

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:

10.30 am - Main Service - IN CHURCH

5.00 pm - Breathe Service - ON ZOOM

You can join a service by clicking the following link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86957347921>

Meeting ID: 869 5734 7921



To dial into the service 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**



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CONTACT US

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WEEKLY READINGS

PSALM 139: 1-12 NLT

O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. 2 You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. 3 You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. 4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. 5 You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! 7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! 8 If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. 9 If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, 10 even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. 11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— 12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

MATTHEW 13: 24-30 & 36-43 NLT

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. 25 But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. 26 When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. 27 "The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?' 28 "An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed. "Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked. 29 "No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'" 36 Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field." 37 Jesus replied, "The Son of Man[a] is the farmer who plants the good seed. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. 39 The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. 40 "Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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

Psalm 119: 105

SHORT SERMON

WRITTEN BY GAIL RICHMOND

This psalm is David's response of wonder at the knowledge that God is always with him. That God knows him on a personal level in all the mundane acts of life, the sitting, standing and lying down as well as in the big events good or bad. David is overwhelmed with the enormity of this, singing God's praise and stating that this is, 'too lofty' for him to understand. At a time when the situations we find ourselves in are unfamiliar, ever-changing and often a little daunting it is very reassuring to have the knowledge that God's presence is constantly with us.

The psalm also points to the desire of God to have a 'real' relationship with us. If he knows what we are thinking and doing at all times then this implies the good and the not so good. Yet God sticks around, he wants to maintain that relationship with us even though we mess up just as David did. David lists all of the furthest, most difficult places he could think of and still he knows that God would be with him there. He says to God, 'you lay your hand upon me'. This is a relationship of protection as well as proximity.

However, there are times in which we may find this thought a little too much; perhaps if we are honest, we don't always relish the idea that God is aware of everything we do or even think. But again the fact that he stays with David despite some of his thoughts and actions clearly not being pleasing to him can be of comfort to us. God is not a 'fair weather friend'. Even when we know we have gone wrong we can be sure that God will remain. Our wrong doing won't be ignored but it can be forgiven which is the ultimate comfort of all.

PRAYERS

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
from St Patrick's Breastplate

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness
and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled
hopes, knowing that only what you bless will
prosper. To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Church of South India

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 "*

VERSE OF THE WEEK

When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

John 15:10 NLT

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY FROM ARCHDEACON SUE FIELD

Over this weekend I have been reading Vaughan Roberts' latest book 'Kingdom Stories - telling, leading, discerning'. In the first chapter, Vaughan (Vicar of St Mary's, Warwick) talks about the kingdom stories enabled by the Knife Angel, Alfie Bradley's sculpture, which was displayed outside our Cathedral last year. The sculpture, made of knives which had been used to injure and kill people, became part of a symbol of hope, of peace and of reconciliation as people shared stories. At the end of this first chapter, Vaughan asks 'Where do you discover or glimpse kingdom stories in your life and ministry?'

As we have gone through this pandemic with all the anxiety, sadness at loss of life as well as a continuing weariness and fear at what lies ahead, we may well have discovered some kingdom stories on the way - times when we have seen God's glory and love shining through, glimpses of the Kingdom of heaven being present in our midst. We will have had our heads down for a lot of the time, just getting on with the next thing to do or challenge to face. As I hope many of you have a rest and take a break from what has been a very demanding few months, I pray that you will be able to look back and to be encouraged as you discern God's presence and realise his kingdom present in the midst of it all.

*Sue Field is the Archdeacon Pastor and a member of the
Bishops Core Staff Team*

NEWS AND NOTICES

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.

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****

CHURCH RE-OPENING

We are very pleased to announce that we will be running some of our services in Church. At present we have 2 dates planned in July - these can be found below. As this is under continual review please ensure you check the newsletter/facebook/website/email regularly for updated service information including any cancellations and additions.

Sunday 19th July at 10:30 am, this will be a service of Holy Communion in church. Numbers will be limited to around 40 people/households and in order to comply with social distancing some people will need to sit upstairs. Holy Communion will only be the sharing of the wafer. There will be no singing although we will be allowed to listen to music. There will be no refreshments and no communal sharing of the peace. If you intend coming to this service we do suggest you arrive early. Sheila will be posting up on Facebook a video about what to expect when you first come back to church. Please do look out for that on the St Peter and St John's Facebook page.

Sunday 26th July at 4 pm, on this Sunday the church will be open for private prayer between 3 pm and 4 pm and if the weather is good we will have an outside service in the front garden. You are invited to bring your own chair if you can manage to do so, or you can collect a lightweight folding chair from inside the church hall. You are also welcome to bring your own refreshments/picnic. The short service 30-40 mins long will involve listening to familiar hymns 'Songs of Praise' style, a short family friendly reading/reflection and some prayers. We will have to maintain social distancing, therefore numbers will also be limited for this service. Please watch the website, the Facebook page and your email in case this is cancelled at the last moment due to the weather.

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.