



# The Ship

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

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 118

April 2020

## Baptism, Weddings and Funerals

Contact St Jude's Church on 01784 434133 or vicar@stjudeschurch.info

One of the most difficult aspects of the present time is the directive to keep our church buildings closed. We deeply appreciate the reasons underpinning this guidance but the consequence is added sadness for people at the most significant moments of their lives.

We can no longer open St Jude's on Saturday afternoon for enquiries.

The guidance below is from the CofE website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) Please check the website for the latest advice.

### BAPTISMS

All Baptisms in church are 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 possible.

### WEDDINGS

Sadly, there can 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 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. Please contact St Jude's.

### FUNERALS

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.

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 crematoria and cemeteries. They will discuss the service with you by phone.

## Unprecedented Times

*We are living in unprecedented times.* I realise that's not an original statement but we have been plunged into circumstances which seem beyond the control of even 21st century humankind. Tried and tested systems seem to be falling apart.

*What then shall we say to this?* That's not an original statement either! It comes from the letter of the apostle Paul to the Romans. It introduces what has become one of the best-known passages of the New Testament, reminding us that there is no circumstance that can ever have the power to separate us from the love of God.

This time last month I was asking you how we can make St Jude's more accessible! Within a few brief weeks we have had to close the church doors completely because of COVID 19. But the heart of God stays open to us all.

It may be that you are aware of those in particular need at this distressing and challenging time. We can offer support through our Village Centre. Again, its doors are also closed but Ali Watts, our Centre Manager, is helping to lead COVID-19 Mutual Aid Egham and Englefield Green. We are hugely indebted to Ali and to many people in the wider community of Englefield Green who have set up a programme of support for those who will find the current LOCKDOWN especially difficult. An extract from their publicity appears overleaf.

When I was a little girl in Sunday School I remember learning a chorus with a line that went something like this: *Mine are the hands to do God's work; my feet shall run for thee.* In all the caring that is happening in these difficult days we can glimpse the love of God made visible amongst us. We are enormously grateful to all those who are showing such selfless willingness to be the eyes and ears; the hands and feet of our community. We are grateful to those whose vision was the impetus behind all the work that is now being done. We are grateful to those who are spending long hours ensuring that this initiative can stay up and running in the most effective way possible. To Ali and to all working with her we can say only the very biggest "Thank you".

We know that the present situation will continue for some time. We know also that it may well worsen. At the time of writing we are still in the season of Lent when perhaps we remember more than at any other time that God in the Lord Jesus Christ has shared all the pain and tears of this earthly life, as well as its joys. As Lent comes to a close we shall come to Good Friday with its stark reminder that Jesus has shared even death with us. Then we shall wake to the promise of Easter Sunday: that even death itself could not hold the Son of God – and that brings me back to Romans 8, from which I quoted at the beginning of this piece: *What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

If God loved us enough to send his son to die for us – will he not also take care of us as we put our trust in him? Yes he will! his love will be shown through the love of others and also in ways which are much less tangible – but no less real. In these unprecedented times that is a promise to which we can safely cling.

God bless you with his Easter love.

Judith Allford

### FUNERALS (contd)

We know how very hard it is not to be able to offer your loved one the funeral you would have chosen. Once St Jude's Church can be used once again, we shall offer you the opportunity of a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for the life of the one you have so sadly lost. Please contact St Jude's on 01784 434133 or vicar@stjudeschurch.info

Our thoughts and prayers are with you in these most significant of times.

## Spotlight on Services

In the absence of public worship we are still trying to find ways in which we can reflect and pray together even though physically we are apart. Please keep an eye on our website [www.stjudeschurch.info](http://www.stjudeschurch.info) and on the St Jude's United Church Face book page.

We are trying to offer a thought for each day, which you will find under "The Vicar's Jottings" on our website, and which will be a daily post on our Face Book page.

If we continue to be able to offer video/audio messages you will find details on our website of the timings of these. You will also find there the Bible readings set for each Sunday and the prayer diary from day to day. As Easter approaches we'll try to increase the worship material we make available to you – and try to offer something for children to look at as well.

You will also be able to find acts of worship on the website of the Staines and Feltham Methodist Circuit of which St Jude's is a part: [www.sfmc.org.uk](http://www.sfmc.org.uk)

Other churches across the Diocese, and indeed across the country, are also providing online worship. There are services for Daily Worship on the Church of England website ([www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)) which also has a prayer for each day.

You will find similar provision on [www.methodistchurch.org](http://www.methodistchurch.org)

As Easter approaches there should be other acts of worship provided on TV and Radio Channels.

We shall continue in private prayer for those known to us who are unwell and for those who grieve the loss of a loved one. Please let us know if you would like a name added to our prayers.

## Readings at Communion

5th April (Palm Sunday)	Isaiah 50. 4–9a Psalm 69 Philippians 2. 5–11 Matthew 26, 27
12th April (Easter Day)	Jeremiah 31. 1–6 Psalm 118. 1–2, 14–24 Acts 10.34–43 Matthew 28. 1–10
19th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)	Acts 2. 14a, 22–32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1. 3–9 John 20. 19–end
26th April (3rd Sunday of Easter)	Acts 2. 14a, 36–41 Psalm 116. 1–3, 10–end 1 Peter 1. 17–23 Luke 24. 13–35

## Annual Meetings

The annual meeting which were to be held on Sunday 26th April have been postponed until further notice.

## 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.

## Diary for April

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

## The Village Centre [www.villagecentre.org.uk](http://www.villagecentre.org.uk)

We have had to close our Village Centre for the time being. Please see below for details of the work being done by our Centre Manager, Ali Watts, in liaison with COVID-19 Mutual Aid Egham and Englefield Green. Please contact Ali on the number given if the Centre can assist you in any way.

Thank you for all your loyalty and support. Please pray for Ali and all her staff and volunteer team at this challenging time. We'll be back!

## Covid-19 Mutual Aid



Self Isolating? You are not alone!

We are a group of volunteers here to support our local community through this time of crisis. We are working in full co-operation with Runnymede Council.

Here are some ways in which we can help:

- Shopping for essential items
- Picking up medicines/prescriptions
- Phone calls to keep you company
- Dog walking
- Support using technology to connect you with loved ones

We will take every hygienic precaution when we visit you. We will always be free and won't charge you for our service. If we go shopping for you, we will only take the payment for the items after they have been delivered.

Get in touch

- In Englefield Green: text or call Ali Watts on 07769 650609 OR
- E-mail us: [eghamenglefieldgreenmutualaid@gmail.com](mailto:eghamenglefieldgreenmutualaid@gmail.com)

## From the Registers

*Funerals: (5th March) Ida Cicely Blower; (11th) Ewen MacLennan Robertson; (20th) Christine Butterfield*

## Giving

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

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](mailto:treasurer@stjudeschurch.info)

## Food Bank

At a time like this, the nation's food banks are strapped even more than usual for giving supplies to those most in need. 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](mailto:info@runnymede.foodbank.org.uk); main location 95 Guildford Street, Chertsey KT16 9AS).