



Parish Leaflet

27/06/2020



Letter from the Rector

It is with relief that after a long and tedious lockdown of three months the nation will be allowed to return to some sort of normality. This 'new normal' will still have an impact on all our lives. For some it will be an inconvenience, for others it will have a major impact on their lives. Please keep in mind and in prayer all those who have endured the COVID-19 infection and may have long term issues related to it, and of course all who have lost loved ones to the virus. Also please keep in mind that the virus has not gone away, and we will have to learn how to live with it.

There is some good news from the church perspective, St John's Church will open at 8:15am for a Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion service, and for a Common Worship service with Holy Communion at 10:30am on Sunday 5th July. St John's will continue to open from 9 – 10am on Wednesdays for private prayer.

Government advice will be followed in relation to social distancing and the use of face masks. It is advised that those attending services should wear a face mask. Please note, St John's is unable to supply masks. There will also be a limit to the number of people allowed into the building. We will have to adapt to any changes in advice and regulations as they develop over time.

Over the past few weeks during Morning Prayer we have been reading the books of Joshua and Judges. The book of Joshua informs us about the Israelites coming out of their forty years wandering in the wilderness and entering the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua. When the Israelites were in the desert their life was difficult, however, God continued to sustain them and through their hardship they grow in faith and became a nation able to face the challenges that lay ahead, and with the help of God, triumphed.

Government, civil society, medical services, commerce, and many other components of society will all have to step up to the mark and do their bit to recover from this situation. Our communities and our nation will face many challenges in the future not least the spiritual battles that lie ahead. As Christians, we should consider what God has done for us during our metaphorical time in the wilderness. Have we developed in our faith, are we able with the help of God, to face the challenges ahead?

Christians must do what is right in the sight of God, seek the truth, support what is good and pure and constructive and pray for the welfare and prosperity of our nation.

Here are a few inspirational and comforting scripture references for those who are interested; Palms 23, 91, 103, 121. Isaiah 6:8, Jeremiah 29:11, Matthew 11:28-30, John 3:16, John 14:1-6, Romans 8: 38-39 & 10: 9-11. Hebrews 11:1,2. If you would like more, just open the bible on any page and you are likely to find something useful.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Rev Mark

Why not join spiritually at 9am every morning for Morning Prayer from your own homes. The wonderful thing about prayer is that we can pray at all times and in all places, we don't need to be in church to do it. There are many websites, TV and radio channels that may be helpful if you need them. I would recommend downloading the C of E Daily Prayer phone app. It gives the liturgy for the daily prayer and the scripture readings in a simple easy to follow format.

For those of you who have access to the internet there are many useful resources available that also have interesting links to information and video services.

Useful websites.

Church of England website - <https://www.churchofengland.org>

C of E Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland>

C of E Daily Prayer - <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

C of E guidance COVID-19 - <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Southwell & Nottingham Diocese - <https://southwell.anglican.org>

Diocesan YouTube account - <https://www.youtube.com/user/dioceseofsouthwell>

Benefice website - <http://www.stjohnscil.org.uk/home>

Online Bible recuses - <https://www.biblegateway.com>

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