

The Church in Warden Hill

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 either www.pipandjims.org.uk or www.stpetersleck.org.

LIFTING RESTRICTIONS St. Christopher's is now open again during the week to visit for prayer. We do ask that those use the hand gel before entering, consider wearing a face mask during services (especially if singing) and continue to socially distance in respect others' space. If you or a member of your family or household feels unwell, please do not attend.

COMMUNITY CRAFT GROUP meets on Thursdays 1.30 to 3.00 pm at Sardar's Café. Bring your own project, spread the word.

HARVEST APPEAL UPDATE The amount donated to our Harvest charity - Mercy Ships - was £600.00 of which £150 was in cheques and Gift Aided. Many thanks to all who supported our effort this year.

OCTOBER OFFERINGS: CHRISTMAS FAIR, Saturday 4th December 10am to 12 noon at St. Christopher's. This month we would be grateful for donations for the bottle stall. These can be left in a bag in the entrance area or given in person to either Debbie Cypher or Ann Johns. In November we will be requesting donations for the hamper raffle. More details will follow in November. Thank You.

SUPPORT ALPHA IN PRAYER If you are interested in supporting Alpha and are not part of the team or bringing a friend along this term we would love to encourage you to support the course in prayer. Paul and Jenny Youde are hosting an Alpha prayer support meetings at 7.30pm on the evening of 19th of October in their home. Do email Paul paul.youde@yahoo.co.uk or ring 01242 463174 to join.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE if you missed the start of the Alpha Course last week, please feel free to join Session 2 at Pip & Jims this Tuesday at 7.30pm: puddings provided! For further details contact Rev Sara Haden sarah@cnc.church or find out more at www.southcheltenham.church/alpha

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

Brian Miles (grapevine@tcivh.org.uk Tel 862142) by midday on Wednesday.

Church website: www.tcivh.org.uk



The Church in Warden Hill
(Anglican & URC)

Welcome



THE GRAPEVINE 10th OCTOBER 2021 THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Holy Communion will be held at St. Christopher's at 10.30am and will be led by Revd Iain McLaren

Readings:

Job ch 22. v1-2, 21, ch 23. v1-10

Mark ch 10. v17-31

Hymns:

565 Jesus, stand among us

336 Abide with me

590 In heavenly love abiding

366 And can it be

The Collect for 19th Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Morning Prayer

TEAM MORNING PRAYER 9am DAILY

www.facebook.com/pipandjims or www.stpetersleck.org

You can attend in person as follows:

Mondays at Pip & Jim's, Tuesdays at St. Christopher's, Wednesdays at Emmanuel and Thursdays at St. Peter's. The Friday service is on-line only.

Services for October all commencing at 10.30am

17th Morning Worship Rachel Tarling

24th Holy Communion Revd Jacqueline Henson

31st Morning Worship Anne Webber

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Letter from the Minister for 10th October 2021

'And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³ He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; ⁴ for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him ... Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind ... and they were afraid.' (Mark 5: 2-6, 14-15)

Some people find talk of Jesus casting out demons and unclean spirits problematic. It doesn't sit well with our scientific worldview. However, I find it helpful to think of stories of demon possession in terms of mental illness. The demoniac described in Mark chapter 5 certainly displays some of the classic symptoms of psychosis: social isolation, bouts of unrestrained violence and self-harming. The reaction of other people to the man also has parallels with how people react to mental illness today – with fear and suspicion, even after they have apparently been healed. The covid pandemic has been accompanied by an underreported mental illness epidemic. In some cases, episodes of mental illness have been triggered by the disruption to normal social life associated with the lockdowns. In other cases, the condition of people with pre-existing mental health conditions has deteriorated as opportunities for face-to-face counselling and therapy have been curtailed. I have had first-hand experience of this in my own family. The already under-resourced NHS mental health services are clearly overstretched, with waits of two years to receive therapy being common. The experience of many people experiencing mental health crises today is sadly too similar to that of the demoniac two thousand years ago – forcible restraint and being viewed with fear and suspicion. The good news in the gospel story is that Jesus looked beyond the man's illness to the person behind the illness. Jesus saw that this was a man in need of saving and so he healed him. This is encouragement not to give up on people who are mentally ill. It is possible for them to find healing. The actor David Harewood has recently published an autobiography, *Maybe I don't belong here*, in which he describes how he recovered from two psychotic episodes requiring hospitalisation in his early twenties and went on to have a successful acting career. Recovery is possible, even from psychosis.

My prayer for all who are of troubled mind therefore is that prayer contained in the first verse of the famous hymn:

'Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.'

Yours in Christ,
Iain

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PLEASE PRAY FOR those suffering in body, mind or spirit; those who have died, and those mourning the loss of family or friends.

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR Pip and Jim's as they welcome Bishop Rachel on Thursday for their rededication service; and St. Peter's as they host their music festival on Saturday.

PLEASE REMEMBER those taking part in our Team Alpha Course.

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS

10th	Hampton Close & St. Alban's Close	14th	Gwernant Road & Bala Road
11th	Farmfield Road & David French Court	15th	Dinas Close & Dinas Road
12th	Warden Hill Close & Friars Close	16th	Alma Road & Caernarvon Road
13th	Warden Hill Road & Warren Close	17th	Chelmsford & Hidcote Avenues

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES and CELEBRATIONS let's celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of those who have them this week.

If you have a birthday this week and we don't know about it - happy birthday. If you know of any future birthdays or celebrations please let me know so that we can celebrate together. **Brian Miles**

NATIONAL STAR at ULLENWOOD have sent a thank you for the donation recently made as a result of the after service coffee donation box. The latest sum sent was £89.84.

NEXT SATURDAY - COME AND HEAR THE MUSIC - THE ST. PETER'S MUSIC FESTIVAL, SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER, 12-7pm Everyone is welcome to attend this event at St. Peter's Church, Leckhampton. Come at anytime to hear a range of musical performances with a break for tea at 4pm. The programme and details of how to access the livestream will be put up the week before at: <https://stpetersleck.org/come-and-hear-the-music/> Entry is by voluntary donation and all funds raised will go towards the Gloucestershire work of the music therapy charity MusicSpace.

REDEDICATION SERVICE FOR PIP AND JIM'S

Bishop Rachel will be coming to Pip and Jims this coming Thursday 14th October at 7.30pm to lead a service of Rededication following the completion of their reordering. They have been keen to ensure that they can fit in the usual congregation but would also like to invite representatives from the other churches of the team for what should be a joyful celebration. If you would like to attend, please email their administrator Robyn Robinson at info@pipandjims.org.uk.