



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

Since 27<sup>th</sup> March, when I was directed to close the three Parish Churches in our New Forest Benefice, it was with a very heavy heart that I bolted the doors, turned the lights out of St Michael's here in the village as well as at Christ Church in Emery Down and All Saints' in Minstead. No more Sunday Services, School Collective Worship, Community Concerts and events, visitors exploring local churches, and most sadly, no more prayers offered by parishioners and pilgrims alike in buildings imagined, designed, built and consecrated for this purpose.

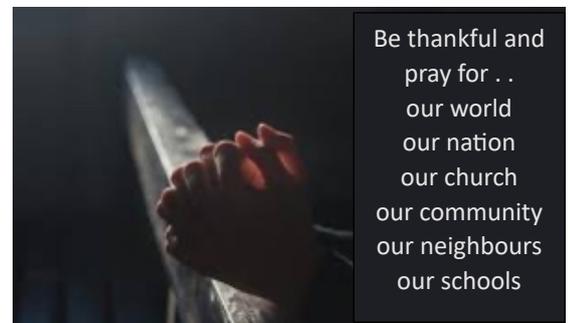
Desiring to 'keep faith alive and hope strong', we have live streamed and recorded over 100 services as well as Priest in a PANdemic Reflections and Collective Worship for the school starring Denzil the Dragon and friends! But for all this activity, I have been saddened that our church buildings have not been the places of prayer that many in our community and visitors valued them for. Whether gathering as a congregation or visiting as an individuals, the walls of each Parish Church have heard tens of thousands of prayers over the years, each believing that sometimes all it takes is just one prayer to change everything.

How wonderful therefore that we can now confirm that all three parish churches in the Benefice will be opening again for private prayer. **See information in this edition of Together News.**

We have all worked hard to ensure that we follow government and Church of England guidelines ensuring that everyone is safe. This means that your next visit may not be like your last as we have had to make some changes to where you can pray and each parish church will provide clear written guidance, with St Michael's and All Saints' having folk to welcome you and give advice.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to prepare each parish church in advance of opening and to welcome and support parishioners and pilgrims when they arrive to pray.

So, do come and pray. Come to remember those people and situations on your heart and be thankful for special days and memories. You might just welcome a place to pause, think, thank God for what you have and ask God for what you need.



Be thankful and  
pray for . .  
our world  
our nation  
our church  
our community  
our neighbours  
our schools

We also know that our churchyards are special places for reflection, renewal and calm. And so, we have some ideas which will make them even more helpful as places of hope, comfort and peace. Keep your eyes on our Facebook pages and website for further information. I remind folk at St Michael's that we are having our 'Gardening Party' on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July from 10am – 2pm. Please bring any gardening tools you have to help us tidy up the churchyard.

On Sundays at 4pm during July I will be live streaming 'Garden Praise' from gardens in the Benefice. This is a kind of virtual 'Songs of Praise' with well-known hymns. Please let others know and join us on Facebook Live in the usual way.

Finally, I hope you will share this weeks 'Together Worship' which you can view via our YouTube Channel from Sunday morning. Thanks for the many encouragements we have received following last weeks successful recording. Last I heard was that 116 shared the whole service with us, albeit at different times!

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

### Parish Church Opening Times for Personal Prayer

We are so close to opening the doors! Join us for personal Prayer from Tuesday this week. Please note, from the table below that opening days and times are different for each Church.

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

<b>Sunday</b> 21st June 2020	<b><u>Sunday Morning</u></b>	<b>Together Worship</b>	<b>Pre-recorded, access on Facebook/YouTube. Links available below to view.</b>
<b>Thursday</b> (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>	<b><u>8.30pm</u></b>	<b>Music from Taize</b>	<b>LIVESTREAM via Facebook</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b><u>9.00pm</u></b>	<b>Compline, LIVE</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> 28th June 2020	<b><u>10.30am</u></b>	<b>Together Worship</b>	<b>Pre-recorded, view on Facebook/YouTube.</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 the Sunday Service on CD, you can request a copy by emailing us at [benefice@newforestparishes.com](mailto:benefice@newforestparishes.com).

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## Eco Church

### **Sing for joy! - Written by Luke Augustyn.**

**Start:** Light a candle whilst perhaps listening to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9dbAfJlrks> (especially if you don't have a garden). You can find all the resources you require here or by visiting [www.newforestparishes.com/singforjoy](http://www.newforestparishes.com/singforjoy).

**Listen:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oa-mWuBY-is>

**Read:** Psalm 96: 11-12. Genesis 1: 20-21.

**Psalm 96: 11-12:** "Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy".

**Genesis 1: 20-21:** And God said: "let the water swarm with swarms of living creatures and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens". So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm according to their kind and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

**Reflect:** One of my gravest concerns over the past years, has been the steady decline of our natural world and sadly, mostly at the hand of man. The much loved sounds of my childhood ... the chirping of birds, the buzzing of bees, the rushing of streams and the wind in the trees all seem to have gone decidedly more quiet.

The health care worker, Sylvia Stults penned this in 2015 and it strikes a deep chord with me:

"The sands of time have rendered fear  
Blue skies on high no longer clear  
Stars were bright whence they came  
Now dimmed, obscured, pollution's haze

Crystal clear our waters gleamed  
Fish abundant, rivers streamed  
Ocean floors sandy white  
Now littered, brown, pollution's plight



Trees towered high above  
Trunks baring professed love  
Birds chirping from sites unseen  
Gone, paper joined pollution's team

One can't blame pollution alone  
As they say, you reap what you've sown  
So let us plant a better seed  
Tear out old roots, cultivate, weed

Protect what has been given for free  
Our waters, skies, wildlife and trees  
For once they're gone, don't you say  
Consider yourself warned of that fatal day".

In March the Coronavirus arrived on our shores and any semblance of normality appeared to have gone as we entered lockdown on the 23rd. The first two tumultuous weeks particularly saw us all dazed and shocked as the reality of loved ones lost took hold and attendance even at births, weddings, birthday celebrations ... the comfort of a friendly hug, all banned and seemingly lost. Weeks turned to months and slowly but surely the world turned to a scarier, lonelier place as lock down deepened.

Then slowly I started to notice; as factories fell silent and planes no longer flew, as motorways ran empty and vessels cleared the seas, as man-made noise ground to a halt ... I heard again loud and clear the chirping of birds, the buzzing of bees, the rushing of streams and the wind in the trees ...

**Pray:** Dear Father God, I pray that you touch the hearts of those in power, so that when the Coronavirus no longer dominates all thought and conversation, priorities, policies and laws will shift away from the advancement of self-centred greed and move ever closer to that of the greater good. I pray that the lessons taught by this virus will not be forgotten, but that we, as your creation, will remember our sacred task as stewards of the world you made.

I pray when fear, pain, anger and hopelessness seek to shake our very foundation of trust in your all-encompassing love, that you fill us with the memory of that night on the Sea of Galilee when you reached out your hand to calm the stormy sea. I pray dear Father God, that you remind us to have Faith, not Fear.

I pray that you touch every hand and every heart, so that every thought and every deed will only seek to restore, protect and foster your creation as it was when you declared "that it was good".

I thank you Father God that we can turn to you in solemn affirmation that we are loved and understood. For every morning that "has broken, like the first morning", I give you praise.

**Act:** Getting together for a community gardening session at our parish churches.

First date to be announced by one of our Parish Churches: St Michael and All Angels – Saturday 4th July from 10am-2pm.

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# SPOTLIGHT ON

## TONY & SANDRA SMITH

### ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, LYNDHURST



#### **What have you done over the years at St Michael's?**

Tony and I started coming to St Michael's in 2009 and got married there in 2010. I got involved with singing/band quite early on and have been involved in a number of special services as well as being part of the band in regular services over a period of time. I also joined the PCC a number of years ago. Tony has helped with the sound desk in the past and is on the rota for closing the church. We also like to help where possible at events such as fairs, jumble sales, cleaning up days etc.

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

We have two adorable children who fill our lives! For work, I work in IT at a solicitors' office and Tony is a photocopier engineer. Tony enjoys running - he was due to run the 2020 London Marathon, which was sadly cancelled.

#### **What made you want to help?**

We enjoy being part of the Church family and contributing where we can and are both drawn to helping people.

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

The Church community feeling - everyone is there helping, supporting and caring for others.

#### **Is there anything you have enjoyed during Lockdown?**

We have certainly enjoyed the slower pace of life, spending a lot more time in the village and feeling a strong sense of community, spending time with the children, discovering new local walks and getting to know neighbours better. And the absence of traffic at the start of lockdown was delightful!

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

For people to enjoy the simple things in life - to care less about materialistic things, to appreciate the people in their lives and this fantastic planet we live on and to look after it better.

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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**.

**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!

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