



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 140

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Staying Safe

I'm writing this on the day that COVID restrictions are largely being lifted in England and we are returning to "Plan A". It's good news in many ways but I am extremely aware that, for those who have already been directly affected by COVID, those who are especially concerned for the well-being of loved ones and those who are unwell at present, these are still anxious times. You remain in our thoughts and prayers.

The Church of England this week has issued fresh guidance in the light of the Government's plan. That guidance encourages churches to go forward in a way that takes each other's needs and feelings properly into account.

So...we want to offer you a big and safe welcome to St Jude's and this is our plan...

SOCIAL DISTANCING is no longer mandatory so we shall open up part of the church to enable people to sit together more closely. But...we shall keep an area of the church where people can still socially distance if they wish to do so. The church will still be kept well ventilated. As the Church of England guidance reminds us – this is not difficult in historic buildings! Warm winter clothing is recommended!

FACE COVERINGS in public places are no longer a legal requirement. But...we shall still be encouraging people to wear them in church especially while standing or singing. Face masks and hand sanitisers will still be available as you come in. Those distributing Holy Communion will continue to wear masks as they do so.

HOLY COMMUNION has been distributed in one kind at St Jude's since the pandemic began. This has meant that communicants only receive the wafer. We are sorry as we know this can cause considerable distress. But...we feel that we need to do this for a bit longer, particularly whilst COVID infection rates remain high. We promise to keep this under constant review.

COFFEE AFTER CHURCH has also been a big miss during the pandemic! We hope to reintroduce the serving of refreshments after our Sunday 9.30am service. One of our church officers will organise

The Starry Messenger

I joined the Astronomy Club at my School because there was an actual Planetarium behind the school stage and the best way to get a chance to see it working was to become a member of the Club. Sadly, my interest waned fairly quickly because very often when we were told about some exciting display in the sky, cloud would obscure the view and I did not have the patience to sit around in a cold garden waiting for a chance to see some amazing sight.

Over the years my interest has grown again and I have watched with interest all sorts of exciting things such as the first moon landing, the launch of the Hubble Telescope and, more recently the successful deployment of the James Webb Telescope. Many people are waiting with great anticipation for the first pictures to be beamed back to us from 1.5 million km away as the telescope orbits our sun.

This is a far cry from the work of Galileo Galilei, an astronomer who was born at Pisa in 1564. He made himself a telescope which magnified things 1000 times. Using this instrument he saw mountains and valleys on the moon and shadows which were cast by the sun. In 1610 he turned his attention to looking at Jupiter and he could see what he thought were some small stars on either side of the planet. When he looked the next day, they were all to be seen on just one side. Galileo had the patience to work out what this meant. He realised that these three bright points of light were not stars, but were satellites (moons) that were in fact just circling the planet. He went on to write a book with the title, "The Starry Messenger" where he set out his findings. He realised that the earth moved around the sun. The first readers of his book were startled by his conclusion, as indeed was the Church who believed that the earth was stationary and the planets and all other heavenly bodies revolved around us. The Church labelled him a heretic and some time later he was forced to tell everyone that he was wrong. However, when he died his final words were, "Yet it still moves".

We are told that the James Webb Telescope will tell us about the initial moments of time. Maybe some people believe that this will be the final proof that there is no God, but I like to believe that the heavens will confirm the glory of God as they proclaim His handiwork. The more we discover, the more we will find there is still to discover. I encourage you to look for God. He can be found in so many places, not just the sky, he is just as likely to be found looking down a microscope, reading a book, watching a game of football or some other sport, or maybe, and here is an idea - in a church.

If you have a moment I invite you to have a look at Psalm 19 where King David puts his thoughts about this topic in a wonderful poem. *Andrew Reed*

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this initially. Tea and coffee will be served at tables in the Monsell Room to those who choose to stay.

TRACK AND TRACE FORMS will still be available for those who wish to complete them. It does mean that we have a record of those who have been in church at any particular time and the information you give us on the forms is only used if we need to inform you about an incidence of COVID.

The Church of England guidance advises us to stay at home if we feel unwell. St Jude's, like many churches, is continuing to provide a time of Sunday worship online for those unable to join us in church. It can be accessed by our website, www.stjudechurch.info, Facebook page, or directly via our You Tube Channel.

I am enormously grateful for all the patience and understanding you have shown since the pandemic began. It has been such a painful time for so many. I hope that these small steps forward will give us a greater freedom but still enable us to respect the preferences of those who may feel differently from us. Thank you all.

Judith Allford

World Day of Prayer — 4th March

Last year the pandemic meant that we did not hold a World Day of Prayer Service in St Jude's. Instead, some of us were able to worship online and enjoy a service prepared for us by Christians in Vanuatu. This year we are looking forward to being back in St Jude's on Friday 4th March at 2.00pm.

The World Day of Prayer service for 2022 has been prepared by Christian women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The overarching theme of the service is HOPE, drawn from God's wonderful promise to his people of old: "I know the plans I have for you" (Jeremiah 29:11). It is a theme which has especial resonance for us all at this present time.

As always this will be an ecumenical service and we shall greatly enjoy the privilege of welcoming our friends from other local churches to join us in worship at St Jude's.

Readings at Communion

6th February (4th Sunday before Lent)	Isaiah 6. 1-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15. 1-11 Luke 5. 1-11
13th February (3rd Sunday before Lent)	Jeremiah 17. 5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15. 12-20 Luke 6. 17-26
20th February (2nd Sunday before Lent)	Genesis 1. 4b-9, 15-end Psalm 65 Revelation 4 Luke 8. 22-25
27th February (Sunday next before Lent)	Exodus 34. 29-end Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3. 12-42 Luke 9. 28-36

Our Schools

Leadership teams in our schools are under particular pressure as they deal with reduced numbers of staff. When a family is affected by COVID parents often have to juggle balancing childcare and the demands of their own working lives.

All our schools are vigilant in making every effort to contain the spread of the virus and this too can make additional work for staff and families as well.

SO please give thanks for the amazing work that is still being done day by day for our children and young people. We have good reason to be very grateful for the high standard of educational and pastoral care which is exemplified in our village.

Both St Jude's Infant and Junior Schools are exploring the theme of "Compassion" during this half of term. "Compassion" is one of the chosen values of the schools. In these difficult circumstances, "compassion" reminds us all of our need to care sensitively for one another as we look to better times ahead. In the meantime, all those engaged in education remain some of the most significant heroes of the pandemic!

Diary for February

- 2 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 6 Sunday (70th Anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II) 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion (Reflection on YouTube)
- 9 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 13 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion (live streamed on YouTube)
- 16 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 20 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion (live streamed on YouTube)
- 23 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 27 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Holy Communion (Sunday reflection on YouTube)

The Village Centre

www.villagecentre.org.uk

01784 471110

Our really exciting news for February is that the long-awaited refurbishment of our Village Centre Cafe will very shortly be under way! The planned programme for the work is:

Week commencing Monday 21st February: The café will be closed this week whilst work takes place on the floor of the café. This will entail removing floorboards to enable inspection of the joists and to do any necessary remedial work.

Week commencing Monday 4th April will see the beginning of the three week refurbishment programme. The café will be closed again throughout this period. A newly designed serving area will be created. The interior decor of the café will be upgraded and new furniture will be installed.

Please note that during both these periods our Outreach projects — Child Contact Centre, Baby Basics, Community Fridge and Food Bank will continue to happen. Likewise all our regular classes in the hall will be running as normal. Ali and her team will be working throughout and can be contacted in the usual way.

We are so grateful to everyone who has helped us to get to this point. Please pray with us that the work will go smoothly and well. We shall re-open as soon as it is completed and prepare for a rather more formal "Grand Opening" later in the spring! Thank you all for your continuing support. Please check our social media accounts and our website for updates!

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On 6th February this year Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

During all those years it has clearly been our Queen's own personal faith which has inspired and sustained her. As a nation 6th February will mark the beginning of a year of Jubilee and thanksgiving. Our 9.30am service in St Jude's on that day, and our online reflection on our YouTube Channel, will both include expression of our thanks to God for her Majesty's remarkable reign of sacrifice and service. Please join us if you can.

From the Registers

Baptism: (9th January) Paisley Bridget Lodge

Funerals: (5th January) Pamela Joy Bewes*; (6th) Peter Anthony Roach * Pam was a member of our Electoral Roll but her funeral took place elsewhere.

Easyfundraising.org.uk

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