



Pews News

United benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall



A warm welcome to everyone. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us.

Sunday 3rd July – The third Sunday after Trinity

	St John the Baptist	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Early Birds TBC	
10.30am	Shenstone Festival Joint service at Trinity Methodist Church	
10.45am		Communion service led by Patsy Toulouse & Rev John A
6pm	Evening prayer TBC	

Collect for Sunday 3rd July

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.

Amen

Sunday 10th July – The fourth Sunday after Trinity

	St John the Baptist	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Early birds led by Naomi Ferry	
10.45am	Communion Service led by Rev Graham	Morning Worship led by Patsy Toulouse & Alan Bateman
12.15pm	Baptism of Arlo led by Rev Graham	

Prayer for Ukraine

Lord of all people and all nations,
We lift before you the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia,
Each girl, boy, woman and man living in fear of what tomorrow may bring,
We long for a time you spoke of through your prophet Isaiah,
When weapons of war would be beaten into ploughshares,
When nation will no longer lift up sword against nation,
We cry out to you for peace,
Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety,
Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones,
Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression,
Fill earthly leaders with great wisdom to find paths to peace,
Please Lord come and have your way in your world,
May your will be done here, on earth as it is in heaven,
May your peace reign. Now and always,
We lift this prayer to you, our God who is able to do
more than we can ever ask or imagine,
In the name of Christ our saviour,
Amen.



Please pray for all those known to us who in need of our prayers and for those mentioned below.

'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- We pray for all our Government, our Bishops and Clergy
- We thank you for the Queen and the Royal family, we give thanks for the Queens service to our nation.
- We hold in prayer those members of our church family who are caring for loved ones at home, in hospital or in residential care.
- We pray for those who are recently bereaved especially for the family of Steve Partridge. We pray for his wife Carol, daughters Nicola & Emma, grandson Samuel and brother Bryan
- We give thanks for the life of Bobby Hope whose funeral service was held at St John the Baptist Shenstone on Thursday 30th June.
- We pray for those known to us who are ill, and we particularly hold in prayer Brian and Linda Jenkins and family, Bill and Elaine Whitney, Dorothy Middleton, Jean and Alan Tidman, Beth Bridges, and Barbara Owen, Ann and Roy Powell, Jane Lawton, and Di Proctor.
- We pray for calm and peace as we read and listen to stories in the news and help us to discern the truth.
- We thank you Lord for the earth and all you have provided for us. We are especially grateful to live in our beautiful villages.



If you would like a prayer included in next week's newsletter, please contact Veronica Raybould on 01543 480 756



This weekend sees the return of Shenstone Village festival. St John the Baptist Church looks beautiful with flower displays created by many of the community groups in the village and a display by the Quilters; and there is lots to see and do on the Glebe and around the village on Saturday and Sunday.

The festival will close with our evening prayer service at 6pm on Sunday.



St Peters Stonnall Anniversary Celebrations

Last weekend saw 2 days of celebrations at St Peters to mark the 200 year anniversary of the Church in there. On Saturday the Friends of St Peters organised an Open day that was well attended; and on Sunday we enjoyed a family service and shared lunch.

The raffle will be drawn on Saturday 2nd July and winners will be notified in due course.

The funds raised by all the activity over the weekend total approximately £2,500, which is phenomenal.

A huge Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to help this event be such a great success and to all those who attended or contributed in any way.

Notices:

- Both Rev Liz and Rev Graham have tested positive for Covid -19. Some arrangements for Sunday services still need to be confirmed, please keep an eye on your emails, FaceBook, WhatsApp and of course 'the grapevine' for confirmation of services going ahead. Prayer Hour planned for Tuesday 5th July is cancelled.
- The funeral of Steve Partridge will be held at St John the Baptist, Shenstone on Tuesday 12 July at 2 pm, followed by a finger buffet at Ingestre Golf Club (ST18 0RE) – all welcome.

Reflections on this week's readings

Galatians 5.1 13-25

*"If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit"
(v25)*

In trying to demonstrate what is distinctive about the way Christians should live, Paul sets two approaches in clear opposition: the way of the flesh and the way of the Spirit. By 'flesh', Paul doesn't quite mean what we might think; he means more like 'the way of the world', a world without Christ as the touchstone. As ever, Paul pulls no punches: those who live in a worldly way will not inherit the kingdom of God. Your choice, he says.

It's well on occasions to see the contrast laid out starkly, but the practice of 'splitting', if it becomes a habit, can lead to some pretty unpleasant behaviour – condemnation, judgementalism, etc. But Paul shows us the better way – live by the Spirit and be guided by the Spirit. If you're lost in a car in a strange town, what you need isn't a list of complicated instructions but someone who knows the place well and who'll get in the front seat beside you and talk you through the road system. We have such a guide, says Paul, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, who will ensure that we choose the streets that are marked by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, and so on. So, the question is; which navigation system do we use? Are we nudged and guided by the Spirit, or by the compulsions and obsessions of the world?

Will we start each day by inviting the divine Guide to show us the way?

Amen

Reflection by John Pritchard. Reflections for Sundays Year C, Guite, Herbert et al. Church House Publishing 2018

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