



# The Ship

**St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter**

Anglicans and Methodists working together

**Number 139**

**January 2022**

## **The Revd Lorna Cassandra Smith** (11th March 1943–1st December 2021)

It was with great sadness that on 1st December 2021 we received the news of the death of the Revd Lorna Smith. Lorna was Vicar of the Parish of St Jude's Englefield Green from 1997–2005 and she is remembered by many in the church and in the wider village community with great affection, respect and gratitude.

Those of us who knew Lorna were not surprised to discover that she had left full and detailed instructions for her funeral arrangements. The last years of her life had been happily spent in St Mary's Convent and Nursing Home in Chiswick and, as Lorna had requested and planned, the first part of the service in celebration of her life and ministry took place in the Chapel there on 15th December. The Service was led by one of the priests who had regularly ministered to Lorna in recent times.

The service of commendation and committal for her took place in St Jude's and at her graveside in Englefield Green Cemetery that same afternoon. Tributes were paid to Lorna by Iain Jennings, a close and loyal friend to Lorna over many years, and Brian Hooker, who had remained in touch with Lorna after serving alongside her as Churchwarden during her incumbency at St Jude's.

Brian reminded us of many of the unique aspects of Lorna's ministry here, including her ability to effect change and her vision for a Parish Centre which evolved into our Monsell Room, its eventual existence owing much to Lorna's original determination to create space for gathering and fellowship. Lorna's gifts of hospitality were also legendary. Meetings in the Vicarage were often held around a roaring log fire and home-made refreshments were always available. Lorna's idea of a day off was to spend it creating dozens of jars of home-made preserves to be sold in aid of St Jude's. The Vicarage garden became home for a number of summer garden parties. More significantly, there are many who owe a great deal to Lorna's public ministry, pastoral care and her gift for nurturing individuals in the Christian faith.

Lorna had been one of the first women to be ordained Priest in 1994. She was proud of her calling and faithful in her exercise of it. We thank God for her.

## **Lives, Love and Legacies**

In the immediate aftermath of the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu which, at the time of writing was just two days ago, the Archbishop of Canterbury offered a moving tribute of which these words are part: "After meeting him, many would speak of being in the presence of one who brought God close to them. His joy, grace, laughter, hope and life caught up those around him with a sense of Jesus Christ. It was Jesus' love we saw in his eyes, Jesus' compassion we heard in his voice, Jesus' joy we heard in his laughter, Jesus' face we saw in his face".

"Arch" as Desmond Tutu was affectionately known, without doubt made a unique impact for good on our world. His legacy is enormous. With his passing a light is extinguished. The year that lies before us will not know his presence among us but please God we shall yet learn from the abiding example of his life.

Many who are reading this will also be so very conscious of loved ones who will not journey with us into 2022. The turn of the year can be very hard to bear. It can seem to bring an even further distance between us and those most dear to us. Whilst our loved ones may not have captured headlines, won prizes or changed the world, they will have left the immeasurable impact of their love in so many places in our lives. They have left their footprints in our hearts and the echoes of their wisdom, grace and laughter will follow us down the years. So too will our sorrow, and so too will our gratitude for all that those whom we love, but see no longer, will forever be to us.

As a global community our sense of loss has surely been heightened by COVID. For many COVID has brought the pain and separation of death even closer to our doors. But, for many others it is the tragedy of more familiar disease, accident, natural disaster or even atrocity that has been the thief of those whom we love. Whatever the circumstances the separation is real and devastating in its seeming finality.

But maybe at the dawn of 2022 our searing losses lead us to reflect a little on the impact we too may leave on the lives of those around us. Our legacies are created by our living far more than by our dying. I suspect the words of Archbishop Justin from which I have quoted at the beginning of this article would have brought more joy to Desmond Tutu than many of the countless plaudits he will continue to receive.

I too, like others among us, have lost someone dear to me in 2021. When I read Justin Welby's words I thought how very aptly they applied to the life of my friend, who has left the indelible impression of Jesus upon so many of us who loved her.

What shall we leave behind? I suppose that a new year is always a moment to take stock of our lives; sometimes to make changes, to take up new challenges and to reassess what is truly important. It may be our faith which shapes our lives, it may be a moral compass handed down to us through many generations, it may be the inheritance of talent or it may be a desire to make a difference within the parameters of our world. Whatever it is, the examples of Desmond Tutu, and that of others like my friend, inspire us to be the best we can be on the journey that lies ahead of us.

And, whatever may be our religious conviction, or not, we could perhaps consider for ourselves the example of Jesus, the itinerant Palestinian teacher, whose selfless love turned the world upside down. He was, and is, the light of the world that even the darkness of death cannot overcome. To live in his light and to die by faith in him, confident of eternity, was the unfailing inspiration behind all that Desmond Tutu achieved. May we too set our star by his light and travel safely and well through 2022. May the unfading light of his love shed its peace and joy along its pathway as yet unknown. God bless you.

*Judith Allford*

## **Apology**

We apologise that there will be no service of Holy Communion at 10.00am on Wednesday 5th January.

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas services and especial thanks to our St Jude's Choir, who reformed for our Carol Service, the first time since the start of the pandemic. It was good to see them back in place! Thank you to our musicians Geoff and Guy and to Chloe for her support as well.

Thank you to our newly formed volunteer team of St Jude's Church cleaners who cleaned the church so beautifully in preparation for our Christmas services! (There is still room for others who wish to become part of the team. Please contact us if that's you!)

Thank you to all who helped with the decoration of the church for Christmas. St Jude's looked magnificent and your hard work was much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who continues regularly to donate to the Runnymede Food Bank and to Geoff Chew for passing our donations on week by week.

Thank you everyone reading this newsletter for your prayer, fellowship, friendship and generosity to St Jude's throughout another challenging year. We are grateful for the myriad ways in which you support the work of this beautiful church. We are hugely indebted to you and we pray God's blessing upon you in 2022.

## Readings at Communion

2nd January (The Epiphany)	Isaiah 60. 1-6 Psalm 72. 10-15 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 1-12
9th January (1st Sunday of Epiphany)	Isaiah 43. 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8. 14-17 Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22
16th January (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)	Isaiah 62. 1-5 Psalm 36. 5-10 1 Corinthians 12. 1-11 John 2. 1-11
23rd January (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)	Nehemiah 8. 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12. 12-31a Luke 4. 14-21
30th January (Candlemas)	Malachi 3. 1-5 Psalm 24 Hebrew 2. 14-end Luke 2. 22-40

## From the Registers

*Funeral:* (15th December) Lorna Cassandra Smith (Priest).

## Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please do remember that if you register with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select St Jude's Church, Englefield Green as your chosen charity, you can then shop online with firms (including Amazon, John Lewis, etc) and make money for St Jude's at the same time without costing you a penny.

## Diary for January 2022

- 2 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Family Holy Communion (Reflection for Epiphany on YouTube)
- 5 Wednesday NO 10.00am Holy Communion
- 9 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion (live streamed on YouTube)
- 12 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 16 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion (Sunday reflection on YouTube)
- 19 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 23 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion (Sunday reflection on YouTube)
- 26 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion 7.30pm Church Council meets (Zoom)
- 30 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Morning Service (NO Holy Communion) (live streamed on YouTube)

## The Village Centre

[www.villagecentre.org.uk](http://www.villagecentre.org.uk)

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For several weeks before Christmas our Village Centre staff team and our volunteers were additionally busy preparing Christmas gifts and other goodies to be distributed locally. We are grateful for the support we received from local retailers, residents and business organisations. We are particularly glad that some of our Afghan families, who have so recently become part of our Borough Community, were able to be included in this distribution.

We had planned a Christmas Community Lunch for 21st December and had received approximately 50 bookings. We were disappointed to have to take a last-minute decision to cancel this significant event, due to the uncertainties posed by the ongoing COVID situation. But the food was not wasted! Approximately 70 meals were prepared and delivered to residents in the village who would otherwise have come to the lunch.

We continue to look forward to the refurbishment of our Cafe, with a planned start-date in March. Until then we shall be open for business as usual from Tuesday 4th January. Please do call in to enjoy a snack or a delicious lunchtime meal with us. Your support for us continues to be invaluable, and not least in these tough times.

## Spotlight on our Schools

We were delighted to welcome staff and children from both our St Jude's Infant and Junior Schools into St Jude's just before the end of term. Both schools shared with us in drama and song, readings and prayer, their take on the story of the first Christmas. We are very grateful to you all.

Please pray for our Head Teachers, Michelle McNamee and Vicki Chiverton, and for their staff teams, as both schools re-open next week after the Christmas break. This remains a challenging time for all those engaged in education. We thank God for all the schools and educational institutions in our Parish and pray for an abundance of energy, vision and wisdom for all who work within them.

## A few updates....

We are continuing to follow COVID guidance as issued to us both by the Government and the Church of England. This includes the wearing of face coverings in church, including whilst singing, and the maintenance of social distancing. We are also trying to keep the church well-ventilated, both during and between our services.

One of our two church boilers, which have served us valiantly for over 30 years, has now failed and both boilers need to be replaced. We expect this installation to happen at the end of January. Please pray that our remaining boiler keeps going until then and that the money needed for this essential work will be provided.

We continue to make progress on the upgrade of our AV system and we have already appreciated the improvement of the sound quality in church. Thank you to all who have already given so generously to this project.