

Welcome to our Twenty-Third 'Together News'.

It's all got a familiar ring about it hasn't it? We're all a bit nervous aren't we and so are our families, neighbours and friends. We remember the sunny spring when the sun shone endlessly, and summer came early. We were of course in 'lockdown' but surrounded by kindness, generosity, good will and love our hearts were warmed in the cold chill of uncertainty. How we rejoiced when the restrictions on meeting family and friends and moving a bit further from home. And as the numbers fell, we hoped that the Covid was finally assigned to history, a thing of the past....But here we are again – well not quite.

As I write the numbers are rising again, regions are in lockdown once again and we wonder "how long will we be free to enjoy a less restricted 'new normal'." The pain of not being able to have the grandchildren visit, call in on elderly parents or spend time with family and friends is real and made so much worse knowing that we face with darker evenings, a chilly winter a Christmas ahead – whatever that will look like for community and church!

So, what about us as a community of faith, what are we thinking? Is it any different for us? Of course, in many ways we are the same as everyone else except that in one critical respect we are not. I remember what Apostle Peter writes to the 1st Century Church, scattered and fearful because of persecution by the Roman Emperor Nero. He writes to a fearful faith community: *In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always*

be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3 v15).

This is really helpful as the Church in difficult and testing times is faithful and continues to worship. But rather than look inward only, they turn their eyes and hearts outward, and display their hope in God to their community as they demonstrate fortitude and share friendliness to everyone with gentleness and respect.

THE LIVING ROOM is a weekly broadcast on our YouTube Channel (New Forest Parishes) which is produced simply to give hope to an anxious community. Every week we will record and broadcast the story of someone who knows something about hope in God, someone who can speak about their 'New Life in Jesus'. This week, with the magic of technology, I actually interview myself(!) **If you want to give reason for the hope you have and tell our neighbours and friends what 'New Life' in Jesus means to you, then let me know and I will be in touch!**

It has been a long time since we shared **Holy Communion** together, too long actually. Well,



NEW

The Living Room

Listen as we chat about our
'NEW LIFE' in Jesus

View Every Friday after 8am

 **New Forest Parishes**
Church of England in Lyndhurst & Emery Down & Minstead

 **Jesus said, 'I have come to bring you life - life I all its fulness'**

New Forest Parishes
"The Living Room" is an online ministry of **New Forest Parishes**
St Michael's Church, Lyndhurst & Christ Church, Emery Down
Christ Church, Emery Down & All Saints Church, Minstead
www.newforestparishes.com
communications@newforestparishes.com

we're ready to do it again on **Sunday 18th October** in each parish church. With the Church Wardens, I am aware that there is some anxiety about taking Holy Communion together and want to reassure you that we will prepare each parish church in such a way as keeps everybody safe. The service will of course be a little different, but we trust that in addition to refreshing our hearts and enriching our faith, eating bread will be a powerful witness in our parishes. Remember that when we eat the bread we declare our hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Don't forget that **25th October** is **Bible Sunday** and we would love you to take copies of Mark's Gospel from your church and give to someone else for them to read because you have read it and it's great! We would be delighted if you took multiple copies to give to neighbours and friends. Copies are just £1 each! Please leave donations in an envelope marked 'bibles' and place in the offering as you leave the church. A note will be placed in each bible explaining why we are giving bibles away at this time. Again, it's all about explaining the hope we have in Jesus and the strength and comfort we receive from him in these anxious times. It is really great to offer hope isn't it!

Finally, **Harvest Sunday** is **NEXT SUNDAY**. We cannot give an open invite to the community to come to a Harvest Festival as we have limited space in our church buildings. We certainly can't contemplate turning people away as that will be terrible. Nor can we receive and handle large amounts of food in our churches as there are risks involved in this. So, we have asked our Church Children in each parish to share in a project that will be the focus of our Harvest Festivals this year. Please pass the word. We must however continue to support the Lyndhurst Foodbank.

This Wednesday we have the thrill of holding a brief service at St Michael's to welcome Reception Class to their new school. Finally, I hope we can re-introduce **'Micky's House'** at St Michael's and **'Funday Sunday'** in some form in November. We're working on it so watch this space . . . and don't forget to tune in to **'The Living Room'** this and every week.

Please remember in your prayers this week the interview at St Michael's for a **Children and Families Minister**. The interview takes place in Lyndhurst on Thursday (8th October). We are interviewing just one candidate.

Please make sure that you have the date for your **APCM** in your diary and make every effort to attend. This is a time to reflect on the past year (2019) – delayed because of the COVID pandemic – and look forward together to the opportunities that are ahead. Remembering that we are a community of hope, the future is not as bleak as some might fear. Our God is still a 'Great Big God' as the children sing and 'Our hope for years to come', as we sometimes sing ourselves.

As we continue through our third year in the Benefice, we know that we travel together and with God and we are thankful.

Grace and peace
David, Ann & Clarrie

david.potterton@newforestparishes.com

07468 527820

David, Ann and Clarrie

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Parish Church Opening Times for Private Prayer

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

This Week's Services

All **LIVE** services are accessed via **Facebook**.

Booking is required for all Services. Visit www.newforestparishes.com

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

Sunday	<u>9:30am</u>	Sunday Worship LIVE at St Michael's	LIVESTREAM via Facebook from St Michael's
Sunday	<u>9.30am</u>	Sunday Worship	St Michael and All Angels, Lyndhurst
Sunday	<u>11am</u>	Sunday Worship	Christ Church, Emery Down First Sunday of the month, Northumbria Morning Prayer.
Sunday	<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
Tuesday	Join us from 7:30	Alpha Course	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/ 2305765983? pwd=blhqcUhTejZJRGRQOVV 6K2FhRWxYZz09 Meeting ID: 230 576 5983 Passcode: vicar3175
Friday	<u>After 8pm</u>	The Living Room Listen as we chat about our 'NEW LIFE' in Jesus	View on YouTube and Facebook
Sunday 11th October		Harvest - Please bring any food bank donations to your Sunday Service.	

We know that many enjoy the hymns each Sunday morning during Worship. If you would like a copy on CD, please email Kate communications@newforestparishes.com with the subject line **CD OF HYMNS** with your contact details and the date of the Sunday hymns you would like a copy of.

SPOTLIGHT

ON Luke Augustyn



What do you/have you done over the years in the Benefice?

Erika, Amelie and I arrived in the New Forest in the early part of 2018 (so not all that long ago) and from the outset, found a warm welcome at St Michaels.

From a very young age I felt called to the ordained ministry, but never felt quite ready to take on the challenge. As soon as I spoke to David about my sense of calling however, and under his watchful eye and guidance, I started the journey that, God willingly, will lead to ordination.

I started serving at the 08:00 service at St Michaels with David at the very beginning of this year. I am grateful to have had not only David's patient guidance, but also Cecilia's; together they showed me the way around the vestry and the location of everything needed in preparation of the Eucharist. (What an exhilarating experience; walking up the hill on fresh winter mornings towards the side door to meet David there at 07:30 and then to start preparing for service within the embrace of the quiet peacefulness of this wonderful, sacred space).

I also had the joy of serving with David, and offering prayers of intercession on occasion, at some services in All Saints and Christ Church.

Then lock down came and along with it, an end to worshipping together as we knew it. I have to admit to having felt a sense of disbelief as I know others did too.

Questions were asked by so many feeling a similar sense of loss, shock, frustration, bereavement; questions David sought to answer by bringing about numerous ways by which worship could continue in spite of lockdown. I made a small contribution too with the reflections I wrote in the Together News from time to time.

What joy when services resumed on 9 August, even if with restrictions in place, and a new part of the journey started unfolding for me. David trusted me enough to let me lose on all three congregations in our benefice with the request to lead services, deliver sermons and offer prayers if needed. (The gratitude I feel for the enormous gift of trust and the warmth, good humour and support that I was received with across the benefice, still overwhelms and humbles me).

As part of my journey towards ordination, I have also made myself available for election as church warden and, should I be elected, look forward with joy to ever deepening my experience of and contribution to the life of the church across the benefice.

(Prior to lockdown, I planned to join the team working the church allotment, but this unfortunately had to be put on hold as it was not possible under lockdown restrictions. I also wanted to organise a church picnic (at the allotment) with live music; this too had to wait. I am determined as ever, to keep these hopes alive).

What made you want to help?

My sense of calling and joy at taking part in full in the life of the church.

What do you enjoy most about it?

Being able to worship and serve with fellow Christians; being part of Christ's family.

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

I love spending time with Erika and Amelie!

I also love listening to music, especially opera, cooking/baking and engaging in endurance sport (not that I have had much opportunity for that over the last months)!

Is there anything you enjoyed during Lockdown and the additional time closer to home?

The silence; one could almost hear the flowers grow as spring unfolded and gave way to early summer. (I didn't have much time closer to home though as lockdown did not apply to me; my work is classified as front line).

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

I would like to see a real and permanent change towards a kinder, fairer, greener existence.

Remembrance Sunday

As November fast approaches, you can join us in two ways. Firstly, our Fall of Poppies for the Fallen is still happening.... and it's not too late to knit a poppy!

Secondly, **PAINT** or create a poppy, **PLACE** it where everyone can see it and **PAUSE** to Remember. A list of all those names from the Memorial will also be on our website.

Please contact Kate Donohoe if you have any questions.

communications@newforestparishes.com



New Forest
Parishes 

New Forest Benefice Church Office,
St Michael & All Angels Church, Lyndhurst, SO43 7BD
Contact: 02380 283175 - www.newforestparishes.com



Lyndhurst
Knits

'A FALL OF
POPPIES FOR
THE FALLEN'

2020

Photo: Holy Trinity Parish

We need 1000's of knitted or crocheted poppies to create a 'Fall of Poppies' from the Tower of St Michael & All Angels, Lyndhurst, for Remembrance Sunday 2020.



Knitting and crochet patterns available from
www.newforestparishes.com

or contact Kate Donohoe
communications@newforestparishes.com
02380 283175

Please support us, wherever you are in the world!

Questionnaire for St Michael's

For all of those part of the St Michael and All Angels Community, you will have received a copy of our questionnaire on email last week. Just a little reminder to complete it please when you have 3 minutes (that's all it takes!). It is also available via Survey Monkey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X3QTJR9> **MANY THANKS!**

Eco Church - The Season of Creation is featured on our website, Please go to www.newforestparishes.com/eco

Harvest

We are somewhat limited on what we are able to do this year, safely but as David's letter says above, it's important we support our local Food bank. We are welcoming non-perishable food and COVID cleaning product donations which can be left in your Church as part of attending Sunday Service.

Please contact Kate Donohoe if you have any questions.

communications@newforestparishes.com

Your Opportunities to Serve

- **Readings for Sundays**, reading Lessons and Intersessions for Sunday Services.
- **Opening of our Churches**, for Private Prayer and supporting Services once they open.
- Join us to talk about your faith in **The Living Room**.
- **Support for childrens Breakfast Club**, with Childrens and Families Minister.

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.