



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 131

May 2021

Services for May

We are glad to be back in St Jude's and we look forward very much to welcoming you amongst us. We still need to wear face coverings, observe social distancing, use hand sanitizers and complete "Test and Trace" forms/use the QR code. We need to ensure the church is well-ventilated so warm clothes will probably remain the order of the day! Our services will last approximately 40 minutes and numbers will be restricted to 30 so we need to gather in good time! We hope that permission to sing once again is not too far away!

Services for May will be as follows:

Sunday 2nd May

9.30am Live-Streamed Informal Holy Communion Service in Church

Sunday 9th May

8.00am Holy Communion in Church
9.30 am Pre-recorded Service on YouTube

Thursday 13th May Ascension Day

7.30pm Service in Church

Sunday 16th May

9.30 am Live-Streamed Holy Communion Service in Church

Sunday 23rd May Pentecost

8.00am Holy Communion in Church
9.30 am Live-Streamed Holy Communion Service in Church

Sunday 30th May Trinity Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion in Church
9.30am Pre-recorded Service on YouTube

We await further advice from central government and are very hopeful that we shall be able to expand our programme further in June. We plan to continue with an element of online worship and remain extremely grateful to Dr Guy Bunce for making this possible.

Please note that advice regarding Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals is still subject to review. Please contact us for more details and we shall do our best to help as time goes on. Thank you for all your patience during this past year.

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please remember that you can help St Jude's when shopping online (Amazon, John Lewis etc) by registering with easyfundraising.org.uk.

Our responsibility

The other day I was doing some work in the Manse Garden clearing the weeds from a rose bed. As I did this I came across some rather large white grubs. I found quite a few and wondered what they were. I went online and looked them up to discover that they were in fact Cockchafer Grubs. They have large white bodies and orange heads. When they mature one of the names that they are known by is the May bug. This is because they hatch around this time of year. Although it is called a bug it is really a beetle. You may have seen them bumping into windows and into light fittings. They are just over an inch long or 3 cms which means that they are easily spotted. They are a pest because as grubs they eat the roots of live plants and as adults they eat leaves and flowers. In the past they have been a real problem and in 1320 there was a court case in Avignon where the Cockchafer were exiled to a special reserve. Unsurprisingly they did not obey the order of the Court. More recently the number of beetles reduced nearly to extinction due to the use of pesticides but they are on the increase again now that use of chemicals is more controlled these days.

In Genesis, the first book in the Bible, we read that God instructed Adam to work and keep the garden of Eden. It may not be such a bad idea to apply this principle to the whole of our world today. The word "keep" used here means more than to just keep it neat and tidy. It means to guard it, to watch over it and protect it. We know that some of us have not been very good at doing this and this may be because we do not always see the results of our actions. However, scientists are able to show us the effects of our lifestyle which forces us to consider how we might respond in future to ensure that we look after it properly. The Bible tells us that our responsibility goes beyond the nice and cuddly creatures and plants and extends to the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing on the earth, which means that I need to remember that it even includes those cockchafer grubs enjoying the roots of the plants in my garden.

I was interested to hear this quotation during the BBC Radio 4 programme "Beyond Belief" which reflected on the life of Prince Philip in the week before his funeral in the middle of April. It was originally part of an Advent talk he gave at St George's Chapel. He was seeking to make a link between faith and the world around us. He said, "God did not make us masters of creation. He expects us to be its guardians." which is a good reminder of the responsibility that we have to care for our world.

Why not keep a look out for those May Bugs over the coming month and if you see them, call to mind the fact that they are part of our incredible world and that we have a duty of care for our planet with all the diversity it contains and which we call our home.

Andrew Reed

Culture Recovery Fund Award



We are delighted to report that St Jude's Church has been awarded an initial grant of £3700 from the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund. The money is awarded to help organisations recover and reopen, via #HereForCulture, which is supporting communities across the country. It is specifically for repair and maintenance, and for publicity and display materials to help us recover, and we must spend that by the end of June. There is a possibility of a further grant later.

Other work that we both need and wish to do is not covered within the terms of the award. We shall also be seeking the means of funding an Audio Visual System for the church, plus much needed maintenance of the stonework and internal timbers. We should be glad to hear from anyone who is able to help us move these projects forward. Thank you all.

Please do access our website for details of ways in which you can give. www.stjudeschurch.info

Annual Meetings

Our thanks to all those who attended our APCM on Sunday 25th April. At that meeting we expressed our especial thanks to Diana Bendall who has stepped down from her role as one of our churchwardens after a remarkable period of challenge, change and COVID! We are enormously grateful for all she has done among us and wish her more time now to enjoy her many other interests and responsibilities.

We are equally grateful to Claudia Tubb who was re-elected churchwarden for the coming year. Congratulations to Mike Brooking who now takes up the role alongside Claudia.

Congratulations to Andrew Sheer, Jenny Chew, Liz Hopkins and Dave Walker who were all re-elected to serve on the Church Council for a further term of 3 years.

The meeting received our annual reports and accounts for 2020, including those of our Village Centre. Hard copies or electronic copies are available to those who would like to see them.

Our Electoral Roll stands now at 81 members, a reduction of one following the death this month of Margaret Stone who has been a long-standing member of our congregation and is very greatly missed.

As we go forward into the coming year with all its unknowns and opportunities, we reminded ourselves of the vision statement chosen some years ago for St Jude's:

"We are seekers after God, believing that God has already come in Christ Jesus and wanting to share what we have."

Readings at Communion

2nd May (Easter 5)	Acts 8.26–end Psalm 22. 25–end 1 John 4. 7–end John 15. 1–8
9th May (Easter 6)	Acts 10. 44–end Psalm 98 1 John 5. 1–6 John 15. 9–17
13th May	Act1. 1–11 Ephesians 1. 15–end Luke 24. 44–end
16th May (Easter 7 - Sunday after the Ascension)	Acts 1. 15-17, 21–end Psalm 1 1 John 5. 9–13 John 17. 6–19
23rd May (Pentecost)	Acts 2. 1–21 Psalm 104 vv 26–37b Romans 8. 22–27 John 15. 26–27, 16. 4b–15
30th May (Trinity Sunday)	Isaiah 6.1–8 Psalm 29 Romans 8. 12–17 John 3. 1–17

Runnymede Food Bank

St Jude's Church has now resumed its collections for Runnymede Food Bank and we are grateful to Geoff and Jenny Chew for facilitating this. We are also grateful for a large donation of food which came in as St Jude's reopened for worship. Donations of non-perishable food can be left in the crate in the Monsell Room and will be taken to the collection point on the Thorpe Trading Estate as regularly as possible. Geoff and Jenny will let us know if particular items are needed at any time. Thank you!

Diary for May 2021

Our Sunday services (and Ascension Day) are shown on the front page of this Newsletter

Email: enquiries@stjudeschurch.info

The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk 01784 471110

Our most exciting news is that the Village Centre Café is due to re-open on Monday 17th May! Hours of opening will be from 9am–2pm. A number of our classes and bookings have already resumed and we are delighted to be welcoming back a member of our staff from furlough. We look forward to welcoming return visitors and greeting new ones!

Our Community Fridge/Kitchen are flourishing. We continue to be grateful to local retailers for supplying us with surplus food and for our volunteers who regularly collect the food for us. Everyone within the area is warmly welcome to visit the Fridge. Opening times at present are Mondays and Fridays, 9am–11am

Volunteers are still spending Mondays cooking meals at the Centre and Tuesdays delivering them in the community. If you know of someone who is isolated, unwell, shielding, or would otherwise benefit from the occasional gift of a freshly cooked meal, please contact us. Please let us know also if you'd like to volunteer your help!

Our collections for the Runnymede Food Bank are continuing on Monday and Friday mornings.

We now have a Village Centre "wish list" basket in the lobby so that those who wish to do so have the opportunity to donate items for which we have a particular use. There is a poster with the basket which lists some of our current needs. We are so grateful for your generosity to us.

Please do get in touch with Ali: manager@villagecentre.org.uk if you would like to know more about what we are doing, or if you would like to offer to help in any way. Please also remember, in the continued wake of COVID 19, that if you, or someone you know, has particular needs, you can still access help from the Village Centre/Mutual Aid by contacting 07526 360704 or the Runnymede Borough Council triage line, 01932 838383.

St Jude's School

As usual at our APCM we received a report from St Jude's C of E Junior School. Vicki Chiverton, Head Teacher, described the particular challenges presented in 2020 by the pandemic. She said that the year had been "one of the most challenging ever for everyone working in and attending school". We are indebted to her and to all the staff team for their courage and hard work in keeping the school going both virtually and actually. Mrs Chiverton commented that the children have shown remarkable resilience. So too have the staff and we are grateful to them all. We also recognise that the ongoing challenges remain.

We are looking forward to the birth of the new St Jude's C of E Infants School, an amalgam of Englefield Green Infants School and Christchurch, Virginia Water C of E Infants School. The school will be on the present EGIS site and opens its doors on 1st September 2021. We are privileged to enjoy such high standards of education within our Village. Our grateful thanks to all whose tireless commitment ensures this is so.

From the Registers

Funerals:

(24th March) Doris Swift; Hilda Piper (Interment of Ashes); (31st March) Kenneth Richard Hills; (12th April) Colin William Edwards; (20th April) Betty Mummy; (27th April) Margaret Stone.

Web: www.stjudeschurch.info