



# Pews News

United Benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall



## 3rd Sunday after Trinity – 28th June 2020

**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.

Your Clergy, Wardens, PCCs and Ministry Teams have been working hard to ensure that your churches can start to reopen. Please do take time to read the separate letter sent with this newsletter. As more information is made available this will be communicated as soon as possible.

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 – 3rd Sunday after Trinity**

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of  
peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.



## **News from the Church of England – current as at 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

- Public worship may restart from 4<sup>th</sup> July. Your Clergy, Wardens and PCCs are working hard to enable this to happen as soon as possible. Please see separate letter
- Weddings and funeral services are permitted to take place within churches, however there certain restrictions in place regarding numbers, music and social distancing.
- <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 her faith.
- 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 for worship.
- 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 thank you for all key and frontline workers. Protect them Lord
- We pray for the recently bereaved and think especially of Veronica and Brenda.
- We pray for those known to us in hospital and all in need of healing, particularly Julia Burnell, Jean Tidman and Bill Proctor.
- We pray for the ordinands (vicars in training) as they are temporarily licensed as Lay Workers as their ordinations have been postponed. We especially pray for Graham Wigley who will be joining us here in our United Benefice.

## **Church Opening**

Both PCCs have met and agreed that the churches will open for private prayer on agreed days and hours. Opening will be dependent on the availability of stewards to be in church during the opening times and quarantine requirements. 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;  
Wednesdays between 2.00 and 4.00 pm  
Sundays between 10.30 am and 1.00 pm

St Peter's church Stonnall will open;  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July between 10.00 – 12 noon  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July between 10.00 and 12 noon

Details of led worship (services) will be announced during the coming week once guidance has been circulated.

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**

Mike's funeral will be 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1.00 pm at Sutton Crematorium, followed by a service at 2.00 pm, St John the Baptist. Due to current restrictions attendance at these services (to be inside the Crematorium or church) will be by invitation only, however plans are being made to allow the service at St John's to be heard outside the church. Once these plans have been completed further news will follow.

### **Larry Butler**

We heard on Thursday that Larry Butler had died peacefully at home with his family around him. Larry has been a long time member of St John the Baptist and will be sadly missed. Please hold Brenda and her family in prayer. Funeral details will follow but will be subject to current restrictions.

May Larry rest in peace and rise in Glory.

## **Update – Graham Wigley**

Has been licensed as a Lay Worker prior to his ordination planned for September. Please do say hello as you see him around the parishes and in church.

Contact details for Graham

11 Icknield Close  
Streetley  
West Midlands  
B74 3NN

Email; [curate@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk](mailto:curate@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk),

Phone number 0121 352 0899

## **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

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

## **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 6:12 - end**

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Matthew 10:40 – end**

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

**Songs for today** From heaven you came, O lord my God

### **Thoughts for today**

Our reading from Matthew this morning talks about welcoming people and how to best do this. I wonder how many of you have a door mat outside your door with the word welcome on it? There some however that say ‘oh no not you again’ aren’ty there, I’m not too sure about that as a greeting. A mat such as this usually has two purposes. Do you know what those two purposes are? Well, for one thing, it is a friendly reminder for people to wipe their shoes off so that they won't track dirt or mud into your home. And second, it is placed outside your door as a sign to let people know that they are welcome in your home and I’m going to take the view that the ‘oh no not you again’ is a joke, you really are welcome in those house..

Welcome — what does the word "welcome" mean? It means to receive someone in a warm and friendly way. Are people always welcome in our homes? Do we welcome people into our home if their skin is a different colour from ours? Do we welcome people into our homes if they don't have as much money as we do? It is lovely to see people and to mix with each other something lots of us have missed doing over the last few weeks and months. It’s not till something is taken away from you do you realise how important or not it is to you and being with others is an important part of what makes us human. We are on the whole sociable beings.

We will have all heard the news that churches can now reopen for public worship and the time is fast approaching when we will be able to welcome people back in to share worship together. We’re already open at Shenstone for private prayer and by the time you hear this service arrangements for Stonnall will have been agreed and put into place. How will we then welcome people back into our much-changed church set up.

Our worship in church will not be as it was 15<sup>th</sup> March, which was our last service in church. And similarly, we can now hold funeral and wedding services but these will not be as they used to be. There will have to be changes to take into account the requirements for safety. How then will we be able to welcome people into church, if we have to limit numbers in church, without say shaking hands to greet them, singing hymns, sitting in our favourite spot, sharing Communion or fellowship at the end of services. How can we be welcoming.? The reading in Matthew tells us how. Where we sit, who we sit next too, what hymns we do or don't sing, how many people can be in church at one time, whether we're able to share a cuppa after the service are not important, they are not the reason we come to church.

Jesus said, "He who receives you receives me." Coming to church is about receiving Jesus into your life. If we turn that around, have you put the welcome mat out for Jesus to come into life? Well, let's put the welcome mat out — and let's be sure that we mean it!

Vicar: - Revd Liz Chamberlain 480286 [vicar@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk)  
Curate:- Graham Wigley, 0121 352 0899, [curate@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk](mailto:curate@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk)  
Associate Minister:- Rev John Aston, 480388, [bradston@btinternet.com](mailto:bradston@btinternet.com)

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