

**Welcome to our Eighteenth 'Together News'.**

I can't imagine that the Apostle Paul could have envisaged that when he wrote 'For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known' that his words would be used by an exhausted Priest writing to a frustrated Church at an increasingly challenging and confusing time!

In relation to the Coronavirus pandemic we are still living through, we certainly are looking through 'frosted glass' where the view beyond the glass is obscure to the point of creating great uncertainty for all of us.

Cancelling 'Garden Praise' is the result of clarifying guidance and whilst we are sorry, we are pleased not to be putting anyone at risk. We now look forward to re-establishing Services of Worship at St Michael's, Christ Church and All Saints' during August. Please Pray for me and our hugely committed Church Wardens that we will define a confident plan this coming Friday when we hope to meet to discuss congregating for Worship across the Benefice. We are all looking through a glass darkly and making decisions is akin to 'sucking spaghetti Bolognese without getting sauce on your white shirt' – difficult and not without possible ongoing consequences!

In the Apostle Paul's admission that we are 'looking through a glass darkly' he was clearly speaking about our understanding of what eternity will be like. It is all just a bit of a blur but when the time comes, we will see clearly and as a people of faith, we hold that 'future promise' close and are reassured by it. But whether for the future or the present, as a people of faith, God's promises to us hold true!

This Sunday morning's Psalm, which Peggy Nichols will read to us during our service, is such a timely encouragement for us. The Psalmist asks, "Where can I go from your Spirit, or where can I go from your presence?" And he concludes 'Nowhere'. And that's a great place to begin as we try to navigate our way through uncertainty with only a lack of clarity to guide us! If we start here, then God is here. If we go there, then that's where we will find him. So, perhaps we have to stop trying to look through frosted glass where things are unclear and meet with God, this side of the confusion – meet him just where we are believing that, that is just where he is! Let's not worry about where God is in the ever-changing uncertainty but rejoice that it is just where we are now, that his "right hand holds us fast."

We have just built a raised bed in readiness for growing winter veg in the Vicarage garden. We do so knowing that there are things that we must do now if we are to eat our own sprouts and winter cabbage in the future. We have to build and plant today, confident that whilst we view future produce through a glass dimly, we believe that doing things confidently now, we will soon see and enjoy what we can't see and enjoy today! Why don't you have a look in your Bibles at 2 Corinthians 5:7 and reflect on what St Paul's says of the Church there.

Please visit our places of worship for Prayer. They are open at different times throughout the week, as advertised in this letter. You are free to visit any or all of them! The Porch at St Michael's once again contains veg from the local allotment as part of St Michael's 'Grow and Share' Project. If you have fruit and vegetables to spare, (you could buy more than you need) please drop them off I the porch. If you know anyone who needs fresh veg then encourage them to visit the Porch or pick some up for them.

The School broke up for Summer Break on Friday. Please remember to thank God for Mat, Mary and the staff at the school and pray for families as they now meet another challenge, for some this will be that they do not have enough to eat through the school holidays. Please be generous in dropping of fruit and veg in the porch at St Michael's.

It was two years ago next week when the removal lorries (yes – there were two) arrived at 5 Forest Gardens with the Potterton's (with Clarrie). We have nothing but gratitude to everyone for the love, support and encouragement we have received over the past two years. The goodness of God has been confirmed in the 'goodness of his people'! Thank you, everyone (and a "woof" of appreciation from the other woman in David's life!) Not only have we built a raised bed for veg, but we have also planted some fruit trees which will be at their best in five years' time – so I hope you understand that we are not going anywhere else anytime soon!! The Lord promised good to us, and only good have we received and continue to receive from a very precious 'bunch' here in the benefice.

With our abiding affection and gratitude,

*David and Ann (not forgetting Clarrie)*

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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)

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

## 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/benifice.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> 19th July 2020	<b>Sunday Morning</b>	<b>Together Worship</b> Psalm 139 v1-11 Matthew 13 v24-30, 36-43  Message by Revd. David 'Rise and Shine...'	
<b>Thursday</b> (Every week)	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>STILL Online Prayer Meeting</b>	<a href="https://www.zoom.us/join">https://www.zoom.us/join</a> ID: 774 5029 4172 PW: still
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8.30pm</b>	<b>Relax and Reflect</b> <b>Music from Tai�ze</b>	<b>LIVESTREAM via</b> <b>Facebook</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 26st July 2020	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Together Worship</b>	<b>Pre-recorded, view on</b> <b>Facebook/YouTube.</b>

### Your Opportunities 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.

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Spotlight will be back next week!

Regularly, we're told that the Benefice love to read Spotlight and learn about others lives, so please contact Kate if you'd like to contribute to Spotlight in the coming months. It takes just a few minutes and at a time we're all feeling quite 'separated', we can feel a little more connected. [communications@newforestparishes.com](mailto: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](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

**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?

### **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.