

The Church in Warden Hill

'Old Habits'

This has been a tragic time for our nation, indeed for the whole world. So many people have died and hearts been broken. Whilst certain restrictions are being lifted, slowly and cautiously, the future still remains uncertain. People are still feeling afraid, anxious and isolated. Recent announcements mean our church buildings must remain closed to worship for some time yet, although there may be some opportunity to visit for prayer (subject to them being sanitised and cleaned on a regular basis); so we may need to be a little more patient. There really is no need to take any risks too soon. Thereafter we will need to work within C of E, URC and Govt guidelines. Every church building will be different by way of the challenges it faces; social distancing, numbers permitted, one way systems, sanitising, singing, receiving the Eucharist, being just a few of these challenges. It's highly likely that we may not return to any sort of normality until next year, and we need to be ready for that eventuality no matter how sad it might seem. What does it mean to be the church? What are the things that cause us to gather in our buildings? If we can't do these things safely, do we try to?

The angel said to the magi, 'Return to your country, but by a different road' (Matt 2.12). And it seems our journey from lockdown to re-entering our buildings will be just that, with recognition that things have changed, and may never be the same again. But rest assured, we will all meet again, as the virus hopefully fades away and a vaccine, or super drug, is found. And when we do, we must acknowledge that we will return from different places, some celebrating others lamenting, some confident others afraid.

The way we live this out will reflect how we are the church.

In the meantime, our Sunday services have been well attended on-line, and Morning Prayer is attended by 60+ every day, when normally it's just 2 or 3 of us in an empty church, so there is much to be thankful for, and new ways of worship to now consider? There is something about the Church that *is* habitual. Some people will want to continue with these new habits, others will crave the familiarity of the old. When habits are broken, some people don't go back to them, and I fear many churches will need to work through this and ponder if in fact they were living the past in the present, and whether this is something they can now go back to? Perhaps there are certain things for us to consider in that also? In the next few weeks, I will be sending out a survey to all church members, via email or post, asking you to comment on some of these things; what you value most about church, how you feel about returning, and how you have found this lockdown period. Watch out for that, and do complete it as it will help to discern what is needed now and in the future.

When the wind blows, do we build windmills or walls? What do we therefore need to build (or rebuild) in the light of the storm we have been facing? **Revd Gary.**

Arrangements for Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Confirmation, Banns of Marriage, etc., should be made with any one of the Clergy.

If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit please contact Clergy, Elders or Readers.

Without your information we are unable to provide pastoral care.

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cypher

If you have anything for the Grapevine please send it to

Edna Willox (grapevine@tciwh.org.uk Tel 510773) by early Wednesday evening



The Church in Warden Hill
(Anglican & URC)

Welcome



THE GRAPEVINE 7th June 2020 TRINITY SUNDAY

A Message from Revd Gary

Have you got your heresy meter ready for this Sunday? It's the Sunday when clergy across the country try to explain the mystery of the Trinity, that God is co-substantial, co-eternal, one God in 3 persons. Many fall into the trap of comparing God to things like water in its 3 states, or with a Mars bar, or something else. Helpful analogies, but not correct. I have somehow avoided preaching on Trinity Sunday, in fact the only time I have ever done so was in Warden Hill! Do any of you remember it? For me, the Trinity gives us a way to connect with God, and grow in our relationship, in different ways. I wonder what Bishop Rachel will say?

This week

This Sunday there will be a 10am Holy Communion service live-streamed on our social media pages and website: www.tciwh.org.uk - Bishop Rachel will be preaching!

This Sunday's readings:

Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end; 2 Corinthians 13.11-end; Matthew 28.16-20

Devotional Bible readings for the coming week

A good way to stay connected is to read the Bible and see what scripture is saying to you each day, and what you might want to pray about.

There is also a live-stream service of Morning Prayer, led by Revd Gary or Revd Nick, weekdays at 9am here: www.stpetersleck.org (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Monday

*Psalm 1
Joshua 7.1-15
Luke 10.25-37*

Tuesday

*Psalm 5
Joshua 7.16-end
Luke 10.38-end*

Wednesday

*Psalm 119.1-32
Joshua 8.1-29
Luke 11.1-13*

Thursday

*Psalm 147
Deuteronomy 8.2-16
1 Corinthians 10.1-17*

Friday

*Psalms 100, 101, 117
Jeremiah 9.23-24
Acts 4.32-end*

Saturday

*Psalm 23
Joshua 10.1-15
Luke 11.37-end*

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MORNING PRAYER This is being led by either Revd Gary or Revd Nick each weekday at 9am. Do join in and post your prayers on-line each day as we gather together to read, reflect and pray. You can join in via:

www.stpetersleck.org or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pipandjims

SUMMER LIVE STREAM SERVICES The South Cheltenham Team have produced a schedule of services for the coming month:

DATE	SUNDAY	SERVICE	LEADER
7th June	Trinity Sunday	10am - Holy Communion	Rev Nick
11th June	Corpus Christi	9am - Holy Communion	Rev Peter
14th June	Trinity 1	10am - Holy Communion	Rev Gary
21st June	Trinity 2	8am - BCP Holy Communion 10am - Prayer & Praise 4.30pm - Teatime Church	Rev Gary Rev Ken Rev Nick
28th June	St Peter & St Paul	10am - Holy Communion	Rev Gary

All services can be accessed from one of the following:

TCIWH website: www.tciwh.org.uk
 St. Peter's website: www.stpetersleck.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/pipandjims

The Church in Warden Hill

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK all those in the world affected by the pandemic, armed conflict or natural disaster.

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR those who are sick in body, mind or spirit; those who have died and those mourning the loss of loved ones.

Weekly Prayer Focus

7th	Lincoln Avenue & Durham	11th	Farmfield Road
8th	Lichfield Drive & Rochester	12th	Warden Hill Close & Friars
9th	Hawkswood Road & Abbots Close	13th	Warden Hill Road & Warren Close
10th	Hampton Close & St. Alban's Close	14th	Gwernant Road & Bala Road

THE COLLECT for Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
AMEN.