

## **Welcome to our Thirteenth 'Together News'.**

'Open all Hours'? Well not yet. The national news has carried detail of the permission granted for the opening of Church Buildings for personal/private prayer. Whilst we welcome this, it is important to be clear about what is **NOT** yet permitted. We are **NOT** as yet permitted to congregate for Worship or Prayer Meetings in our church buildings. Nor are we permitted to record or livestream any services whilst the church is open for private/personal prayer.

During this week and next, meetings have taken place/will take place with Church Wardens and PCC Standing Committees to discuss the practicalities of opening our church buildings for private/personal prayer. We are all convinced that each parish church presents its own challenges relating to maintaining a 'safe' environment and effective 'Social distancing'. The Church of England has provided a helpful 'risk assessment' which has helped us consider the important issues relating to opening up our church buildings and, as you would expect, we are following their guidelines at the same time as expecting them to change without much warning going forward.

I hope that with me, you see the opening of our church buildings for personal prayer as a matter for celebration. For hundreds of years St Michael's, Christ Church and All Saints have provided a sacred space for parishioners and pilgrims alike. I am reminded that God invites each of us into a personal relationship with himself which has its highest expression in personal prayer. And as I say, for many generations, visiting our parish churches for private prayer and personal devotion has been important as a means of keeping faith alive and hope strong. So, as we prepare to open our church premises we are going to need your help. But even this is not as easy as it may sound!

Churches need to be cleaned first and then we will need volunteers to support the opening of Church buildings by being on duty for the whole period that they are open. Opening times will be agreed by Church Wardens in each parish, but this decision will be influenced largely by the number of volunteers available to support opening. However, guidelines demand that those over 70 and/or in a High-Risk Category cannot be asked to help. Ensuring the safety of volunteers and visitors alike is our priority as we move forward. So, whilst I encourage you to be positive in your response to supporting the opening of your parish church by volunteering to help when requested, it is also important to counsel realism. All three parish churches can only open with the physical support of 'permitted' volunteers being available to support but this will be a challenge given age demographic of our worshipping community across the Benefice. Practically, this means that if there are not enough volunteers under the age of 70 who can be present in the church all the time it is open, then it cannot open. In keeping with CoE guidance and in keeping with best practice in relation to lone working, it is absolutely necessary to have no less than two people in the church at all times when open to ensure their own safety and necessary support for visitors.

So, this is as it stands at the time of going to print. We can open if we can find volunteers to (1) supervise hand sanitising when visitors arrive, (2) provide guidance about ensuring safety whilst in the building including directions about leaving through a different door, (3) cleaning the areas where visitors have sat/ stood (and anything else touched by them) when they leave. Current guidance requires that in the event that the church cannot be cleaned before opened then it must remain closed for 72 hours which is the length of time necessary for any COVID virus on the premises to die.

So, whilst we want to see our church buildings open, all the uncertainty surrounding what is possible, one thing is clear, and that is that without 'suitable' volunteers being ready, willing and able to support, our

churches will remain closed. If you would like to discuss volunteering, please contact the Benefice Office on 02380 283 175 or email [benefice@newforestparishes.com](mailto:benefice@newforestparishes.com).

So, I hope you will welcome being contacted during next week with a request for your support in opening your parish church for prayer, not least as a reminder that we are moving towards a 'new' normal which includes the opening of our parish churches and our gathering together to worship, witness and work as followers of Jesus Christ.

Where the criteria for opening is met, the inevitable 'rotas' will be necessary, and finding time on our busy diaries(!) may be difficult. Of course, we fully understand that some will not be able to support opening their parish church because of their own personal and health circumstances. However, I genuinely hope that all those who are outside the restrictions for those who cannot be involved and who are available to support will do so. In doing so, we will re-establish each of our church buildings as important places of personal reflection and prayer for those who seek to keep their faith alive and hope strong, be they parishioners or pilgrims.

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

**Revd David, The Vicarage, 5 Forest Gardens, Lyndhurst SO43 7AF**  
**07468 527820 / [potterton.david@newforestparishes.com](mailto:potterton.david@newforestparishes.com)**

### **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 [www.newforestparishes.com/worship](http://www.newforestparishes.com/worship) and **YouTube**.

<b>Sunday</b> 14th June 2020	<b><u>10.30am</u></b>	<b>Service of Holy Communion and Sermon from the Vicarage</b>	<b>Pre-recorded, access on Facebook/YouTube. Links available below to view.</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 18th June 2020 (Every week)	<b><u>9.30am</u></b>	<b><u>STILL Online Prayer Meeting</u></b>	<b><a href="https://www.zoom.us/join">https://www.zoom.us/join</a> ID: 774 5029 4172 PW: still</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 18th June 2020	<b><u>8.30pm</u></b>	<b>Tai�ze Service LIVE</b>	<b>LIVESTREAM via Facebook</b>
<b>Friday</b> 19th June 2020	<b><u>9.00pm</u></b>	<b>Compline, LIVE from St Michael and All Angels.</b>	<b>LIVESTREAM via Facebook</b>
<b>Daily</b>	Timings are dependent on upload speeds.	<b><u>Priest in a PANdemic</u> A Daily Reflection and hymn</b>	<b>Recorded. View via Facebook or Youtube</b>
<b>Every Wed &amp; Fri</b>	Timings are dependent on upload speeds.	<b>Collective Worship with Revd David and Denzil for Reception &amp; KS1/2 children</b>	<b>Recorded. View via Facebook or Youtube</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 21st June 2020	<b><u>10.30am</u></b>	<b>Service of Holy Communion and Sermon from the Vicarage</b>	<b>Pre-recorded, view on Facebook/YouTube. Also available from the Office on CD (on request).</b>

**W**e hope you enjoy this week's Sunday Service which has been pre-recorded to enable others to contribute to Sunday Worship. It's available on Facebook, YouTube or via our website (links below).

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>

If you or if you know anyone who would like a copy of next week's Sunday Service on CD, you can request a copy by emailing us at [benefice@newforestparishes.com](mailto:benefice@newforestparishes.com).

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### A date for your diary

We are hosting a GARDENING PARTY at St Michael's - Saturday 4th July from 10am - 2pm. Bring your gardening sheers, rakes and tools to help us trim hedges and generally tidy up the church yard. We will be remaining safely socially distant whilst getting to see some of the faces we have missed... Hope to see you there!

### Eco Church

**START** - Begin with a short time of silence or by lighting a candle. If you have a smartphone or tablet you could follow the reflection in the garden or close to a window so that you can see outside. You will find all the links you need here in *Together News* or on the Benefice website at [www.newforestparishes.com/sustainability](http://www.newforestparishes.com/sustainability)

**LISTEN AND WATCH** - The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu, accompanied by his wife, the Revd Margaret Sentamu, laid down his Crozier of office on the High Altar of York Minster on Sunday 7 June. The Dean of York, the Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Frost and Head Verger Alex Carberry, were witnesses to this final act as Archbishop. (Music - recorded previously by York Minster Choristers Psalm 150.)  
<https://youtu.be/qFAA2p-7gMw>



### **READ - Matthew 22: 34-40, The Greatest Commandment**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

### **REFLECT - The Archbishop of York's Valedictory Debate in the House Of Lords, 6 May 2020:**

*'That the Virtual Proceedings do consider the case for increasing income equality and sustainability in the light of the recent health emergency.'*

Full text of the debate - <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2020-05-06b.485.3#g485>

"... Let me end by sharing with your Lordships the four guiding principles which have impelled me to work tirelessly to promote the real living wage. The first is that all human beings are of equal worth in the sight of God. There is no one and no group of whom we can say "They are less important" or "They don't

*matter". The needs of the other person are always as important as my own. The second is a commitment to offer everyone the opportunity to flourish. A society is well-ordered only in so far as it offers ways of flourishing to all its members. The third is a recognition of our human interrelatedness and interdependence. As the African proverb says, "When a tiny toe is hurting, the whole body stoops down to attend to that toe". The reality is that we are all inextricably bound up with each other's welfare. We rely on each other; if one suffers, sooner or later we will all suffer. Covid-19 and the lockdown have vividly demonstrated this for us all. The fourth is the need to accept our duty of responsibility by using our God-given potential both for ourselves and to serve others. I beg to move."*

*Closing statement of the debate:*

*"... As I see it, the debate was not about welfare alone but about well-being and a flourishing society founded on the principles of freedom, fellowship, service to God and neighbour and the rule of law. For me, these are the real firm foundations on which we can build a just, sustainable and compassionate society in which all can participate and flourish. For me, anything else is just sand. For the flourishing of a just and equitable society, the gap between those living in poverty and wealth must be reduced. Why is there a case for increasing income equality? In the light of the recent health emergency, it is simply because it is a matter of justice, kindness and generosity. It is the right thing to do, and it is also desirable."*

*The Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York (until 7 June 2020)*

**PRAY** - Christ teaches us that every human is equal before God. I pray that, as we face these extraordinary times, we seek to enact policies that affirm the dignity and worth of all as we have seen it in their contribution to us.

*The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.*

**ACT** - Find out about the work of [The Equality Trust](#). How can we as individuals and Church get involved? Find out about the Tearfund campaign [The World Rebooted](#). TAKE ACTION: Pray for those who are struggling in the UK and around the world, and for global leaders. Invite others into this great reshaping: convene local community leaders, write to the newspaper that you read, and email your MP to raise these issues. Play your part in building a better society as you pray 'your kingdom come'.

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# SPOTLIGHT ON LINDA RUSH CHRIST CHURCH, EMERY DOWN



**What do I do to support the Church?** *When we moved from Buckinghamshire to Emery Down about 13 years ago I used to organise the church flower rota, but this has been streamlined now and the flower ladies all concentrate on Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas to make the church look stunning, relying on lovely silk flowers to keep the church looking attractive the rest of the year. I am on the church cleaning rota and like to help with fund raising events that are often held in the village hall especially making sandwiches when required.*

**What do I do when I am not helping out at church?** *My husband Michael and I are sadly no longer horse riding, which was our prime pastime for many years.*

Michael is still President of the Chiltern Society, an environmental group where I actively help him. He started up a very successful fund raising program for the charity fifteen years ago which is still bringing in regular funds to support the Chiltern Society in Buckinghamshire and adjacent counties.

In the past I was on the catering committee for the RNLI branch in Lymington, again helping to raise funds which I enjoyed

I am a member of The Arts Society in the New Forest, enjoying the monthly lectures, and special interest days along with cultural visits and holidays that they hold,

I am interior house manager here at Northerwood House and administer the routine cleaning staff, also any social events that we hold here in the grounds.

Now the role I have taken on in the last few years is secretary to Windmill Boldre Riding for the Disabled group. They meet every week during term time at Brockenhurst Park, or Ford Farm in the winter months. I love this role which is most rewarding and humbling. I enjoy helping our trustees with the special events especially when Father Christmas comes to visit the children. I provide the refreshments and also keep a photographic record which I have made into a photo book of the achievements the children have attained over the years.

My pastime since we have been in lockdown has been cooking and I seem to be drawn to the kitchen at the slightest opportunity! Cooking is a hobby of mine so volunteering to help with fundraising events is most enjoyable.

Keeping in touch with our family and friends on the phone, and emails with our children who are scattered across the globe, is special and like many families we now enjoy our Zoom get togethers. I hope that this will also become a norm for many people in the future.

I have enjoyed re-kindling contact with old friends from the past, especially anyone who is sadly living alone where they have lost a partner. We can always find so much to chat about.

**What made me want to help at the Church?** I attended a catholic convent for my entire schooling until I was expelled. Although the standard of education was not very brilliant for me, I loved it.

Being a committed christian, it was instilled by my parents and school that the most important task in life was to be as helpful and generous to everyone, be willing to step up to the plate in volunteering for any duties that were needed with love and friendship.

At our previous church where we lived, I was a church warden until we moved to Emery Down, so when it was apparent that Sara and Michael were retiring, I felt maybe I could offer to fill the vacancy to the best of my ability. David assured me it is flexible and that our family must still come first. But due to the Corvid-19 this has now been postponed until the end of October.

**What do you enjoy most about it?** I love the way this beautiful Victorian church seems to wrap itself around me when I enter, instilling a calmness and peace as I breathe in the atmosphere, this means so much to me.

Over the centuries this pretty church could tell wonderful stories about the people who have been involved with the church. I never get tired of studying the Stations of the Cross on the walls and the wonderful stained glass windows that look so beautiful. I remember one Christmas Eve we walked across the small heathland from Northerwood House where we live. It was snowing and the windows looked stunning glowing in the cold night air and inviting us to join in the service to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

It seems strange that we have now been in isolation since 16th March and as Michael is considered vulnerable we have been confined almost totally but we are relaxed and just potter, taking each day as it comes. But we do miss the friendship when not being able to worship at the church and cannot wait to be enjoying the uplifting services that David gives.

**One thing I would like to see happen in the light of changes in Lockdown?** We are very lucky to have David as Priest in charge and I am excited that he has wonderful ideas to really move our church forward into the twenty first century. I feel the church should be the heartbeat in a village and we hope that many more people will come and experience the the innovative ideas he and his team have to help a create a much more welcoming versatile and exciting new life for our village church. I would like to be a part of this transformation!

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## Useful Information

### DONATIONS

**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 any time you can call the service to make amendments to your direct debit. Call: 0333 002 1271

## SAY IT - PRAY IT!! Text 07951 958856

### Thank you for providing your contact details

- We are still receiving contact details from you.

**PLEASE DON'T STOP!** 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 Kate on [communications@newforestparishes.com](mailto:communications@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**

**How to access videos via the Benefice website on YouTube or Facebook** - Visit our website [www.newforestparishes.com/social-media](http://www.newforestparishes.com/social-media) this will take you DIRECTLY to our Social Media area/tab. You can simply click on the Facebook and YouTube Logos. If you have any problems, please contact Kate [communications@newforestparishes.com](mailto:communications@newforestparishes.com) or on **07776 221663**.

New Forest Parishes

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