

ST PETER & ST JOHNS CHURCH

Our Aim is to grow closer to God,
to grow closer to each other,
and to grow closer to the community

CHURCH SERVICES

All our weekly services are now live streamed via zoom. We currently have 2 Sunday services, details of which can be found below:

10.30 am - Main Service
5.00pm - Breathe Service

You can join a service by clicking the following link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/623568834>

Meeting ID: 623 568 834, Password 631038



To dial into the services from a landline please call **0203 4815240** and use meeting room ID **623 568 834** - Further instructions can be found in the news section

**** Please note the zoom room for each service will open 5 minutes before the service begins****



CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| WEEKLY READINGS WITH SERMON | PG 2 |
| GIVING THANKS | PG 2 |
| TESTIMONY | PG 3 |
| PRAYERS | PG 3 |
| NEWS AND NOTICES | PG 4 |

CONTACT US

Vicar: Revd Sheila Bridge
07754 784251 sheila@peterjohnchurch.org.uk
Please note Sheilas day off is normally a Friday, as such she will not be contactable on her mobile on Fridays

Church Office: Jenny Liddle
07492 693241 stpeterjohnsrugby@gmail.com

Safeguarding: Angela
07887 765634 infopeterjohn@gmail.com

Website: www.peterjohnchurch.org.uk
Facebook: [Facebook.com/peterjohnchurch](https://www.facebook.com/peterjohnchurch)
Twitter: @sheilabridge

St Peter & St John Church, Clifton Road, Rugby, CV21 3QP

WEEKLY READING

MATTHEW 11: 25 - 30

25 At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. 26 Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way! 27 "My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." 28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

SHORT SERMON

WRITTEN BY REVD SHEILA BRIDGE

'Learning like Children'

Children learn by imitation. Sometimes this is a good thing and sometimes not so good! In our passage today from Matthew's Gospel Jesus begins by giving thanks for those who are prepared to learn like children. Sometimes we fail to grasp the obvious things, say for example, the fact that there is a good God who made a wonderful world, because we are so "wise and clever" we tie ourselves up in knots over the 'how' of creation, instead of simply giving thanks for the fact of creation.

Jesus offers us a way of living. The idea of the yoke, is all about how you live. It's all about your actions. It's not about some theoretical set of beliefs that you have to commit to, it is a way of life. The idea of being yoked to Jesus is that we learn to do life at his pace, staying close to him, learning how he shoulders the burden of life.

And that's the interesting thing about this verse which is so very famous. Jesus is not promising us an easy life. The yoke is a way to work, it's not a hammock! Some of us might prefer it if the Christian way of life offered us an easy way out but it does not. Instead Jesus acknowledges that life is difficult, it is hard work, a yoke is how you shoulder a load. Jesus does not offer us an easy escape but he does promise us some simple and easy equipment-a yoke. And this equipment is the manner of life in which Jesus lived, it was his

*Your word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light to my path.*

Psalm 119: 105

way of life which we are called to imitate. Jesus had a routine, 4 habits or disciplines which helped sustain him. They were: sabbath, solitude, simplicity, slowing.

Maybe each of us has had a little taste of all four of those things during lock down, whether we wanted to or not! We have had to take a sabbath break from our normal busyness. We have had more opportunity for solitude, life has become simpler, and we have slowed down. Jesus call these things his easy yoke, his equipment for life, they were his life habits which sustained him. Which one of these do you find most useful? Which one is hardest for you? How would your life be different if you learned to put on the yoke that Jesus offers?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve."

Jeremiah 17:9-10 NLT

GIVING THANKS

We've heard from Sheila that the format of the daily prayers will change during July as part of the transition back to a 'new normal'. So now feels a good time to express our thanks to all who have made these daily prayers possible, especially to those who have lead us. I was introduced to St Peter and St John's by Julia Smith about 18 months ago whilst still living in Rugby. Since moving away in August last year to Gloucestershire, Rugby friends and connections have been greatly missed. The daily prayers have provided an anchor and comfort during this challenging time. It's very thoughtful too for Sheila and the team to want to provide a legacy and learning for us all to resource us in our own daily prayer practice in the future. Look forward to hearing more about that PJ's will certainly feature for any return visits to Rugby in the future, thank you all for being such a welcoming community.

Amanda Ball

PRAYERS

Loving heavenly Father, we know that you love us and want the best for us all. Be with us as we think, talk and pray and discuss so that we may find your will and your way. We pray for the discussions being held both on Sunday 5th July and at our PCC on July 7th, especially for vision to seek your purpose in our work and for wisdom, strength and courage to carry it through.

Amen.



Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake.

Amen.

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Louise Bradshaw, Kenneth Timson, Brian Copperwheat, Kay Grocock, Edwina Goodwin, Rachael Coysh, Claire Boulton, Claire Worster, Roy Jackson, Ida Price

TESTIMONY BY LOUISE BRADSHAW

'Do not be afraid

I have always dreaded a cancer diagnosis and often wondered how I would cope with one, if it should happen, as I've always found life to be enough of a struggle ordinarily.

However, now it has happened, about six months ago, it is strange how you just have to deal with it and get on with it. It has made me more focused to live in the present moment, feeling less anxious generally, and wanting to get on with things and not over worry about the future as much.

In these strange times for us all, over the past three months, it has given me the opportunity to stop and pause a bit more than usual, and process what has been going on, both in my life and the wider country and world. I often

"We are most effective as believers when we join together in love and prayer "

think about what my GP said to me on 23rd January this year, when I went to see her to discuss my forthcoming treatment, and as I was leaving, I mentioned about the Corona virus threat, to which she replied, "there's nothing to worry about, China has got it all under control!" Really ?? I thought to myself, ok then, but I didn't say anymore.

In her own way, she was trying to reassure me, she's known me for a long time and knows I have struggled with anxiety and depression, and I had the chemotherapy coming up. I'm sure she was hoping and praying that there was no great threat in this country, and she wasn't alone in that thought back then, a lot of people weren't taking it that seriously. But I am also a realist and I knew back then, when the first cases came into this country, that this was a frightening news story, which was evolving. I was afraid, afraid of the unknown virus, afraid of the cancer and afraid of having to have chemotherapy throughout this time, when my immunity would be low.

That was five months ago now, and we certainly can't get complacent about things at all, Beijing has this week gone back into lock down. But my chemotherapy has now started, having been delayed in March due to another condition, whereby I ended up in hospital for a week, the week prior to lock down. I felt that happened for a reason, I didn't want to start my chemotherapy at the height of the virus, hence it was delayed until I'd recovered and I started the treatment in May, when the hospital was calmer and things were being managed better. I'm told by the nurse that there's just about enough PPE, and things are more under control for the time being, as she reached round the room to touch some wood!

I feel that God has been with me throughout this whole time, and he has helped to reassure me and keep me calm throughout an experience that would have filled me with the deepest fear in more normal times.

As my daughter said to me, it is like the whole world has been shielding with me, and I suppose that has helped me. I haven't felt like I'm missing out on too much really, and the lock down has given me the time and quieter space that I've needed to prepare for and deal with the treatment.

Following on from the wonderful reading from Romans a few weeks ago and Raymond's words about finding God in the facts of life as it is. I have felt great comfort and reassurance from God during this time. I feel that he is with me through this challenging time, through the suffering and the pain, and I feel a deeper connection and inner peace than I had previously, despite always having had a strong faith.

NEWS AND NOTICES

DEANERY PROPOSAL

Consultation process within St Peter and St John's Church

This Sunday morning at the end of the family service there will be an opportunity in the breakout rooms to talk to a PCC member about the deanery reorganisation or proposals. The members of the PCC are very interested in hearing from you any concerns or questions you may have about this proposal. The PCC will meet again on Tuesday, July 7th to agree on our response to the proposal.

JOINING A ZOOM MEETING IF YOU ONLY HAVE A LANDLINE PHONE

You can still come to church over the phone! You can dial in to our zoom church services at 10.30 am or 5pm by simply doing the following:

1. Call this number at the time you want to join the service **0203 4815240**
2. You will hear a recorded message asking you what zoom meeting you want to join. Use the buttons on your phone to enter this number: **623568834**
3. You should then connect to the zoom room.

You cannot see anyone or be seen by anyone but you will be able to hear and be heard by everyone at the zoom service. You might find that the service lead 'mutes' you so no background noise from your household disturbs others and this also means you can sing along to the hymns and no one can hear you. You 'appear' in our meeting as a black square which displays your phone number. Please be aware that others in the meeting can see this number but no visual record of the service is recorded so it won't be seen by anyone who did not come to church.

DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

If you are not able to get to church via the Internet in any way, why not listen in to this every day? You could even agree with a friend or two that you'll all listen in on a particular day and then give each other a call to discuss what you've heard.

THE RE-OPENING OF CHURCH

The government have said that churches can open for public worship or private prayer from the 4th July but there are a lot of guidelines to process and consider. The standing committee has met this week to consider both a time frame and a way of beginning to meet again in church and we will publish this in next week's newsletter. Meanwhile we are continuing to consider your responses to the questionnaire we sent out, if you haven't yet returned a completed questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.

PARISH GIVING

During the current pandemic giving to our church is more important than ever. The practical impact of not holding services and not having anyone hire the hall is immense. We still have bills to pay (eg insurance, standing charge for gas, parish share, building maintenance) we are losing on average £1,700 a month through no hall rentals and no giving through weekly donations on the plate. Therefore we need to find other ways of giving and there are many ways this can be done. To find out more information about giving please [click here](#)

**** Please note that we are no longer able to cash cheques made out to the PCC. If you are donating/making payments to the Church using a cheque book please ensure the payee name is ST PETER & ST JOHNS CHURCH****

CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP - RUGBY

The Christian bookshop in Rugby will be re-opening from Monday 6th July. Please note they will be operating under reduced hours until September. The opening hours will be;

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat 10am-2pm
Wed 10am-1pm

Social distancing measures will be in place when visiting the shop.