

# 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

As our services are slowly moving back to being in Church,  
please see below details of the services this week:

### SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST

10:30 am - Main Service ON ZOOM

You can join a service by clicking the following link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651784447?  
pwd=eS9wbjZ2Ti9zQ2s2dDAyb3lXRU9HUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651784447?pwd=eS9wbjZ2Ti9zQ2s2dDAyb3lXRU9HUT09)

Meeting ID: 826 5178 4447 Passcode: 512270

\*\* Please note the zoom room for the service will open 15  
minutes before the service begins\*\*



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## CONTACT US

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\*\*Please note Sheilas day off is normally a Friday, as such she  
will not be contactable on her mobile on Fridays\*\*

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# WEEKLY READINGS

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

*Psalms 119: 105*

## PSALM 105: 1-6 NLT

1 Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. 2 Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds. 3 Exult in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord. 4 Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him. 5 Remember the wonders he has performed, his miracles, and the rulings he has given, 6 you children of his servant Abraham, you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones.

## MATTHEW 14: 22-33 NLT

22 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. 23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. 24 Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. 25 About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" 27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" 28 Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." 29 "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. 31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" 32 When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 Then the disciples worshipped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

## SERMON SUMMARY GAIL RICHMOND

I suspect that it is pretty unlikely that many of us will find ourselves in a boat in a storm this week but in some ways we are all in a similar position to the disciples right now. The global situation seems like it could swamp us and we may have personal worries related to that or other things which we are trying to deal with and feel indeed like being in the middle of a storm. The idea of stepping out of the boat when things are at their scariest seems madness. But that's exactly what Peter does, and for a brief time he walks on the water just like Jesus. In fact, it is only when he focuses on the storm again and takes his mind off Jesus that he starts to sink. The storm is still raging about him but while Peter is focused solely on Jesus he can weather it. God hasn't promised us that as Christians there will never be storms but he has promised to be there with us through whatever we face. As soon as Peter starts to sink Jesus is with him and they reach the safety of the boat together. We can take great comfort from this, however stormy it feels right now, or will feel in the future, we know that God is with us, waiting to guide us through as long as we focus on him.

# PRAYERS

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



## **A prayer for the people of Lebanon**

Merciful God,  
be with the people of Lebanon today.  
Comfort all who are distressed and anxious,  
protect the emergency services,  
restore the injured to health,  
and abide with all who mourn,  
for the sake of your Son  
Jesus Christ our Lord

**Amen**

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,  
and direct our way toward the attainment of  
salvation, that among the changes and chances  
of this mortal life, we may always be defended  
by your gracious help, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

**Amen**

## **VERSE OF THE WEEK**

For the Lord is our judge, our lawgiver, and our  
king. He will care for us and save us.

*Isaiah 33:22 (NLT)*

## **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

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

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY FROM RUTH MARLOW**

*"Truly I say to you whatever you did for one of the least of these  
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"* Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Thinking of something suitable to say in the thought for the day slot doesn't come easily to me, but I have found that in thinking about what I might write has taken me not only to the verses and scripture I am more familiar with, but to less familiar and sometime quite surprising places.

Today the Anglican church remembers John Mason Neale (1818-1866), a priest and hymn writer. I have always loved hymns. My grandfather, who was a vicar and a gifted musician, would regularly have us singing and playing hymns together as children. I have quite a few books that belonged to Taidy, including a 1906 edition of Hymns Ancient and Modern and a copy of Sacred Songs and Solos, the latter with a lovely handwritten inscription showing the book belonged to my grandmother, Nainny. I thought I might get some inspiration from one of John Mason Neale's hymns, but instead I was drawn to a list of hymn numbers written in pencil on the mottled leaves at the back of the book. I looked these up to see what they were. The first one, Hymn number 1107, Scatter Sunshine, made me smile. I could suddenly see Nainny singing it.

In a week that has seen the concerns of increasing prevalence of covid-19 eclipsed by the devastation in Beirut the underlying message of the hymn, if you can get past the Victorian sentimentality, is not, in my opinion, an untimely one. It asks us to remember that small acts of kindest and love can make a real difference, every day in other peoples' lives. Sometimes when the challenges seem so big and the things we feel able to contribute so small, it can be hard to see how we can make a difference.

*"In a world where sorrow ever will be known....slightest actions often meet the sorest needs, for the world wants daily little kindly deeds;... Go with faith undaunted thro' the ills of life, scatter smiles and sunshine o'er its toils and strife." (Lanta W.Smith)*

Nainny was no stranger to loss herself, a victim of the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918, which killed her brother and had a life-long impact on her own health as a result of the meningitis she suffered, still held strong in God's enduring love. She did scatter sunshine into the lives of others, both then and now, which is something we can also strive to do in today's troubled world.

Ruth Marlow is the Diocesan Secretary and a member of the Bishop's Core Staff Team

# NEWS AND NOTICES

## CHURCH OPENING TIMES

**This Sunday 9th August**, there will be a service at 10:30 am on Zoom. Please note, there will be different sign in details for this which can be found on the front page or will be emailed to you on Sunday.

**Sunday 16th August**, there will be a Holy Communion service IN CHURCH at 10:30am, followed later in the day with breathe ON ZOOM at 5pm

## DAILY PRAYERS

As of Monday 3rd August daily prayers will be reducing. From this date we will only be streaming live prayers on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

## 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 will all listen in on a particular day and then give each other a call to discuss what you've heard.

## 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\*\***