



Welcome to our Eleventh 'Together News'.

As I was leading Morning Prayer from the churchyard at Christ Church this morning (Wednesday), I heard a 'rumbling' in the distance which grew louder by the second. As I looked towards the Lychgate I saw a very large green lorry, clearly delivering something to an unknown address. It stopped pretty much outside and the driver consulted his map and then got on the phone! And then I saw it, on the side of the lorry was the company name, 'KEEN & ABLE' and the slogan, 'delivering sleep to your home' (no one was getting much sleep this morning!)



As we celebrate the Festival of Pentecost (Whitsunday) on Sunday, I am reminded that the Church was never meant just to be 'keen', although many of us are (and it's been said that I am just a bit 'too keen'). If all we are is 'keen' then we will certainly not achieve all that is possible may even fail. When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the room where they were hiding, 'for fear of the Jews', his intention was not to 'work them up into a kind of indulgent excitement' but to 'send them out' as those who were passionate and empowered to share the Good News of Jesus, build a community committed to living the mission of Jesus, and be transformed into the likeness of Christ in their relationships with each other and their neighbours. They became bold in speaking, confident in living, generous in serving, sacrificial in giving and joyful in worship. How did this transformation take place? Well, not just because they were KEEN, but because in receiving the Holy Spirit, they were ABLE.

As I prayed the words of the Collect this morning, '... but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us', I'm thankful for the arrival of the 'Keen and Able' truck. I can't be sure if what they wanted to deliver to someone in Emery Down looking for a better night's sleep actually arrived. If it didn't then the slogan promising to 'deliver sleep to your home' would have been small comfort tonight! And so, it is with the promise of the arrival of the Holy Spirit who our Heavenly Father would deliver to us, if we do not receive him, then we too will be denied the comfort and joy he offers. So, put your order in! Ask God for his promised Holy Spirit and be part of the great Pentecost transformation that is happening throughout the world, as the Church is excited and empowered to be instrumental in building the Kingdom of God just where they are. However, perhaps I should say that when the Holy Spirit does come, sleeping may not be an option! Father send your Holy Spirit that we might be both KEEN & ABLE.



For Sale.
From redundant church, 16th century solid chestnut church pew. Original condition, only one left and sleeps eight comfortably. Lots of interest. Call today to discuss price. Buyer collects.

We send you all our love and rejoice that we are a week nearer being together again!
Grace and peace.

David and Ann (not forgetting Clarrie & Denzil)

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 and **YouTube**.

Saturday 30th May 2020	<u>7pm</u>	David leading an hours Taizé as part of Thy Kingdom Come Day of Prayer. The Day of Prayer runs from 9am 30th May to 9am 31st May.	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87997259351
Sunday 31st May 2020	<u>10.30am</u>	Service of Holy Communion and Sermon from the Vicarage	LIVESTREAM via Facebook
Tuesday 2nd June 2020 (Every week)	<u>10.30am - 11am</u>	<u>IMAGINE Online Forum</u> <u>CANCELLED FOR THIS WEEK ONLY</u>	While we investigate problems we are all experiencing in accessing.
Thursday 4th June 2020 (Every week)	<u>9.30am</u>	<u>STILL Online Prayer Meeting</u> <u>CANCELLED FOR THIS WEEK ONLY</u>	While we investigate problems we are all experiencing in accessing.
Sunday 7th June 2020	<u>10.30am</u>	Service of Holy Communion and Sermon from the Vicarage	LIVESTREAM via Facebook
Daily	Timings are dependent on upload speeds.	<u>Priest in a PANdemic</u> A Daily Reflection and hymn	Recorded. View via Facebook or Youtube
Every Wed & Fri	Timings are dependent on upload speeds.	Collective Worship with Revd David and Denzil for Reception & KS1/2 children	Recorded. View via Facebook or Youtube



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Thank you for the many messages which we receive expressing gratitude for the weekly Together News. I think we are pretty much getting it right! Of course, once we are back to what we might imagine as a 'new normal', the weekly Together News will be much briefer as our Benefice News sheet with only a few printed copies in churches for our services. The one practical reason for this is that each week we bin/recycle almost as many as we print.

Answers to some questions we have received.

Question: Why do we email Together News as a PDF?

Answer: Because our weekly readers (300 plus) can access each edition on either Windows or iOS (Apple). Emailing even a Word Document creates a problem with layout when downloaded on different operating systems. We work against the clock to get TN out each week and are committed to getting it out in the most accessible format.

Question: Why are we delivering hard copies of TN including worship materials for services to people who cannot access the services online? Would it not be cheaper to print less?

Answer: Simply because those who cannot access our live streams or recordings, are able to read the hymns etc as part of their devotions and worship at home.

Question: What is wrong with the system we are using for LIVE streaming? I cannot 'connect' to livestreams on my computer. Why is it so complicated?

Answer: The answer is a bit tricky. The fact is that every Sunday, more than 200 share in the Live streamed services without any difficulty. Now, I say this with the greatest sensitivity! There is always the possibility that if you can't access live streamed worship that there is a problem with your computers set up, internet connection or even understanding of how to connect. I say this with huge understanding that for some, accessing live streamed and uploaded worship is a weekly frustration and disappointment. Because we are in lockdown etc. it is not possible for anyone to pop round and help. However, if the problem continues, in addition to Kate's helpful email and directions, (visit www.newforestparishes.com/worship and click on the red 'help' button), we will arrange for training post lockdown for those who are challenged by the complexities of accessing material online. This will be helpful, especially as we will continue to livestream in some form or other.



Find a Facebook LIVE

Question: Why do we use Facebook Live to livestream our worship?

Answer: Of course, there are other social networking platforms we could use, and everyone has their favourite. We use Fb simply because (1) it is free, (2) it's easily accessible for both filming and viewing, (3) it is safe, and (4) it is reliable.

Question: Why does live streaming at Christ Church and All Saints' sometimes fail?

Answer: As neither CC nor AS have a fixed internet wifi service in their buildings, we have to use a 4G mobile phone signal to broadcast. Unfortunately, this can sometimes vary in strength, even momentarily. When this happens, the livestream fails and it is necessary to set everything up again from scratch, by which time the moment has been lost and those who had joined have left. It will always be risky live streaming via a mobile phone network where there is no direct internet service to the premises, which there is at St Michael's.

An update on the re-opening of our Churches

With David, our Church wardens in the Benefice are completing a survey at the request of the Diocese in response to a number of suggestions as to how we might re-open our parish churches for prayer and worship. It is hoped that this may be possible sooner rather than later, but the guidance suggests that it will not be possible without teams of volunteers in each parish to provide cleaning before and after opening and be present during opening to provide supervision and ensure that guidance re. safety etc. is followed. More information to follow as we get it.

News from the Diocese this week



Dear Friends,

Planning for easing of restrictions

The House of Bishops COVID-19-Recovery Group is continuing to publish advice and guidance to help plan for the easing of Government restrictions relating to the pandemic. As part of the phased approach to the return to church buildings, the Recovery Group has issued advice to help ensure that buildings are in appropriate condition to be used for such purposes as are allowed. This includes updated advice for incumbents on [Access to church buildings during lockdown](#), as well as general advice for incumbents, churchwardens and PCC members on [Access to church buildings during lockdown](#). Advice on [Keeping church buildings clean](#) during coronavirus has also been issued, based on Government guidance and guidance issued by Historic England. To help plan for limited access to church buildings for specific purposes such as livestreaming or building maintenance, the Recovery Group has issued a [Risk Assessment Checklist for Parish Churches](#).

As we plan for the easing of Government restrictions, as well as a phased return to church buildings, a greater range of contact for pastoral support may also become possible. The Recovery Group has therefore issued [Advice on pastoral support in the community, including care homes](#), to help enable pastoral support and visiting while minimising risk as far as possible.

The Government is expected to produce further guidance on the easing of restrictions in due course and, as they do, the Recovery Group will continue to work on the planning process. It is providing Dioceses with further advice papers, and these will be published on the Church of England website. If you have queries in the meantime, please contact your Archdeacon.

With our prayers for you all,

Bishop Tim, Bishop David and Bishop Debbie

The Benefice Prayer Phone

Thank you to all those who are sharing Prayers with our **SAY IT, PRAY IT** Prayer phone. This is open to ANYONE to text with their Prayer requests.

This phone Ministry is being led by Luke Augustyn.

Please note that the phone does not allow outgoing messages or calls so you will not get a reply.

**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**

Thy Kingdom Come

Tomorrow, Saturday 30th May at 9am marks the start of 24 hours of Prayer as part of Penecost 2020.

You can join, virtually by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87997259351>. There is no password. The full agenda for the 24 hours can be viewed [HERE](#). David will be joining the Zoom with a LIVE Taiže hour from 7pm.

*Bumblebees are important foragers and pollinators.
Photographed by Peter Power in the churchyard at Emery Down.*

Eco Church

Each week someone from the Benefice will be contributing to Together News in our NEW Eco Church initiative. Thank you to Nuala and Henry Rosenvinge from Emery Down for sharing this week's focus.

TO 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/bee



MUSIC - Listen to "Mary Beth" by James Spalink, 'Blessing the Bees, 2015' <https://youtu.be/uHOORoNDKSE>

READ AND REFLECT - Read: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26 - One Body with Many Members

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Reflect: Beekeeping thoughts

At one time or another, especially during this lockdown period, many of us may have watched a honey bee on a warm sunny day going from one flower to the next. By her very industry she sets an

example to us all. The idea of a hive full of these industrious creatures winging out in every direction to return laden with pollen and nectar is amazing. They are also an example of co-operation and loyalty to each other and the whole colony. Honey bees have lived in forests around the world for millions of years. Bees and other pollinators enable plants to produce seeds and reproduce. Without pollination we cannot sustain global food security, crop production, livelihoods or plant diversity. We are fortunate in the New Forest to have a bee-friendly habitat, but that is not the case where there are intensive farming practices and destruction of natural habitats. Bees are a fantastic symbol of nature; that they are in trouble is a sign that our natural environment is not in the good shape it needs to be.

PRAY - *A Prayer for Bees (adapted from an old Irish blessing)*

Dear God, may your holy blessing descend on our bees and their hives so that they may multiply, be fruitful and be preserved from all ills. We pray that the fruits coming forth from them may be distributed for your praise and that of your Son who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

ACT - Two charities involved with beekeeping whose work you might like to explore are:

[Bees for Development](#) promotes sustainable beekeeping as a means of alleviating poverty and promoting bio-diversity around the world.

[The Bee Friendly Trust](#) which aims to promote our understanding of honeybees and help nurture sustainable habitats in the U.K. They have set up projects on railway stations and various community projects.

We hope you have enjoyed this Eco feature, do let us know and please send in a drawing or a photo of a bee or a bee-friendly plant in your garden or the forest to:

communications@newforestparishes.com

SPOTLIGHT ON TERRY WOOD

CHURCH WARDEN AT ST MICHAEL'S, LYNDHURST



What do you do when you're not helping out at church? I have an eclectic mix of activities. Margaret and I like going to the theatre and dining out with friends.

I attend Probus meetings and Southampton Medical Society meetings usually once a month and was given the honour of being President of both Societies in 2019/20

I am now doing more gardening during the lockdown and enjoying the difference we can see with a few less weeds.

I still do a small amount of voluntary work assessing hospitals and clinics as part of PLACE which is Patient Lead Assessment of Care of the Environment a Statutory Body to report to NHS England each year.

What made you want to help? We have been attending St Michael's Church for at least 40 years and it is quite simply a fundamental part of our family life; at first whilst the children were growing up and now with the grandchildren when they are with us.

Margaret was Churchwarden for 7 years about 20 years ago.

I began to realise after our previous incumbent left that we had no volunteers for Churchwardens and that it was crucial to have someone in post when we were in the process of finding and installing a new incumbent. There were still ongoing problems with the structure of the services and with the restoration and renewal project. The concept of the Benefice had sadly fallen apart which was a great shame.

So I volunteered, wanting to support the new vicar when he or she arrived.

What do you enjoy most about it? David has excellent ideas and has generated sheer energy of transformation which often takes my breath away but I like it!!

The Benefice of the three Parishes is coming together and the service changes seem to be appropriate to the individual Churches and having the joint Churchwardens' meetings are really special as are visiting all the churches for Benefice services.

I enjoy the variety of services held at St Michael's when under 'normal' circumstances and I hope by incorporating the new technology learnt during the Lockdown we can encourage more younger people with families in the future yet maintaining a balance for all our parishioners in the worship of Christ.

Is there anything you have enjoyed during lockdown? Being at home and being able to do things around the house and garden far more than before as we usually had many meetings which took us away. It has been really interesting 'eating out' of the freezer!

I have been especially impressed by the Community spirit in the village and hope that this continues after our 'Release'.

I have enjoyed the varied services with David on the social media platforms and it has been so pleasing to have widespread contact with people around the world and at home during the services.

We have been introduced to Zoom initially by our daughter and now by David and the Southampton Medical Society secretary. We have been able to meet as a family including Oliver and Nicola in Dubai and Nicola's family in Belfast.

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

Lockdown? A continuation of the Community Spirit which has been generated by a need to help all people. I feel that this has worked well because we have such a thriving and active Community Centre but like all such public buildings it has had to close temporarily.

Even when this current crisis is safely over, there are still people out there in our communities of Lyndhurst, Emery Down, Bank and Minstead who will continue to need help in all sorts of ways.

We must aim to be united in our Churches to provide that help by harnessing all the goodwill, empathy and cooperation which has been forthcoming during these difficult times.

Useful Information

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.

If you have any problems or need help, please contact Kate.
communications@newforestparishes.com / **07776 221663**

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.

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. Everyone who receives emails from us can view our Data Protection Policy by visiting our Website www.newforestparishes.com and everyone is given the opportunity of unsubscribe with each email sent.

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.**

Life Events - Suzanne is in regular touch with those who had baptisms and weddings in the diary but who have had to postpone. Please note that sadly, numbers of those who are permitted to attend a funeral are very limited during this time.

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**'.

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

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

Show them you love them

If you know or even suspect that your neighbour cannot access email, or the internet, why not offer to make a copy of yours for them. Being a 'dispersed church' can result in spiritual isolation so we want to keep faith alive and hope strong across the Benefice. By delivering 'Together News' you are helping to do this. If you are delivering to a neighbour, please let Suzanne know.

How to access videos via the Benefice website on YouTube or Facebook

Visit our website 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 or on **07776 221663.**