



Pews News

United Benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall



2nd Sunday after Trinity – 21st June 2020 Fathers' Day

**The Lord be with you
And also with you**

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.

Today we thank the Lord for Fathers everywhere, for their love, protection and guidance.

With all Blessings
Rev Liz

A Prayer

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 – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



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

- All public acts of worship within church are suspended until further notice.
- Clergy are however now allowed into church buildings for private prayer and to film morning prayer and services.
- From 15th June, when safe to do so, churches may open for private prayer time. Please see further information later in this newsletter
- Weddings are still not permitted to take place within churches, however there are plans to allow funerals, with restrictions to take place shortly.
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>
- <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/latest-coronavirus-information>

Our Prayers

- We pray for all our Government, our Bishops and Clergy. We pray especially for the Prime Minister and our Government as decisions continue to be made.
- We thank you for the Queen and the Royal Family, as they celebrated the Queen's official birthday this week in very different circumstances.
- We pray for our country as we cope with the lifting of some restrictions. Protect us and help us to make the right choices.
- We hold our clergy, Church Wardens and PCC members in prayer as they work through the guidance and changes required to enable our churches to open.
- We hold before the Lord our schools, teachers, support workers and those pupils who have returned to school. We ask for patience and strength for all families where children have not been able to return to school.
- We pray especially for Bill and Di Proctor, Larry and Brenda Butler. Lord protect and heal, give with strength and energy.
- We thank you for all key and frontline workers. Protect them Lord
- We pray for the ordinands (vicars in training) as they leave their colleges, move homes and prepare to take up their Curacy posts. We especially pray for Graham Wigley who will be joining us here in our United Benefice.

Church Opening

We are of course very excited to hear that permission has been given for our churches to open for private prayer from Monday 15th June. The opening of the churches is dependent on a number of things being in place, including amongst other things, a deep clean of the building, a risk assessment being completed, seating in line with social distancing and the church being 'staffed' during opening hours.

Both PCCs have met and agreed that the churches will open for private prayer on agreed days and hours (days and times for St Peters will be decided this coming week). Opening will be dependent on the availability of stewards to be in church during the opening times. If being a steward is something you feel you could do please contact Rev Liz to find out what is required.

St John the Baptist Shenstone will open for private prayer (not a service);
Wednesday 24th June between 2.00 and 4.00 pm
Sunday 28th June between 10.30 am and 1.00 pm

St Peter's church Stonnall

Dates to follow after the church has been cleaned and stewards identified.

The Diocese/Church of England have now issued guidelines regarding funeral service in church and both PCCs have agreed that funerals that comply with the guidelines may take place, after discussion and agreement with Rev Liz. The guidelines include reduced numbers attending and no singing. Church of England funeral fees will start to be applied for funerals of those who die after 30th June.

No instructions regarding public worship have been received at the time of preparing this newsletter (20th June 2020).

If you need any further information or would like to talk this through please do call me (Rev Liz). All the information is updated regularly on the Church of England and Diocese websites should you wish to keep fully informed.

Mike Raybould

After a period of serious illness and a fall at home a couple of weeks ago, Mike was admitted to Good Hope hospital. Mike passed away on the morning of Monday 15th June, and his wife Veronica was able to be with him. Mike will be greatly missed by our church family. Mike was an active member of the Open the Book team and got great joy from presenting stories from the bible to both our schools. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Veronica would like to thank you all for the flowers, cards and messages she's received during this week.

Mike's funeral will be 9th July, at Sutton Crematorium, followed by a service at St John the Baptist. Both services will comply with current instructions regarding numbers, social distancing etc. and information about attending will be made available when arrangements have been fully made.

Thank you

Di and Bill Proctor would like to thank you for the prayers and support given to them during Bill's stay in hospital. Bill is now home in Shenstone.

Update – Graham Wigley

Contact details for Graham

11 Icknield Close
Streetley
West Midlands
B74 3NN

Email; curate@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk,

Phone number 0121 352

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

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

Thank you for your generous contributions. Both foodbank projects can only take gifts of non perishable items, so please no fresh goods.

Social Media

If you don't use social media and would prefer not to, the Archbishop of Canterbury has set up a free phone line of a service you can listen to. If you know someone who would like this, please pass this number on to them.



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 and those who have posted donations through the Vicarage door. If you do 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.

Our readings for this Sunday are;

Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:24-39

"The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

"So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill

the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn

"a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
a man's enemies will be the members of his own household."^[b]

"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Songs for today

I will offer up my life, All I once held dear.

Thoughts for today

Carol Law is speaking today at our on line service. You can find this on FaceBook. St John the Baptist's website or A Church Near You webpage.

Carol speaks about her life here in Shenstone and St John the Baptist and how having Jesus in her life has changed so much for her. Please do take the time to listen.

Vicar: - *Revd Liz Chamberlain 480286* 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

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