



# The Ship

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

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 133

July 2021

## Towards a New Normal?

We are all adjusting to the news that the easing of lockdown restrictions has been delayed. The wisdom of this seems clear, given the incidence of the latest COVID variants, but nonetheless I am very aware that this news has brought frustration to some and heartache to others. I am so sorry.

Here at St Jude's our worship pattern is beginning to look a bit more familiar as you will see from our Diary. It is a special joy to be able to welcome back our Wednesday 10am congregation as from 7th July. Most Sundays in the coming weeks we shall return to our pattern of two morning services – at 8am and 9.30am – but we are very keen to maintain our online presence so there will be occasional Sundays (as on Sunday 18th July) when our 9.30am service will be a pre-recorded service on our YouTube channel.

We are not planning to resume our monthly Evensong services in the immediate future but we shall keep you posted about that.

As you know, we have launched an appeal to raise money to buy our own Audio-Visual equipment so that our livestreaming can continue and we are immensely grateful to those who have already donated to that appeal. Details of how to give can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

In my message to you this month I have suggested that there may well be some of you who have thoughts about what you would like to see from St Jude's as time goes on. It may be that some of you have worshipped with us in times past but feel we are no longer meeting your hopes or needs. Our Church Council is currently very carefully considering our worship pattern for the future and we'd love to know if you have ideas which we could think about in that discussion. If so, please do contact me on the email address on our website. I should be really pleased to hear from you.

Meantime may God bless you and your loved ones and keep you safe in these still uncertain times.

## Remembering with Thanksgiving

Away on holiday for a few days I met up with a friend whom I had last seen over forty years ago. He had been a tutor at the Theological College where I trained for Christian ministry. A gracious godly man; the years fell away as we talked. Much of our conversation was around our recollections of that time; people we had known; experiences we had shared.

We talked too of the different places where we have served since then, of the variety of ministry we have been privileged to enjoy. And we talked about where we are today, in very different settings, but still very conscious of God's calling and His care.

I was also able to say "thank you" to my friend for everything he had done for me those forty years before. It was a rare and priceless opportunity to express my gratitude that, but for his listening and support at that time, I may not even have continued along the path of ministry.

Some of us will remember the musical "Salad Days" with its recurring theme: "We said we wouldn't look back". Looking back isn't always a good thing to do. It can too easily leave us regretful or disappointed. But on this occasion it left me glad. It healed some of my own regrets and enabled me to recognise how much that has been positive and valuable in my life was established in those days.

The apostle Paul urged his readers in the church in Philippi two thousand years ago to follow his own example of resolutely looking forward: "Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead" (Philippians 3:13). Sometimes, in order to live well in the present, we have to make a conscious decision to let go of the mistakes and hurts of the past; to relinquish those dreams which have been unfulfilled and, as in Paul's own situation, even to live lightly to past successes and achievements.

For many of us perhaps the events of these past 18 months may be best forgotten. But for many more people, to whom the pandemic has brought suffering and loss, it will be impossible to forget. As we begin to look ahead it will still be with raw and painful memories of what is gone, never to be regained. The pandemic has created its own boundary line: a sense of "before" and "after" and we cannot recapture what was "before" that line was drawn.

And, whatever our circumstance, perhaps the pandemic leaves behind some treasures that we shall gladly remember: some thoughtful kindnesses which transformed even the bleakest of days; echoes of laughter from a touch of humour which lightened the load of difficult but necessary restrictions.

The Bible calls us also to remember: *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.* (Hebrews 13:7). Those words hold particular relevance for me as I continue to reflect on that conversation with my friend.

The Archbishop of Canterbury reminded us recently that "It is not in our independence, but in our interdependence that our strength and humanity is found".

So often our lives are shaped by the impact of another's life upon us. It is good to look back and be grateful to those whose example has inspired and encouraged us. And it is good to be given, as I was given, the rare opportunity to say "thank you".

I want to take the opportunity to say "thank you" to the people of Englefield Green! Thank you to those who have made the pandemic far easier to bear than it might have been. Thank you to those who have been generous in your support of St Jude's and the Village Centre, not only in these tough times, but in years past also. Thank you to all who continue to support us.

I also want to invite you to look ahead with us. COVID 19 has made many of us consider how we might do some things differently. There may be things we should do differently at St Jude's as we look to the future – and things which should stay the same. How would you like to see your village church respond to the challenges of "after"? We'd love to hear from you. God bless you – and thank you.

Judith Allford

## Audio Visual Equipment

We are pleased to be able to announce that services are about to be a little more “normal” from July onwards. However it is clear that there is a demand for online services to continue – for those who cannot come in person but are part of the community of St Jude’s. We would also hope in future to provide live-streaming for baptisms, weddings and funerals when requested and also for our concerts. At present we are using equipment generously loaned to us, but we feel it is time now to buy our own. The cost (including the power supply) will be in the region of £10,400. Some of the amount has already been pledged and we are asking for donations to complete our target. Please do give generously, if you can, in thanks for all God’s provisions for us. Any monies which come in over and above our target will be diverted to other projects within St Jude’s.

### How to donate



Donations to St Jude’s Church can always be made using online banking directly to our accounts (CAF Bank 40-52-40, 00013020 St Jude’s United Church) and (NatWest 60-07-33, 02317990 St Jude’s Parochial Church Council). Please mark donations AV if they are for the AV equipment appeal. You can also donate to the Audio Visual appeal using the QR code.

## Spotlight on our Schools

The last academic year has probably been one of the most challenging ever for Schools and other educational establishments across the UK. In Englefield Green we are indebted to all our educational leaders and their staff teams for all they have done throughout the pandemic to provide consistent and high quality educational care for our children and young people.

As the summer term comes to an end we have particular cause to be grateful to the Head Teachers, Staff and Governors of St Jude’s C of E Junior School and Englefield Green Infants School for all the hard work they have also done in preparation for the opening in September of the new St Jude’s C of E Infant School in Barley Mow Road.

We are greatly looking forward to welcoming St Jude’s C of E Infant School into our community. The School has been brought into being through the merger of EGIS with Christ Church Infants School, Virginia Water. Representatives from Christchurch, including Children and Families Curate, The Revd Jeremy Brown, will serve on the new Governing body alongside representatives from St Jude’s Church and our local community.

Please remember all our children who will be starting different schools in the autumn term. This includes Year 6 children moving on to secondary schools and Year 2 children joining St Jude’s Junior School. And please remember too all the children who will become foundational members of St Jude’s Infants School.

Our special good wishes to our two Head Teachers: Miss Michelle McNamee and Mrs Vicki Chiverton. May God continue to bless their leadership in all the exciting opportunities ahead.

## Diary for July 2021

- 4 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Informal Holy Communion (live-streamed)
- 7 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 11 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion (live-streamed)
- 14 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 18 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion NO 9.30am Holy Communion in Church  
9.30am Pre-recorded service on Youtube
- 21 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 25 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30 Holy Communion (live-streamed)
- 28 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion

## The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk

01784 471110

Our Cafe remains open from 9am–2pm each weekday. Do call in for coffee/tea and one of our delicious home-made cakes! We love to see returning customers – and new customers too! And, if you have a little extra time to spare, why not come and enjoy a light lunch?

Our environment remains COVID secure with social distancing in place, a sign-in point for track and trace, and the use of face covering before you sit down to eat. And there are plenty of toys to occupy our younger visitors.

Our Community Fridge/ Kitchen continue to flourish. Please come and visit us on Mondays and Fridays, 9am–11am when we have lovely food available for you. The Runnymede Foodbank is now open at the Centre each Wednesday afternoon from 1.00–3.00pm. Please leave any gifts of non-perishable food items in the Village Centre foyer. Thank you!

We are grateful as always to Ali and her wonderful team of staff and volunteers. Please do show them your support by popping into the Centre and enjoying a few minutes of relaxation! Please contact Ali: [manager@villagecentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@villagecentre.org.uk) if you would like to know more about what we are doing, or if you would like to offer your help with some of our many projects. Thank you all.

## Readings at Communion

4th July (5th Sunday after Trinity)	Ezekiel 2. 1–5 Psalm 123 2 Corinthians 12. 2–10 Mark 6. 1–13 end
11th July (6th Sunday after Trinity)	Amos 7. 7–15 Psalm 85. 8–end Ephesians 1. 3–14 Mark 6. 14–29
18th July (7th Sunday after Trinity)	Jeremiah 23. 1–6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2. 11–end Mark 6. 30–34, 53–end
25th July (8th Sunday after Trinity)	Acts 11.27–12.2 Psalm 126 2 Corinthians 4. 7–15 Matthew 20. 20–28

## From the Registers

Funerals: (4th June) Gwendoline Ellen Gladys Beach;  
(11th June) Brian Leslie Hamm (Interment of Ashes);  
(24th June) Joan Dorothy Shaw.

## Food Bank Matters

Those returning to worship within St Jude’s will have spotted that our Food Bank collection crate is back in the Monsell Room. Please do make use of it to leave donations of non perishable food items. Geoff and Jenny Chew are continuing regularly to pass on our donations to the Collection point in Egham and will be glad to give you further details of how you can help. Our thanks to them and to you.