowship.

Perhaps it is a time for us all to consider our relationship with God now that life is not so busy. Is he remote from us, is he close? Does he have any part of our lives? What part does he play in this drama that is all around us?

Jesus gave two commands in Matthew chapter 22 verses 37-39. He said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbour as yourself."

This moment of time we are seeing a great outpouring of love for our neighbours. We see the sacrifices of the NHS staff in the front line of the pandemic, to support staff in every area, such as supermarkets, postmen and women, delivery drivers and dustmen and so many more. Kind neighbours, who are going out of their way to see no one goes without food, or just making a friendly phone call to see all is well. I am reminded of John Donne's words from his 'Devotions' (1626).

"No man is an island entire of itself: every man is a piece of a continent. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is less.....Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved with mankind and therefore never send to know, for whom the bells toll, it tolls for thee."

Yes, we human beings necessarily depend on each other and I would add, that we depend on God too. Now is the time to reflect on both.

Let us hope and pray, that when life gets back to normal, and it will, we do not forget the lessons we have learnt, the new friendships made, the openness to praise the hard work and dedication of others. May we not forget the caring concern for our neighbours and see in this out pouring of love the hand of God at work.

Roy Gouriet

FUNERALS cont

Our hearts go out to you in the loss of someone dear to you. Our local Funeral Directors, Crematorium and Cemetery Staff are working hard to ensure funeral services can continue. You can make arrangements by telephone and the Funeral Arranger, as always, will give you all the help possible. Our clergy can conduct funeral services at local cemeteries and crematoria and we shall also offer you the opportunity of a Memorial Service for your loved one at a later date.

If you would like to discuss any of the above please contact us on 01784 434133 or vicar@stjudeschurch.info. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in these most significant of times.

Newsletter distributors

We are grateful to all those who deliver this Newsletter month by month. This month we are sending out electronic copies only. Hopefully things will soon be back to normal and we shall be very thankful for your continuing support. In the meantime, please contact us if we can do anything to help you.

From the Registers

Funerals: (6th April) Maria de Pelligrin; (15th) Derek George Belmont; (16th) Vicki Marilyn Robery; (21st) Leslie Curtis; (23rd) Kathleen Patricia Sheldon "Pat"

Spotlight on Services

During these days of "lockdown" St. Jude's Church remains closed for public worship. We continue to worship together via the internet. Please join us if you can!

You will find the link to our YouTube Channel on the front page of our website at www.stjudeschurch.info. If you are reading the SHIP electronically you can access it directly from this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU_BcMnFpfC4PvBe0mqRp4Q

You can also find the services via the St Jude's Englefield Green Face Book page.

There is a service scheduled for each Sunday morning at 9.30am. The service lasts about half an hour and includes contributions from our Junior Church leaders and from some of the children. Various members of the congregation are also taking part with readings and prayers. It is a lovely way to keep in touch with each other and to join in worship despite the limitations which this corona virus pandemic imposes on us all.

Once the 9.30am service has premiered, it remains available on YouTube so you will be able to watch at the time which is most suitable for you.

You will also find previous services still available on the channel, including our Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services. There are also three services of Compline led for us by the Revd Dr Orion Edgar during Holy Week, plus an introduction to singing Compline services for ourselves. The four meditations for Good Friday can also be accessed still.

Our Methodist Circuit: 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. You will find a very helpful variety of services and other worship material available on the site.

The Vicar's Jottings: The Vicar is writing a "Thought for the Day" for the St Jude's website www.stjudeschurch.info which you will find under the heading: "The Vicar's Jottings". Those too can also be accessed through the St Jude's Englefield Green Face Book page.

Readings at Communion

3rd May (4th Sunday of Easter)	Acts 2.42–end Psalm 23 1 Peter 2. 19–end John 10. 1–10
10th May (5th Sunday of Easter)	Acts 7 55–end Psalm 31. 1–5, 15–16 1 Peter 2. 2–10 John 14. 1–14
17th May (6th Sunday of Easter)	Acts 17. 22–31 Psalm 66. 7–end 1 Peter 3. 13–end John 14. 15–21
24th May (Sunday after Ascension Day)	Acts 1. 6–14 Psalm 68. 1–10, 32–end 1 Peter 4. 12–14, 5> 6–11 John 17. 1–11
31st May (Pentecost)	Acts 2. 1–21 Psalm 104. 26–36, 37b 1 Corinthians 12. 3b–13 John 20. 19–23

The Village Centre www.villagecentre.org.uk

Last month we requested your prayers for Ali Watts, our Village Centre Manager, and her team, currently working with Mutual Aid Egham and Englefield Green to assist some of those people most affected by the coronavirus pandemic. We are grateful that this work is now well under way and it is meeting some of the considerable need within our village community. Ali writes as follows:

There are now 250 active volunteers in our programme across Egham and Englefield Green. Each volunteer has first to be accredited by Voluntary Support North Surrey and also through the Runnymede Borough Council Identity scheme.

There are two ways to request help from us, either via the RBC triage line 01932 838383, who then email through to our relevant teams, or you can contact us directly on 07526 360704. Statistics for the third week in April in Englefield Green show that we undertook 30 shopping tasks and processed 20 prescription collections and deliveries. Many dog walking teams and phone buddy partnerships have also been established.

We are working fully in line with RBC and are the busiest and most proactive Neighbourhood Support group in Runnymede. Our volunteering system has been used as a model and is being rolled out in many other areas.

Alongside the Council we are keeping in regular contact with local sheltered housing providers to ensure residents have all the support they need. We are maintaining similar contact with local schools. The Food Bank has provided many Food Parcels to those in need and boxes of Easter eggs were hand-delivered on Easter Sunday by local councillors.

Members of the Team who are out and about across the community work to a strict hygiene policy and are being supplied with masks that are handmade by two of our volunteers and gloves.

A new information leaflet with further details about the support we are able to offer will be delivered house to house in the immediate future.

If there is any way in which we can help you, or someone you know, please call the RBC Triage Line on 01932 838383 or the new mobile no 07526 360704.

Covid-19 Mutual Aid – Self-Isolating? You are not alone!

Please continue to pray – this is an amazing piece of work taking place within our community and we are indebted to all involved.

Giving

Several people have enquired how best to maintain regular giving to the Church and Village Centre. Thank you so much for your generosity and thought for us.

Please do get in touch if you are a regular cash giver through our envelope scheme and you would like to know how to progress this at this time.

If you would like details of how to set up a Standing Order please contact our Honorary Treasurer at 01784 437615 or by email: treasurer@stjudeschurch.info

If you wish we could email you a copy of our Standing Order Form and Gift Aid Declaration Form.

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).

Diary for May All services, concerts, activities etc are cancelled for the time being

Email: enquiries@stjudeschurch.info

Web: www.stjudeschurch.info