

## FUTURE WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

The latest announcement from the Church of England is that subject to suitable control measures being in place to maintain social distances, after over three months of being closed for collective worship on Sundays and other days, from 4<sup>th</sup> July, churches are being allowed to commence opening for services again. The Standing Committee of the PCC have met on Zoom over the past two weeks and now that we have put sufficient measures in place, we are pleased to announce a partial re-opening of St. John's for services for public worship as follows:

- ❖ Said Common Worship Communion at 9:30 am on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- ❖ Said Common Worship Communion at 10:00 am on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- ❖ Regrettably, we have had to defer re-starting the 8:00 am BCP service for the time being due to the present cleaning requirements between services (which apply unless there is a 72-hour gap between services).
- ❖ We will be continuing the Zoom online Morning Prayer with hymns for the time being but, from 19<sup>th</sup> July, this will be at the later time of 11:00 am. This is chiefly for those who will be refraining from coming to the church services at present due to age or underlying medical conditions (and also to allow those from our linked parish in Kuruman who have been joining us online to continue to do so).

The delay in recommencing public worship is to give us reasonable time to prepare, including producing the required risk assessments. As you may have seen in the press, singing in Church or playing wind instruments is currently not allowed. Holy Communion will be in one kind only (as was the case for several weeks before the lock-down) and the 2-metre social distancing requirement will apply. Contact details of those attending will need to be recorded in a suitable notebook and details kept for 3 weeks. All attendees will be provided with an A5 sized guidance sheet containing "Do's and Don'ts" based on information from the Diocese of Oxford.

Social distancing protocols will apply, and this includes parts of the Church and alternate pews in the nave being marked as not in use. Hand sanitiser is available at the back of the Church on entry, and should be used, please. Please note that for the present the church toilet will NOT be in use.

*Canon Tony, The Churchwardens & The PCC*

### Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Team Rector:	Rev. David Williams	01844 346984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mr Graham King	01844 343910
Churchwardens:	Mrs Pat Rushmere	01844 345452
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020  
**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

### FOCUS ON... THE SOWER

The familiar Parable of the Sower in Matthew Chapter 13 urges us to pay attention to what is really important and not least that which comes to us through the Living Word of God. We could hear the story of the sower in a narrow way, hearing it in the manner of a threat to people who allow themselves to get distracted from living a joyful, God-filled life. But to do that would be to make our God appear much too small. Our God, whom Jesus tells us about, is one who, even if there are distractions, and even major obstacles to be overcome, sows seeds which bring forth abundance in the world and in people and communities. And that is truly good news indeed!

So how might we set aside a place and time in our noisy world to hear God's words of encouragement? Creating a time and a place for escaping from the distractions in order to listen in silence to God requires a degree of effort and determination for most people. Of course, there are Retreats and Quiet Days on offer, whether to clergy or to others - whoever they might be. And these can be very valuable and worthwhile.

But we can indeed hear the voice of God even in the everyday ordinary things of life. We simply need to listen out for that still, small voice. But how are we to distinguish the authentic message from all the background noise? The test, the yardstick, seems to be that if the word bears good fruit and testifies to the Gospel message of new life, peace and joy – then it is truly the voice of God. And we can hear it anywhere and anytime. We might hear it in words spoken by a child, or a family member, or a friend, or a complete stranger. The voice of God may speak to us through the events of daily life. God speaks in many voices, and not only through the Church or chapel, or in a place of silence, but even – yes - in the noise and chatter and clatter of everyday life. We just need to be willing to listen - with due care and attention!!!

*Tony Bundock*

## SERVICE FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

This Sunday's Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Canon Tony and start at 10:00. The hymns will be led on this occasion by Canon Tony on guitar. Details have been supplied in the Zoom specific email but are also shown here again:

Topic: My Meeting

Time: Jul 12, 2020 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75799154630?pwd=akJGVWRHZNJoK2FUNTJTZFPpRQzc1dz09>

Meeting ID: 757 9915 4630

Password: 8q296J

*(if copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes on the pew sheet.)*



### COLLECT FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.

### READINGS FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 10)

Isaiah Ch. 55 VV. 10 – 13

Romans Ch. 8 VV. 1 – 11

Matthew Ch. 13 VV. 1 – 9 & VV. 18 – 23



## PRAYER CHAIN PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

*(Intercessions during the Zoom Service will be led by Pat Rushmere)*

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the gift of your Holy Spirit among us as we pray to you now.

God of wisdom and understanding, be with your Church as we seek to understand your purpose and will. Nurture and tend all new to faith and by your Holy Spirit, bring to fruition the seed of your word.

We pray for a world damaged by the Coronavirus pandemic. We pray for the safety and protection of all key workers, in the NHS and elsewhere, and for the children, the young people, the elderly and the vulnerable.

May there always be time for love and respect for one another in our homes and places of work, our schools, care homes and hospitals. We pray that there will be mutual support and thoughtfulness, consideration and trust.

Heavenly Father, as the pandemic restrictions are being lifted, larger numbers of our nation are returning to work, and leisure facilities are opening up to the wider community, we pray that the guidelines set down by the Government will be followed for the safety of all.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the sick in our community and for all who are struggling in any way. Give them strength and patience in their sufferings.

Heavenly Father, you hold all souls in life. Bring all the departed to the place of refreshment and peace and, as we remember them with love and gratitude, we commend them to your eternal rest and unchanging affection.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

