



Pews News

United Benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall



Mothering Sunday - March 22nd 2020

A very different newsletter this week! Its likely to be very different for some time to come, as we sail in uncharted waters.

I'm working very closely with our Ministry Team and Wardens to ensure that this reaches as many of you as possible over the coming weeks.

You might receive this by email, down load it from the website, A Church Near You site, or from Facebook. You may even get a copy through your front door. However you receive it I hope it keeps you up to date with all church news.

Please don't pass on paper copies of this newsletter to other people. If someone you know would like a copy please let me know and I'll do my best to get their own copy to them.

My phone number is 01543 480286

My email is vicar@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk

With all God's Blessings Rev Liz

A short service of prayer, for Sunday 22nd March can be found on our FaceBook pages and St Johns website.

Special Prayer for these times

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Collect Prayer – Mothering Sunday

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



News from the Church of England – current as at 20th March 2020

- All public acts of worship and church activities are suspended until further notice.
- Weddings and funerals can still take place but there are strict rules to follow. Please access <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/> for the most up to date information.
- All church meetings are cancelled and this includes PCC meetings and the APCM. The deadline for APCMs and re-election of church wardens has been extended to 31st October.
- Pastoral visits in circumstances where people are self-isolating because they are symptomatic or have been in contact with someone who has been symptomatic, should not be undertaken until their isolation ends. However, please do contact me if you need to speak with me.*
- Pastoral visits in circumstances where someone is self-isolating for their protection *may be made if needed*. Strict health and hygiene practices will be used and social distancing maintained.*

*Taken from The Church of England website

Jenny Carr

We say a sad farewell to Jenny Carr who has finished being our Parish Administrator. A big thank you to Jenny for all her hard work over the last year. We wish her well in all that the future holds for her.



Please pray for all those known to us who in need of our prayers and for those mentioned below.

'Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.' Jeremiah 29:12

- We pray for our world, and all in need at this time.
- We pray for the safety of all front line staff, all students of any age, teaching staff and those caring for family.
- We pray for our Queen, our Government, our Bishops and Clergy.
- Many known to us are not well, in hospital, waiting for tests, results of tests and surgery. We think particularly of Jim, Ian, and John, of Mike, Brian, and Peter, Charlotte, Judy, Jacqueline and Tim. Lord be with these and others known to us.
- We pray Doreen Shipley and family following their recent bereavement
- Draw close to them, sustain and uphold them.
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Help and Assistance

We want to make sure everyone in our church and our communities stay safe. If you have any need whatever please contact one of our care co-ordinators who will their best to find someone to help you.

Graham & Margaret Birt 01543 483138

Di Proctor 01543 480442

Val Neale 01543 374430

In the wider community the Parish Council have set up a Community Care group, please see the separate letter from the Parish Council.

Worship

If we were meeting today we would have been singing

Lord of all hopefulness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8mti7VL3gg>

The Lord's my shepherd <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-elQQayhpak>

Faithful one so unchanging <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uxviwvjyg1w>

Tell out my soul <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qf3mgRUZkAk>

You may have these on CD or you might like to find them using the links on the newsletter.

Our readings for this Sunday are;

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

John 19:25-27

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Thoughts for today

The hymns and songs chosen for today, were chosen at the end of January way before the current crisis was on the horizon. The readings for today were chosen by the Church of England way back in the middle of 2019. Whenever they were chosen though they are very relevant for the situation we all find ourselves in. Who could have imagined when the 2 Corinthians readings was put into the Lectionary (the list of all readings for the year) the world was would be in such need of consolation because of its afflictions. When I sat and chose Lord of all hopefulness, a complete suspension of church services was not on my mind at all.

At times such as these we feel we have to dig deep into our personal strength. We all will have times to come when we might be feeling hopeless, lost, lonely or scared. If we're all following advice, opportunities for us to meet with one another won't exist. We will all need someone at some point in the future to help us. We will all need someone to comfort us at some point during this time. When we are strong, when we feel valued and cared for, we are better placed to enable others to feel exactly that same feeling.

Relying on our own personal strengths is good but will only take us so far. Who better to strengthen us, to console us than the Lord Himself. At times such as this, this is when the Lord draws closer to us. It might not feel like it but it's the truth, He does draw closer to us in our times of need. As we work through these next days, weeks and months let us always remember

He is

The Lord of all hopefulness,
Our Shepherd who cares for us
Faithful and unchanging

And let us sign out his praises, telling the world of His greatness.

Amen

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