



Pews News

United Benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall



6th Sunday after Trinity – 19th July 2020

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

We are of course very excited about our churches re-opening. A lot of work and consultation has taken place and although the services are limited we can at least worship together for a short time.

Details and opening times are included in this edition of PEWS NEWS. If you are unsure about any aspect regarding church services please do give me a call.

I've also resumed taking a day off each week and this is Monday as before lockdown.

With all Blessings

Rev Liz

01543 480286



**Collect Prayer –
6th Sunday after Trinity**

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we
see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Opening Times and Services - St John the Baptist, Shenstone

Sunday 19 th July	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Church Open
	11.00 – 11.30 am	Morning Worship led by Alan Bateman
Wednesday 22 nd July	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Church open for private prayer and reflection
Sunday 26 th July	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Church Open
	11.00 – 11.30 am	Morning Worship led by Carol Law
Wednesday 29 th July	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Church open for private prayer and reflection

Opening Times and Services - St Peter's Church Stonnall

Sunday 19 th July	10.00 – Noon 10.30 - 11.00 am	Church Open led worship by Patsy Toulouse
Wednesday 22 nd July	10.00 – Noon	Church open for private prayer and reflection
Sunday 26 th July	10.00 – Noon	Church Open time of led worship by Graham Wigley to be confirmed

Important for St Peter's Church

During Sunday opening time there will be a short half hour service of Morning Prayer. Due to restrictions seating is available for only 16 people. A 2m distancing has been adopted so that wearing a mask is not required, although if you want to wear a mask you can do so. If you would like to come to the led part of the morning **its important that you 'book in'**.

Please call Rev Liz to book a place.

If more than 16 want to reserve a place two services will take place.

Communion in our churches

We have now been given permission to celebrate Communion in our churches as long as we follow the guidelines about these services. The documentation for this is quite detailed and some careful thought and preparation has been undertaken to enable Communion to be offered from 2nd August. The Communion services will look and feel very different to the services you have been used too.

Whenever possible Communion will be offered at our churches on alternate weeks. In line with guidelines only Communion wafers will be distributed, the priest leading the Communion service will take both wine and wafer.

Due to the restrictions on space and to ensure the safety of all concerned it is not possible for Communion to be taken at the Communion Rail in Stonnall, Communion will be brought to you while you remain in your pew. Communion will take place during the half hour led worship times.

Dates of Communion services during August

2 nd August	St John the Baptist Shenstone, led by Rev Liz St Peter's Stonnall, led by Rev John
9 th August	St Peter's Stonnall, led by Rev Liz
23 rd August	St John the Baptist Shenstone, led by Rev John
31 st August	St Peter's Stonnall, led by Rev Liz and Rdr Ray Chamberlain



News from the Church of England – current as at 17th July 2020

- Public acts of worship within church are now allowed to take place, subject to certain conditions.
- From 15th June, when safe to do so, churches may open for private prayer time.
- Weddings and funerals are permitted to take place within churches, subject to certain conditions.
- <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
- 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 think about families preparing funeral services at this time under very different circumstances. We particularly think of Brenda Butler and her family as they prepare for Larry's funeral on Wednesday.
- Many couples who expected to get married this year have moved their weddings till next year. Ian and Lisa are still planning for their wedding to take place in August and we hold them in prayer.
- We hold our clergy, Church Wardens and PCC members in prayer as they continue to 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 as they prepare for the school summer break. We ask for patience and strength for all families.
- We thank you for all key and frontline workers. Protect them Lord
- We give thanks for healing received, in particular we give thanks for Kylan's successful operation.
- We hold Jean Tidman in prayer as she has returned to hospital.

Larry Butler

Larry's funeral will take place 22nd July at 2.30 pm and attendance at this is by invitation only. However St John the Baptist Church will be open that afternoon between 2.00 and 4.00 pm, should you wish to spend some time in private prayer and reflection.

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.

Morning Prayer times on FaceBook

During the week, Tuesday 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 8: 12-25

So then, brothers and sisters,^[a] we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba!"^[b] Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness^[c] with our spirit that we are children of

God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in^[d] hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes^[e] for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw

them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears^[a] listen!

Songs for today

Father God I wonder, No longer slaves

Thoughts for today

- Roman times much as now adoption changed a person's life, transferred into a new family, all rights of the family, new clothes. Child belonged to the family, no questions asked, this is what happened.
- When we follow Christ we are adopted into his family and with that comes some obligations
- All had things our parents expected us to do, say please and thank you, thank you for having me after a party invite.
- We set standards to for our children to live by, and indeed have standards we expect of our parents.
- We often speak about what it means to be live by the Spirit and to let Jesus into our lives, not to let earthly or 'fleshly' things (I'm not too sure I like those words) to rule our lives. These verses make it quite clear that when we are adopted by God, we have certain obligations, we have an obligation to live for Jesus because of what he has done for us.
- Adopted children are led by the Spirit
- In Roman times when you were adopted into a family you were led by that family's traditions, customs and rules. Its exactly the same when we're adopted by God into his family, we are led by his Spirit. Being led by the spirit means we allow the Spirit to have influence and hold over us. Just as an earthly family has influence and hold over us, the Spirit does too, but to a much much greater extent.
- Mind you just as we have a choice not to follow all our family traditions, we also have the choice not to choose to follow, to allow the Spirit to lead us.
Adopted children have access to God by the Spirit
- I'm' fascinated how in costume dramas, period pieces, children of well to do families were treated, seen and not heard, bought down to see father and mother at tea time and only at that time.

- Your relationship with your parents usually means you can talk to your parents, mum or dad,
- Same when we are adopted by God, we have unrestricted access to him, and can talk to him about anything we desire too, and he will listen. One of things earthly parents do is sometimes say, they haven't got time for their children. God our father is not like that he always has time.
- Adopted children are heirs of the kingdom
- Going back to dramas, often in period dramas there is intrigue and corruption over some inheritance or other. Downton Abbey!
- But what does it mean that we are heirs of God's kingdom; suggest three things to you
- Sheer amount of the inheritance is almost beyond our understanding - the riches and wealth of all creation is ours
- The possession of this wealth is still in the future but the possession of this wealth is a certainty.
- I love my life, and I love the Lord, when I made a commitment my life changed, I can't imagine 'going back', sometimes there are times when I'm down, sad, bad tempered, nasty (hard to believe I know) but being adopted by God, means during those hard times I have the love and support of God my father, I have God my father to rebuke me, bring me back into line when needed, I have God as my father.

If you belong to Jesus you become a special person, when we give our lives to Jesus and become adopted by him, we have the obligations yes, but the inheritance that is ours, makes this obligation seem small incomparision.

Amen

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 Curate:- Graham Wigley, 0121 352 0899 curate@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk
 Associate Minister: Revd John Aston, 480388, 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

St John's Hall Bookings & Administration: - 480286 admin@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk

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