



# Pews News

United Benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall



**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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

We live in an ever-changing world at the moment with guidelines changing along with it. Following very recent changes to comply with the latest guidelines it is mandatory for you to wear a mask while you attend public worship. You will of course be already used to wearing a mask while you shop so wearing a mask in church may not cause you any issues, but please speak to me or one of the wardens if you are exempt from wearing a face mask.

With all Blessings

Rev Liz

01543 480286



**Collect Prayer –  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,  
you search us and know us:  
may we rely on you in strength  
and rest on you in weakness,  
now and in all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

## Opening Times and Services - St John the Baptist, Shenstone

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am to noon 11.00 – 11.30	Church Open Communion led by Rev Liz and Rev John A
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am to noon 11.00 – 11.30	Church Open Morning Worship led by Rdr Alan Bateman
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am to noon 11.00 – 11.30	Church Open Communion led by Rev Liz and Curate Graham Wigley
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30 am to noon 11.00 – 11.30	Church Open Morning Worship led by Rdr Ray Chamberlain

## Opening Times and Services - St Peter's Church Stonnall

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00 – Noon 10.30 – 11.00	Church Open Morning Worship led by Curate Graham Wigley
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00 – Noon 10.30 – 11.00	Church Open Communion led by Rev Liz and Rdr Ray Chamberlain
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00 – Noon 10.30 – 11.00	Church Open Morning Worship led by Patsy Toulouse
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00 – Noon 10.30 – 11.00  12.15 pm	Church Open Communion led by Rev John A Private Baptism

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **St Peter's Church – booking in**

If you've attended worship at St Peter's Church Stonnall this week (30<sup>th</sup> August) and intend to come next week (6<sup>th</sup> September) please 'book your place for next week' before you leave church today. If you forget to do this please call or email Curate Graham Wigley on

Telephone 0121 352 0899 or

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

At the risk of sounding like a theatre box office 'the booking line will close Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September'.

Joyfully, we are at capacity at St Peter's Church. We want to be able to welcome all who would like to worship with us, and we are very willing to run a second service if this is required.

**Midweek Church Opening.** During July both our churches have been opened for a few hours each Wednesday. Both churches have had stewards on duty during these hours however very few people have visited either church, and some sessions no visitors have come to the churches. Our PCCs have prayerfully considered mid week church opening and have made the decision to cease this from August onwards.



### **News from the Church of England – current as at 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

- Public acts of worship within church are now allowed to take place, subject to certain conditions.
- It is mandatory that worshippers wear a mask while inside the building.

- Weddings, funerals and baptisms are now permitted to take place within churches, subject to certain conditions. For life events only 30 people may attend.
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>
- APCMs need to be held by 31<sup>st</sup> October, more details and dates will follow shortly.

### **Our Prayers – current as at 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

- 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 pray for areas of our world where violence and disruption is rife. We particularly think of America at this time
- 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.
- A number of our church and community members are recovering from surgery please think of
  - Joan Terry, with a broken pelvis , gradually able to walk a little;
  - Peter Richardson is now home following his hip operation and in isolation;
  - Pat McQueen is home and improving slowly.
  - Ena Wale is home, following a fall and also a hip operation.

### **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.

### **Children's Society Boxes**

If you have a Children's Society Box from St Peter's Church, these are now being collected. Please could you let Pauline Langley have your filled box as soon as possible. Thank you for your kind donations.

### **Friends of Shenstone Tower**

Friends of Shenstone Tower are a group from Shenstone village who have got together and formed a charity to renovate fully, and open to the public Shenstone's old church tower. They have secured funding of £350 000 to complete these renovations. One condition of the funding is that community support for project must be assessed. Please would you take part in this assessment? Some questionnaires are at the back of church (St John the Baptist) please do take one and complete it. Once its

completed either put it back in the folder or hand it in at the Parish Council Office.

### **Graham Wigley**

At long last a date for Graham's ordination has been finalised. It will be at Lichfield Cathedral, 26<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00 am. Due to restrictions the service is sadly a private one and Graham is allowed two guests only. However its planned that the service will be live streamed and once these details are available they will be made known. Graham and Rev Liz will visit both churches on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September to enable both congregations to pray for him and wish him well.

### **St Johns Hall**

St Johns Hall has been closed since lockdown restrictions came into being. Over the lockdown period some major refurbishment works have been undertaken. A new kitchen has been installed (made possible by a legacy donation from Joan Burney of £5000, a generous donation Shenstone Parish Council which has covered the cost of buying the units, donations from Friday Friends and Shenstone WI) and a new ramp to enable wheelchair and pushchair access. Its thought that the hall will be open again from mid September, although usage will be subject to restrictions. We're very excited to open the hall once more for community use.

Veronica Raybould has taken on the role of Church Hall Administration and she will be the person to contact for all bookings. Her contact details are 01543 480756 vbraybould@gmail.com.

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

#### **Romans 13:8-end**

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay

aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### **Matthew 18:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> "If another member of the church<sup>[d]</sup> sins against you,<sup>[e]</sup> go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Songs for today** – There is a Redeemer, O Lord my God

### **Thoughts for today – Rev Liz**

How many of you have ever watched a reality show? You know the ones I mean, Big Brother, Come Dine with me, that one where guest house owners go to each other's guest house and pick faults. They then decide how much to pay. It always ends in tears unsurprisingly. I often wonder who would set themselves up to be under that much scrutiny by choice because all your flaws and imperfections are shown up in a great light which might or might not be what you really really want to happen. The thing is when our life is thrown completely open and we've made a statement about our life, we do then have to try and live upto that statement.

Ray and me have often been to Spring Harvest as I know many of you have, and once you get off the motorway and start to drive towards Minehead, most of the cars on that road at that time are heading to Spring Harvest. These cars often have a fish sticker in their back

window. Its amazing how you may have seen these cars tazzing down the M5 doing well above a speed limit, but once they get on that road, on the way to a Christian conference, when lots of others are going the to the same event, and you've got a fish sticker on your back window, you suddenly have to drive at the speed limit. You never know who might be watching you the Christian breaking the speed limit, breaking the law.

Having light shone on our lives makes us think, about things we do and things we say, especially when we make a statement that we are followers of Christ. Being a follower of Christ when its all been said and done means our life should be lived for him whether anyone is watching or not. Sometimes that light shows up a gap between how we say we live and how we actually live.

What happens when that light shines then and finds 'that gap' that difference between how we say we lived and how we actually do live. When that uncomfortable glare lands on us and our lives are under examination, what happens then. The reading from Matthew makes it quite clear what happens, we talk about it privately, we talk about it with trusted church members, we maybe then talk about it with the whole church, then we change. There come accountability.

This all sounds a little harsh and a little clinical, but our Romans readings comes to our rescue. When its all been said and done, the way to put this right, to deal with the light shining on us and on our neighbour, is love each other. We take no pleasure in someone's distress or in inverted commas failings and fall from grace. St Paul instructs us all to live honourably as in the day, not hiding away in the night.

And when its all been said and done to love one another. Living in the light of Christ is sometimes hard and difficult but with his armour on, his armour of light, we can live our lives for Christ.

*Vicar – Rev Liz Chamberlain, 01543 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: Revd 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: - 480756 [vbraybould@gmail.com](mailto:vbraybould@gmail.com)*

*Website: [www.stjohnthebaptistshenstone.org.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptistshenstone.org.uk)*

*Facebook: St John the Baptist Shenstone and St Peters Church Stonnall*