

Welcome to our Twenty-second 'Together News'.

Last Sunday, after 141 days since we were directed to close our church buildings and hold no further services in them, there was rejoicing to be heard at St Michael's, Christ Church and All Saints' as we gathered together for worship. I have to say that for me personally, it was just joyful, but with a reminder that technology is not always our friend. Apologies to those who joined us at St Michael's on-line for the failure of the wi-fi which resulted in you hearing only the notices! We will be live-streaming again this coming Sunday and trust that your (and our) frustrations will not be repeated.

Whilst we have now pretty much sorted our Church Service Plan for the autumn, I am concerned that we turn our attention to how the local church(es) can support more widely and visibly the most vulnerable in our communities. So much in our community is sadly but wisely still 'postponed', including Carers Café at the Baptist Church and 'Open Door Café' at All Saints' in Minstead.

We have all had opportunities to 'serve' our neighbours during this pandemic but with the easing of lock-down, the need has pretty much dissolved – or has it? I am meeting folk who are now lonelier than ever as the person bringing their shopping doesn't come any more and the stranger fetching the prescription no longer knocks the door. Quite understandably, neighbours have picked up their lives from where they left off and volunteer support groups, such as our fantastic 'Lyndhurst Isolation Support Group' has wound down its operation as need for its support diminished. Our own Lay Pastors continue to provide an invaluable ministry to many. But as a Benefice we have the opportunity to ask, how can we best serve the most vulnerable in our communities? Any ideas? Is God 'nudging' you to initiate something different? Do you have a hidden passion that you would love to express in ministry in the church? Now's the time to talk about it, so let's talk about it! We know that the simplest things are often the most effective and small is beautiful – so what can we do to support the vulnerable in our communities, whose anxiety levels are still high, their confidence is all but gone and loneliness is a daily sorrow. What is it that God is asking of us?

ALPHA COURSE

On September 15th we are starting the ALPHA Course in the Benefice. This is a 'Taster' course for those who haven't yet experienced ALPHA and will run for Eight weeks with a break at half-term. We will be thinking about the basics of our Christian faith and you are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbours to join you. We are encouraging small groups to meet together (or individuals) around the Benefice and share in the Alpha Course via ZOOM. Let's pray that many will join and faith be renewed or even discovered. More information to follow.

#REPLAY

As we look forward to September, there will be a repeat of the previous Sunday Service every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at St Michael's. This is particularly for those who couldn't get to a Sunday Service.

You will also see different members of our worshipping community leading worship and preaching across the Benefice. Luke Augustyn continues to explore his vocation to the Priesthood and Rosemarie Tiffen has recently moved to Lyndhurst with a preaching ministry endorsed by her previous Diocese. I know you will welcome them both, and that their ministries will be a great support to me as they will be a blessing to you in equal measure!

Please note that will be the final 'Together News' until September as we're all having a bit of a break.

Two years on (August 21st) we arrived in the Benefice and be assured, Ann and I are still rejoicing at God's call to serve Him amongst you (and Clarrie is not disappointed either!). We are thankful for every expression of love and fellowship.

David, Ann and Clarrie

Rev. David, The Vicarage, 5 Forest Gardens, Lyndhurst SO43 7AF
07468 527820 / potterton.david@newforestparishes.com

Online booking

Book via our website www.newforestparishes.com or on the phone for those without internet access - Kate, 07776 221663.

Numbers are limited to;

St Michael's, Lyndhurst - 50 people
Christ Church, Emery Down - 20 people
All Saint's, Minstead - 30 people

How to book online in 3 simple steps

We have made booking as simple as possible and it won't take you longer than a few minutes. Booking will close at 6pm, the evening before the Service or once fully booked (if before).

We want to ensure that everyone gets to attend a Sunday Service so if you attend one week, preference when booking will be given to anyone who has been unable to get a place, for the following week.

Step 1

Go to www.newforestparishes.com

Click BOOK NOW from the homepage



Step 2

Click BOOK NOW for the date you're booking for.

Any additional events will be added here in due course.



Step 3

Please fill in the form carefully and click SUBMIT. You will receive an automatic email confirmation so you know we have received your booking.



Keeping Faith Alive and Hope Strong

Parish Church Opening Times for Private Prayer

St Michael's, Lyndhurst	Wednesday	8am – 10am
Christ Church, Emery Down	Wednesday	3pm – 6pm

This Week's Services

All **LIVE** services are accessed via **Facebook**. Each Sunday, we will stream the 9:30am Sunday Worship from St Michael and All Angels weekly, so if you're not able to get a space one week or you're unable to attend, you can still 'join' us. We apologise that the Service was cut short last week mid-stream. Unfortunately the wireless internet can be unstable at times.

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

Website - <https://www.newforestparishes.com/Worship>

YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOOjetLI-NZ7M3Kpy1tH8w/featured?view_as=subscriber

Saturday 15th August	<u>9:30am - 10:30am</u>	'Streams' - Join us for worship, moments of silence and opportunity to find a quiet place to reflect.	David and Peggy Heron's home, Whinwood, Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst
Sunday 16th August	<u>9:30am</u>	Sunday Worship ONLINE	LIVESTREAM via Facebook
Sunday 16th August	<u>9.30am</u>	Sunday Worship	St Michael and All Angels, Lyndhurst
Sunday 16th August	<u>11am</u>	Sunday Worship	Christ Church, Emery Down
Sunday 16th August	<u>11am</u>	Sunday Worship	All Saints' Church, Minstead
Thursday (Every week)	<u>9.30am</u>	<u>STILL Online Prayer Meeting</u>	https://www.zoom.us/join ID: 774 5029 4172 PW: still

SPOTLIGHT ON Rosemarie Tiffen



What made you want to help St Michael's? - As my son and his wife, who run the Tip Leaf and Bean cafe in the Heritage Centre, have lived here several years my husband and I have visited many times.

Following my husband's unexpected death in March 2018, I decided that it seemed an ideal place to move to and so it has proved to be!

I had attended St Michael's during a few visits and always felt very welcome.

What do you enjoy most about it? - In my previous parish I served as a Church Warden, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer and Chair of the PCC. I also led services during 2 interregnums which lasted in total 4 years. I was appointed as an Authorised Lay preacher several years ago and I enjoy the opportunity to participate in services in a practical way.

What do you do when you're not helping out at church? - I had hoped to be able to join several local groups but this does not seem feasible at the moment so I have applied and been accepted for an RHS course at Sparsholt College starting in September, so I can learn what I have been doing wrong in my garden over the past 30 odd years!

I am also hoping to continue travelling as soon as restrictions ease and am particularly keen to visit my daughter, husband and my 2 grandchildren who live in Abu Dhabi. They usually spend the summer holidays with me but they were not allowed to leave the UAE this year because of Covid.

Over the next few months, I will also be visiting London as I am a member of the V&A museum and Sadler's Wells and will no doubt meet up with some of my former colleagues from the judiciary.

Is there anything you have enjoyed during Lockdown? - Having moved into Lyndhurst on the auspicious day of Friday 13th March, the opportunity to meet the community in the ensuing weeks was swiftly countenanced by Lockdown!

As I have generally treated everything in life as a challenge, I treated lockdown in the same way.

The work carried on by David and his team has certainly helped me during lockdown. The amazing efforts of the benefice to keep faith alive during such troubling times was a great comfort to me and encouraged me in my wish to help if I can.

I spent a lot time trying to furnish my new home and organising my garden and was greatly assisted by my nephew who, on his way back to his home in the Aegean, visited me a few days after I moved in and was unable to move on!

I was also very impressed by the number of local businesses who were willing to help with the installation of furniture, a shed and studio in my garden and then the redesign of the garden and I cannot thank them enough for all their hard work in making my new home so lovely.

What one thing would you like to see happen, in light of the changes from Lockdown? - I have never thought of Lockdown as a problem-it is the result of something outside our control and we need to accept that the restrictions are not imposed just to make our life difficult but to keep us as safe as possible.

I have been particularly inspired to read of how so many different people in different walks of life have worked hard to alleviate the suffering and hardship of others and this is something which I pray will continue. I am pretty sure it will in this Benefice

There have been so many blessings arising from this---people actually smiling and saying good morning (or is that something that always happens in Lyndhurst?) –taking time to listen to the bird song and watch everything grow in the wonderful sunshine we have been experiencing. I often say to myself the words from the poem by William Henry Davies “What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare...

One thing Lockdown gave us all was time to do just that (unless you were home schooling your children) and I pray that we will all learn to just take stock of all God’s gifts to us particularly in this beautiful part of England.

I look forward to meeting you all

Your Opportunities to Serve

Thank you to any of those who have contacted us over the last 2 weeks. There are many opportunities to support the Benefice and we are currently looking for volunteers to support;

- **Readings for Sundays**, reading Lessons and Intersessions for Sunday Services.
- **Opening of our Churches**, for Private Prayer and supporting Services once they open.
- **Setting up a team** for the planning and preparation for a **school breakfast club** from Autumn.

Please contact Kate Donohoe if you’re able to help communications@newforestparishes.com

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 click on ‘Donate’. There will also be an opportunity to donate at your Sunday Service.

Easy Fundraising - Visit 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

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.

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?

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.

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.