

The Church in Warden Hill

OPEN FOR PRAYER

St. Christopher's is open to visit for prayer on a **Wednesday** from 2-4pm. A max. of 6 persons are allowed in at any one time and there is 2m social distancing. Thank you to all who have stewarded thus far and to all who have visited since reopening.

EXPLORE A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP with God and his care for us shown in both the Old and New Testaments in the new edition of *New Daylight*. There are some helpful observations on the holy habit of Worship and advice on growing older, something which happens to us all. Copies available on the table in the Entrance Room; £4.75 for four months, to Margaret Meads please, with thanks to Duncan for the ordering process.

A FEW NOTES FROM THE AGM

Richard Cypher was re-elected as a Church Warden and Richard Neale was elected as a Church Warden. Daryl Burns was re-elected as Church Treasurer and Dorothy Baker was also re-elected to the ECC. Debbie Cypher continues as Church Safeguarding Officer. Richard Neale was elected as Health and Safety Coordinator.

Thanks go to Peter Sands for his many years as Church Warden. Thanks to Sheila Parry for serving on the Council. Diana and Brian Miles, and Eileen Attwood were re-elected as Elders.

We are looking for a person to take the minutes of our various meetings - could you be this person?

A WING AND A PRAYER

If you have a spare 10 minutes, check out www.awingandaprayer.org.uk and the video showing Arabella Marshall's art installation at the ruined Minsmere Chapel in Suffolk. I picked this up from Claire Balding's Radio 4 'Ramblings' and it's on my list of things to see after lockdown.

Maureen

What bright spark....

...forgot she had ordered 300 mini-plug plants?! .. with only a very mini greenhouse...and more frosts forecast. M McB

Arrangements for Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Confirmation, Banns of Marriage, etc., should be made with Revd Gary Grady or Revd Iain McLaren

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

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cypher

If you have anything for the Grapevine please send it to

Edna Willox (grapevine@tciwh.org.uk Tel 510773) by midday on Wednesday.

Church website: www.tciwh.org.uk



The Church in Warden Hill
(Anglican & URC)

Welcome



THE GRAPEVINE 25th APRIL 2021 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Morning Worship will be held at St. Christopher's at 10.30am
and will be led by Revd Gary Grady

Readings: Acts 4: 5-12

John 10: 11-18

Hymns: 337 I will sing the wondrous story

Sheet The Lord's my shepherd (Townend)

Anthem Loving shepherd of thy sheep (Philip Ledger)

186 For the healing of the nations OMIT v. 3

The Collect

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Morning Prayer

TEAM MORNING PRAYER 9am DAILY

Morning Prayer will be held at St. Christopher's on a Tuesday and at St. Peter's on a Thursday, and can be attended in person. Daily Morning prayer will be livestreamed via www.facebook.com/pipandjims or www.stpetersleck.org

Services for April

25th	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Gary Grady
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And May

2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roy McBane
9th	10.30am	URC Communion	Revd Iain McLaren
16th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Tamsyn Jenkins
23rd	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Gary Grady
30th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rachel Tarling

The Church in Warden Hill

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In the gospels, Jesus describes his ministry as that of a 'Shepherd', a metaphor that has inspired many sermons and pictures. If we were sheep, our instinct would be to run from the hungry wolves and scatter, thereby making ourselves easier targets. The shepherd is fighting, therefore, to keep us together, to keep the whole flock safe. But, it is only *our* trust in him that will enable us to stay together. Every so often, in the course of our lives, one of us will panic and make a break for it, thinking that we might be safer elsewhere. Yet, the voice of the shepherd, that knows each one of us by name, will patiently call us home.

The themes that Jesus highlights in his description of the shepherd are: love, cost and purpose. We often focus on the first two, love and cost, but 'purpose' is the one that often gets left out. 'One flock, one shepherd', Jesus says; that's the purpose, that's the goal. As the flock come to know the voice of Jesus and the love of Jesus, which is also the voice and love of God, they will also come to know this purpose, that we are one in him. And in a crisis, we needn't look elsewhere because he has proved himself trustworthy in providing for our basic needs. His voice, however, would not have been the one they loved and believed in if they had not first experienced it as the voice of practical care.

There's something in that for us too. We must also first be Christ-like ourselves. We represent the 'hospitality of God' in our churches, in our community, and in our world, in both our *living* and in our *giving*, *so others might see Christ in us. We have to live in the world as though we really do believe that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life to save us, is the way of God. We believe it, but do we live it? Fortunately, the voice of the Good Shepherd is still heard through the Holy Spirit, and is there to guide us.*

Revd Gary.

SUNDAY LIVE STREAMS

The South Cheltenham Team will continue to live stream a service each Sunday from one of the churches; this can be accessed via www.facebook.com/pipandjims or www.stpetersleck.org if not on social media.

The Church in Warden Hill

PLEASE PRAY FOR those we know who are sick, whether in body, mind or spirit; those who have died; and those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

GIVE THANKS FOR the completion of the building work at St. Philip and St. James, and pray for the re-opening of the Church for worship on 9th May, and the proposed outreach to the community in the new space

WE ALSO PRAY FOR St. Stephen's who will be welcoming Fr. Sebastian on 2nd May (the last joint service with P&J)

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS

25th	Mimosa Avenue & Salix Court	29th	Stancombe Grove & Azalea Drive
26th	Rothermere & Lilac Closes	30th	Bluebell Grove & Lavender Road
27th	Tamarisk Close & Wisteria Court	1st	WHill, Bettridge & Belmont schools
28th	Rosehip & Camellia Courts	2nd	Home & hospital communicants

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES and CELEBRATIONS let's celebrate together: First we have a belated birthday - Jacqueline Henson had a birthday on 20th. David Henson has one on 29th and it is Ella Critchley's 16th Birthday also on 29th. Happy birthday to you all. Happy birthday if you have a birthday this week and didn't tell me. Please let me know of any future birthdays that we can celebrate together.

Brian Miles.

TRACK AND TRACE SLIPS

It is of great help if you bring in slips of paper with your name and phone number on each Sunday and place them in the box provided. There is also a QR code which you can scan using the mobile phone app.

FOODBANK

Contributions are always very welcome for those in need; the collecting box is at the back of the church.