

## Welcome to our Seventeenth 'Together News'.

I've been in Pastoral ministry for long enough that suggesting that the church does something 'new' or 'different' has been as welcome as Christmas in the Turkey shed! But let me say this, not here in our Benefice! You have all been so supportive and trusting and I've welcomed that.

Before I say anything else, I invite you to take a moment to read the next verse slowly and thoughtfully.

*'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.'* (Isaiah 43:18-19).

Over the past few weeks, along with other church leaders across the country, I have been reflecting on what church in the Benefice will look now that lockdown is easing. Now I know that I am never short of an idea(!) but this verse challenges me to stop! God says, '*See I am doing a new thing*'. The invitation is to all of us to pause and look long and hard enough until we catch a glimpse of what God the Father desires for us, His Children, what Jesus wants for us, his Church and where the Holy Spirit would have us go as his anointed. If God is doing a new thing, we should find out what it is and join in! There is no doubt about it, the ministry and mission of the Benefice going forward will not be the same. Much might remain unchanged but somethings we could do and perhaps should be different.

And so, I am inviting you to a Prayer Gathering I've called '**Streams**'. We will gather from 9.30 - 10.30am every Saturday morning during August at David and Peggy Heron's home on the Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst. Why? To seek God together, to discern in prayer and Bible reading together what 'New Thing' he is doing and ask for the passion to join in so that we would see '*Streams in the Wilderness*'. This is an event exclusive to St Michael's but includes Christ Church and All Saints too. There will be worship, moments of silence and opportunity to find a quiet place to reflect.

I have been thinking about the following questions. You may have others, but I share these as a starting point for our reflections.

- \* Are there things we have started doing in lockdown that should continue?
- \* Are there new things that God is calling us to start?
- \* People are now familiar with connecting online – how can we maximise this new way of meeting in all areas of church life?
- \* How can we allocate our financial and people resources to achieve this?
- \* What may be the enduring pastoral needs caused by lockdown – economic, emotional, spiritual, medical – that we will need to respond to?
- \* How can we share the gospel with people in this new context?
- \* Do I have gifts, resources, opportunities and interest that God could use?

I wonder if you sense with me that God just might be doing something new in us, with us and through us? If you do, then make a note of the date and time and join us. But before you do, have a look at Psalm 127 v1 and start listening and praying with us today before we meet together on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 9.30am.

We had about 25 folk at our Garden Praise last Sunday and the weather was amazing, just as it will be this Sunday afternoon when we gather at 4pm at Terry and Margaret's garden to sing our Hymns

of Glory, Songs of Praise. If you are coming, please bring your own chairs. Looking forward to seeing you. There is plenty of space to keep a safe and social distance. Discussions are underway about when we might gather in our parish churches for congregational worship, which is as you will appreciate, not as straightforward as we would think! In the meantime, **Garden Praise** will continue through to Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> in gardens in each Parish as we encourage folk to congregate together again safely for worship outside our church buildings.

I will be leading the Year 2 Leavers Service this coming Thursday morning at the school. Please pray for the children as they leave St Michael's for Bartley Juniors. An important but anxious time for them and their parents.

Grace and Peace,

*David and Ann (not forgetting Clarrie & Denzil)*

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## Keeping Faith Alive and Hope Strong

### Parish Church Opening Times for Private Prayer

All of our Churches are now open. Please see the table below for details of opening times.

If you have any questions regarding visitors, please email the Church Office on [benefice@newforestparishes.com](mailto:benefice@newforestparishes.com)

St Michael's, Lyndhurst	Wednesday & Sunday	8am – 10am	From Wednesday 24 June
Christ Church, Emery Down	Tuesday & Saturday	10am – 6pm	From Tuesday 23rd June
All Saints', Minstead	Sunday	9am – 11am	From Sunday 5 July

### This Week's Services, ONLINE (Recorded and LIVE)

All **LIVE** services are accessed via **Facebook**. Where files are not too large, these will also be uploaded afterwards and be available via our website and **YouTube**.

**Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/benefice.newforest/>

**YouTube** - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOOjetLI\\_-NZ7M3Kpy1tH8w/featured?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOOjetLI_-NZ7M3Kpy1tH8w/featured?view_as=subscriber)

**Website** - <https://www.newforestparishes.com/worship>

<b>Sunday</b> 12th July 2020	<b><u>Sunday Morning</u></b>  <b><u>4pm</u></b>	<b>Together Worship</b> Psalm 119 v105-112 Matthew 13 v1-9, 18-23  Message by Revd. David 'Gardeners question time...'  <b>GARDEN PRAISE at home of Terry and Margaret Wood</b> <b>A Selection of well-known hymns and worship songs in the 'Open Air' of a local garden</b>	<b>Pre-recorded, access on Facebook/YouTube.</b> <b>Links available below to view.</b>  <b>Join us or watch Livestream via Facebook Live</b>
<b>Thursday</b> (Every week)	<b><u>9.30am</u></b>	<b><u>STILL Online Prayer Meeting</u></b>	<a href="https://www.zoom.us/join">https://www.zoom.us/join</a> <b>ID: 774 5029 4172</b> <b>PW: still</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b><u>8.30pm</u></b>	<b>Relax and Reflect</b> <b>Music from Taiže</b>	<b>LIVESTREAM via Facebook</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 19th July 2020	<b><u>10.30am</u></b>	<b>Together Worship</b> Psalm 139 v1-11 Matthew 13 v24-30, 36-43  Message by Revd. David 'Rise and Shine...'	<b>Pre-recorded, view on Facebook/YouTube.</b>

### Christ Church, Emery Down

A huge thanks to Peter Power who has made this marvellous oak Cross for Christ Church churchyard.

The question is, why do you think it's there? Sara and David have ideas which may include using it to commemorate loved ones whose funerals they cannot attend and it being decorated for weddings and post wedding photographs. On the 15th August we will be Commemorating VJ Day at Christ Church when it is hoped that we shall be able to cover the Cross with Poppies in Remembrance.

However, you may have thoughts as to how it can be used as an aid for Reflection, Remembrance and Healing?

We are very thankful to Brett Wateridge for supplying the wood.

### An Opportunity to Serve

**Compline** - This online Service has been hugely appreciate with over 200 views last week alone! With life resuming to 'normal', it's hard for David to continue to record it each week. We are therefore looking for a small team of people to volunteer to record Compline in the comfort of their own homes.

Please contact David by email [david.potterton@newforestparishes.com](mailto:david.potterton@newforestparishes.com) for further details.

**Opening of our Churches** - Do you have any time to spare to help for two hours during Pause and Pray? You and one other person will be on site at the same time. This is also not intended to be a weekly commitment, more ad-hoc based on your availability.



**St Michaels, Wednesdays and Sundays 8-10am**  
**All Saint's, Sundays 9-11am**

Please contact Kate Donohoe if you're able to help [communications@newforestparishes.com](mailto:communications@newforestparishes.com)

**Readings for Sundays** - We are looking for volunteers to read Lessons and Intersessions for our Sunday Services which are pre-recorded. If you're not happy recording yourself, we can arrange for someone to pop over to record you, adhering to safe social distancing.

Please contact David by email [david.potterton@newforestparishes.com](mailto:david.potterton@newforestparishes.com) to arrange.

### Freephone Crisis Line

Havant and East Hants Mind are excited to share with you that we have launched a **Freephone Crisis Line for young people aged 11-17 years old** living in Hampshire & Isle of Wight (excluding Portsmouth & Southampton City).

The crisis line will provide immediate access to safe and confidential support for young people who need support with their mental health. We will provide crisis de-escalation, healthy coping skills and signposting to useful website and app resources.

Available;

- **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 3pm – 8:30pm.**
- **Freephone: 0300 303 1590.**

# SPOTLIGHT

## ON MICHAEL COMBE

**How did you become church warden for Christ Church?**

Six years ago it was brought to my attention that we needed a Church Warden to help keep Christ Church going. That was my cue to stand up and put myself forward. We all need to take responsibility in our villages for our Churches so I was happy to be able to help.

**What made you want to help?**

Church Wardens are an integral part of the cogs that keeps Churches going and without them, they simply cannot continue. I can't imagine Emery Down without Christ Church, it's an important part of our village, our history and community.

**What do you enjoy most about it?**

I'm lucky to be part of such a fantastic team, Sara is amazing and nothing is too much trouble. We are very lucky to have Suzanne and Kate in the office and David leading our Benefice. Libby and I both enjoy being part of Church life, particularly the singing. Singing a good hymn is reinvigorating!



## What do you do when you're not helping out at church?

I still work in London and visit once a week, albeit not at the moment. When I'm not working we spend time looking after our Garden, walk our dogs in the forest, I enjoy playing Bridge and have been playing online with family and friends during lockdown which has been great fun. I also love a game of Golf and often head to Leckford Golf Club, near Stockbridge.

In the village, I help support the Arms Houses and Libby is involved with the village hall.

## Is there anything you have enjoyed during Lockdown?

The peace and tranquility. Hearing no road noise has made Emery Down such a peaceful and quiet place to live. It also feels like there has been a fabulous community spirit, people have had time to say hello and been so caring. We have had people checking-in on us and really taking the time care about each other.

## What one thing would you like to see happen, in light of the changes from Lockdown?

For the peace and community spirit to continue...sadly, I don't think it will. People will return to as close as they can to 'normal' which makes lives so busy, there is no time to pause and take stock of the community we live in.

## Your Gifts are Keeping Faith Alive and Hope Strong in the Benefice and beyond!

**Weekly Offering** - If you are not giving regularly it would be a great help to the PCC if you were able to do so. Please speak to your PCC Treasurer or David. If you have access to the internet, you can also donate to your Parish Church via our website [www.newforestparishes.com](http://www.newforestparishes.com) click on 'Donate'.

**Easy Fundraising** - Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and register to donate without costing you anything! Simply find your 'cause', searching by name and then carry on with your shop.

**Text to Donate - St Michael's** - text the words **STMICHAELS to 70085 for a one off donation of £5.00. All Saint's** - text the words **AllSaints to the number 70085 for a one-off donation of £5.00.** If you wish to donate more or less than £5 to either, substitute 5 with any amount between 1 and 20. **Christ Church** - text the words **XChurch 3 to the number 70085 for an instant donation of £3.00** and a monthly, reoccurring payment will be made of £3 to Christ Church. If you wish to donate more or less than £3, substitute 3 with any amount between 1 and 20. You can cancel the reoccurring payments at any time.

## **NEW Parish Giving Scheme Telephone Service**

Available weekdays from 9am to 5pm. Calls will take less than 15 minutes and you will receive written confirmation afterwards to confirm the details. At anytime you can call the service to make amendments to your direct debit. Call: 0333 002 1271

## **Church Services**

Over the next couple of weeks, David and the Church Wardens will be discussing when we will be opening our churches for Sunday Worship. There is a lot to consider but a gentle approach is required to ensure that when we gather again for congregational worship we are safe and the worship is properly focused and meaningful to those present. Our places of worship are just settling into a rhythm of prayer and we have introduced Garden Praise on Sunday afternoons as opportunities to gather safely. In all this, we are moving forward towards gathering together as congregations towards the end of August. More details to follow.

**Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals** are now permitted in our parish churches but with restrictions. Suzanne has been in regular contact with wedding couples, most of whom have rescheduled their ceremonies for either later this year or into 2021.

**VJ Day Commemoration Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August**, 11am at Christ Church. This will be a Benefice Service in the Churchyard. More details to follow.

### Useful Information

## SAY IT - PRAY IT!!

If you are concerned, anxious or troubled in anyway, you can text your prayer to our 'Say it Pray it' number and we will pray for you immediately. No conversation or call back, just a simple text for you to share matters for prayer! Why not give it a go this week?

**SAY it  
PRAY it**  
Text 07591 958856

New Forest  
Parishes

**‘SAY’**  
what you’d like us to  
**‘PRAY’**  
That’s just what we’ll do!

This is a **TEXT ONLY** service.  
Conversation is not possible on this  
number. If you would like to chat with  
someone, please call **07468 527820**

**WANTED: PRAY-ERS.** We need a team of ‘pray-ers’ across the Benefice who will carry the prayer phone for a week (Sunday – Sat). Their (your) ministry will be to simply ‘pray the prayers’ that are sent via text to the phone, either the moment they are received or as soon possible. **You do need to be living where you have a good mobile phone signal!** Let David know if you would like to share in this ministry. It just might be the thing that God is calling you to do and what a blessing you will be and receive!

**Thank you for providing your contact details** - We now have quite a comprehensive database which is a great help, especially for circulating Together News! If you or if you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list for the latest Newsletters, please email their details to Suzanne at [benefice@newforestparishes.com](mailto:benefice@newforestparishes.com).

**Lay Pastors** - If you know any member of the Benefice who would welcome a phone call and a chat, please let Peggy and Peter Nicholls know on **023 8028 2378**.

**Do you need any help at the moment, whilst in isolation** - FOR HELP, CALL **02380 284 426**.

**Daily Hope** - FREE PHONE Line of hymns, reflections and prayers - **0800 804 8044**

**The Good Grief Trust - Coronavirus Bereavement Advice**

**COVID-19 NATIONAL NHS BEREAVEMENT HELPLINE - 8am - 8pm 0800 2600 400**

A new Bereavement Helpline has been introduced by the NHS to support bereaved families during the Coronavirus outbreak. The new helpline is not a counselling service but will be available to offer support, guidance and advice on dealing with grief and loss.

The helpline will be staffed by NHS Blood and Transplant registered nurses who are highly skilled and experienced in working with bereaved people.