



# Pews News

United Benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, He is Risen!  
He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!**

I pray you are all safe and well. Don't forget if you need help in any way please call me and I'll do my very best to find the right sort of help for you.

Our readings today help us remember what its like to walk with the risen Lord. Although at this moment we may feel separated and apart from him, we will one day be able to worship together and what a glorious day that will be.

With all Blessings  
Rev Liz

**He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!**

### **Light a candle**

By lighting a virtual candle, you're making space to pray.

You can light a candle online to pray for yourself, for a loved one or for a situation. Whatever is going on, make space to pray in your life.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle>

### **Collect Prayer – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with  
boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your  
risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen



## **News from the Church of England – current as at 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

- All public acts of church activities, worship and private prayer opportunities within church are suspended until further notice.
- Guidance and ruling on conducting weddings and funerals is available on the websites of Lichfield Diocese and The Church of England.
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>
- <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/latest-coronavirus-information>
- Lockdown restrictions are to remain in place for at least a further three weeks.

\*Taken from The Church of England website

### **Our Prayers**

- We pray for our world, and all in need at this time.
- We pray for our Queen and all the Royal Family, and in particular Prince Charles. We pray for all our Government, our Bishops and Clergy. We pray especially for the Prime Minister.
- We pray for our country as we cope with the extended period of lockdown. Protect and guide us.
- Many known to us have had much needed surgery and treatment postponed, be with them all.
- We pray for Larry and Brenda Butler following Larry's fall and for those caring for vulnerable relatives.
- We hold before you those in our Community affected by Covid-19, and those who need to isolate
- We give thanks for those who have been healed
- We thank you for all key and frontline workers. Protect them Lord

### **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 coordinators who will their best to find someone to help you.

Graham & Margaret Birt 01543 483138

Di Proctor 01543 480442

Val Neale 01543 374430

## **Contributions for our local foodbanks.**

If you would like to make contribution to our food banks the following collection points are available;

For the Lichfield Food Bank (Shenstone Church) –

The Vicarage, St Johns Hill, a container is in the porchway  
7 Church Close, Shenstone, a container is outside the door.

For the Thomas Project (Stonnall Church) –

1 Lazy Hill, a box is inside the porch

## **Social Media**

Social media is sometimes regarded as Marmite, you either love it or hate it. However at these times its very useful for keeping in contact with each other. If you've previously avoided using email or social media maybe you're starting to rethink your opinion. If you have recently set up an email account or joined FaceBook please email Rev Liz so she has your email address and 'like' one of the church's pages.

## **Morning Prayer times on FaceBook**

During the week, Monday to Friday, there is a short time of Morning Prayer on both FaceBook pages. This time of prayer is based on the set liturgy for Morning Prayer for the day. You can access an app for this at <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>. It's a free app and includes Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer for each day.

## **Church Finances**

Although both our churches are closed for public worship and private prayer time our bills still need to be paid. Thank you to those of you who continue to give by standing order. If you usually give by envelope on the plate you will have received a letter with a supply of envelopes in to enable you to continue your donations during our shut down time. You can either save these up till we're able to reopen or contact one of the wardens and they'll arrange for it to be collected from you.

A justgiving page for each church has been set up should you or a family member wish to make a donation, the details are as follows;

For St John the Baptist

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnthebshenstone>

For St Peter's Church

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pccofstpetersstonnall>

At the time of printing this newsletter, £340 has been donated on St Peters page with gift aid an additional £85 has been raised and £350 on St John the Baptist's page. Thank you to the donors.

### **UCB Bible Notes – message from Rev John and Ann**

UCB Word for Today etc for May to July have arrived. John usually puts the booklets at the back of church and has no idea of who takes their copy from there. They will be available from outside John and Ann's front door in dry weather, otherwise ring the bell and stand back two metres!! If you are unable to collect your copy, please ring us and we will arrange delivery if possible. Stay safe!

### **Our readings for this Sunday are;**

#### **1 Peter 1:17-23**

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

#### **Luke 24:13-35**

### **The Walk to Emmaus**

<sup>1</sup>Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,

“Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### **Songs for today**

I stand amazed in the presence. Before the throne of God above

### **Thought for today**

(transcript of sermon posted on FaceBook 26<sup>th</sup> April)

The Luke Gospel is a fantastic reading to have after Easter Day, the story of the two disciples walking with the Risen Lord but not sure who

they were walking with. An account in the Gospel that is unique to Luke, its not found in Matthew, Mark or John.

Jesus walks alongside them and asks about their discussion which pulls them up short, you can imagine their faces can't you 'is this the only person in the whole world who doesn't know about what happened last week'? Has that ever happened to you, you meet up with a group of friends and you ask what happened to so and so , and they look at you, 'are you for real, didn't you hear?'

The walkers then retell the story, even the bit where the women found the tomb empty which for the cultural time would have been amazing to accept the testimony of a woman. Our two ramblers take this mysterious stranger home with them and they share a meal, but just as Jesus breaks the bread they recognise him immediately. How good would that have felt, as Jesus broke the bread them to think 'wow this is really him!' I imagine they were kicking themselves then, that they'd missed the chance of walking with Jesus, well they'd not missed it, it had happened but they just didn't know it. We often about 'walking with the Lord' when we describe our faith, but there's also the other side, if we're walking with him then he would be walking with us.

What would we say to him, what would he say to us? I'm going to use that little known book of the apocrypha, that part of the bible that 'didn't make the final cut', called 'The Proclaimers' to illustrate. Well its not really part of the bible is it? But I'm thinking about their song '500 miles' I'm sure many of you know it. Its a great fun song about wanting to be with someone, all the time in all aspects of your life. It got me thinking, what would it be like to walk with the Risen Lord in those terms used in that song. Let's take some of the lines from the song to think about; So you 'wake up, go out and come back' to Jesus in all areas of your life, there's not an area in your life that doesn't involve being with Jesus. You 'dream with, long to be with and are lonely without' Jesus in your life, you can't imagine not having Jesus in your life. You work hard and use your money and your gifts and talents for Jesus. And the last one, I wasn't sure about, getting drunk with. But if you've ever had too much to drink, and I don't recommend it, it's well known you lose all inhibitions, that check list that in your head about what you will or won't do, that holding back goes out of the window. I can fully understand the phrase being drunk in the spirit when you're so happy to be with Jesus its as if your drunk.

But walking with the risen Lord isn't just a list of nice things that happen, loads of fun, its all that and more. Let's come back to our two in the story, no not the proclaimers, the two original disciples walking along the road. For them initially they thought events of the cross meant the end of hope for these two, Jesus appeared dead to them there was no hope. Jesus walking with them and appearing to them, put paid to that thought he proved once and for all that he had risen, has risen, was alive and is still alive today. Do you recall how they felt their hearts were burning inside them, how alive and how happy they felt. They were made to feel so special that Jesus had appeared to them, and Jesus goes on later in Luke and in Acts to appear to many. Jesus' walk with us is not just for a few people, but for every one and anyone

There is nothing more powerful than that resurrection hope, not sin, death or the devil there is nothing that can beat it, can stick it in a box and throw it out. Nothing. Walk and journey takes along many paths

At the moment we can't share communion, that act of fellowship where we break bread together, you'll recall that is was at the moment that the bread was broken that Jesus' identity was made clear to the disciples. I believe that was no accident, Jesus appeared to them, showed them what it would be like to walk with him, hearts burning over a meal. Imagine how they felt, imagine how we will feel when we can share communion with each other once more.

I encourage you, no I'm going to challenge you to seek that burning in your hearts when you come to take communion, that burning that will make you want to walk not just 500 miles with Jesus, but to walk with him forever.

Amen

Please stay safe and well. If you need help please do not hesitate to contact Rev Liz. She will try to find the help you need.

Vicar: - *Revd Liz Chamberlain* 480286 [vicar@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk)

St John the Baptist Church Wardens: - *Bonnie* 480278 & *Bill Whitney* 480652

St Peter's Church Wardens: - *Peter & Patsy Toulouse* 361778

Parish Administrator: - 480286 [admin@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk](mailto:admin@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk)

St John's Hall Bookings & Administration: - 480286 [admin@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk](mailto:admin@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk) Website: [www.stjohnthebaptistshenstone.org.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptistshenstone.org.uk) Facebook: *St John the Baptist Shenstone and St Peters Church Stonnall*