

Welcome to our Sixteenth 'Together News'.

During lockdown I read 'Scattered Servants' by Alan Scott who encourages 'ordinary believers (that's what we are!) to go beyond their Sunday services to bring life to their cities'. What Scott writes for cities is just as relevant to our context as a rural benefice. He suggests that to impact our communities, we must '*move beyond the building. It's time for a movement of people empowered by the Holy Spirit, sent to bring life to entire cities [villages]. It's time for scattered servants.*' He suggests that our priority when we join a church should not be to '*support and save it, but to spill contagious hope into a hurting community.*' I am very much aware of the amount of time, energy and resource we commit to 'maintaining church' when we should be reaching into a 'hurting community' where friendship and faith may be in short supply!

I hope you have picked up from our Sunday Bible readings from Pentecost that "If we don't go, we won't grow'. Our acts of generosity and kindness, even in giving just a cup of water to the thirsty as Luke reminded us last Sunday in his reflection, are to be performed 'out there' bringing hope to our communities beyond the walls of the church. It is my hope that we can share in a Benefice study of Scott's book this autumn. News of this to follow. Please email or text me if you would like to order the book and I will arrange a bulk order which will give us a 10% discount. The cost will therefore be about £9.00 per copy.

It has been really encouraging to hear that **parishioners and pilgrims** have visited St Michael's and Christ Church for prayer during the times we have been open. From today, (5th July) All Saints' in Minstead will be open for prayer from 9am – 11am every Sunday. Once again, we have taken measures to ensure that all who visit will be safe along with the volunteers who will be there to welcome you.

Please remember the Children, Staff and Governors of St Michael's Infant School in Lyndhurst as they continue to navigate their way through really difficult times. A Year 2 Leavers Service is planned for towards the end of term. The transition from Infants to Juniors is very important. Remember Mat (Executive Head) and Mary (Head of Learning) in your prayers as well as Netley Marsh and Copythorne Infants, (all part of the Oaks Federation). I am not taking Collective Worship at the school on Thursday mornings.

'GARDEN PRAISE'

This afternoon at 4pm (and every Sunday during July and August) we will be holding our '**Garden Praise**' Benefice outdoor services in the gardens of those who have offered to host. We can sing outdoors **but with strict compliance to social distancing etc.** This week we will be at Whinwood, on the Beaulieu Road, David & Peggy Heron's garden which is large enough to hold a good number safely. Please bring your own chairs. The service will be livestreamed via **Facebook Live** and will last no more than 45 mins. We are still looking for a garden on 19th July 2nd, 9th & 23rd August. If you have a garden large enough to host, please let me know (07468 527820).

David and Ann (not forgetting Clarrie & Denzil)

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

Keeping Faith Alive and Hope Strong

Parish Church Opening Times for Private Prayer

From this Sunday, all of our Churches are 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

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

This Week's Services, ONLINE (Recorded and LIVE)

We 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

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

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 and **YouTube**.

Sunday 5 th July 2020	<u>Sunday Morning</u> <u>4pm</u>	Together Worship Matthew 11 v16-19, 25-30 Message by Revd. David 'Come on then' GARDEN PRAISE at home of David and Peggy Heron A Selection of well-known hymns and worship songs in the 'Open Air' of a local garden	Pre-recorded, access on Facebook/YouTube. Links available below to view. Join us (See details below) or watch Livestream via Facebook Live
Thursday (Every week)	<u>9.30am</u>	<u>STILL Online Prayer Meeting</u>	https://www.zoom.us/join ID: 774 5029 4172 PW: still
Thursday	<u>8.30pm</u>	Relax and Reflect Music from Taize	LIVESTREAM via Facebook
Friday	<u>9.00pm</u>	Compline, LIVE	LIVESTREAM via Facebook
Twice Weekly Tuesday & Thursday		<u>Priest in a PANdemic</u> A Reflection and hymn	Recorded. View via Facebook or YouTube

Every Wednesday	Timings are dependent on upload speeds.	Collective Worship with Revd. David and Denzil for Reception & KS1 / 2 children	Recorded. View via Facebook or YouTube
Sunday 12th July 2020	<u>10.30am</u>	Together Worship with Holy Communion	Pre-recorded, view on Facebook/YouTube.

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'.

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

Church Services

Over the next couple of weeks, David and the Church Wardens will be discussing when we will be opening our churches for Sunday Worship. There is a lot to consider but a gentle approach is required to ensure that when we gather again for congregational worship we are safe and the worship is properly focused and meaningful to those present. Our places of worship are just settling into a rhythm of prayer and we have introduced Garden Praise on Sunday afternoons as opportunities to gather safely. In all this, we are moving forward towards gathering together as congregations towards the end of August. More details to follow.

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 15th August, 11am at Christ Church. This will be a Benefice Service in the Churchyard. More details to follow.

**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**

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.

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.

SPOTLIGHT ON ANN POTTERTON



How and when did you come to the Benefice?

Amazingly, it is nearly two years since we arrived here! For myself, and David, it was an unusually smooth and seamless move, under the gentle guidance of + Jonathan, the former Bishop of Southampton. It was obvious where God wanted us to be and was wonderfully reciprocated by all you lovely folk in the Benefice. So, thank you!!

How have you been able to help?

Well, believe you me, it is a full-time job running our lovely home in such a way that enables David to do his job. My main role is to make sure that the house is always a welcoming space for whatever reason (and there are some pretty crazy ones!). Also, getting to know you all and build friendships has been important too.

What do you enjoy most about it?

I have really enjoyed setting up the Benefice 'Legs and Co' walking group with Valerie Trickett. We have a really fun time and the joy is that it is open to all and you don't even have to have a dog!

I have also enjoyed the way we have been welcomed here by everyone. I am not a great one for formality and fuss and find change hard. I have struggled in some of the places we have been in ministry, but not here! So, thank you again.

What do you do outside of church life?

I spend a good bit of time with my family and keeping up with the many friends we have made over the years. However, I love sport in general and can't tell you what a relief it is to have football back and especially my 'beloved' Liverpool after 30 years of hurt, winning the Premier League in style! Outside that, caravanning, folk music and festivals with a good dose of 70's rock and disco is perfect.

Is there anything you have enjoyed during Lockdown?

Honestly, like everyone, I have struggled some days, but the realisation of God's amazing goodness to me through the beauty of where we live and the accessibility to such amazing open space has hit home. It is a reminder that despite all the worry, He is actually in control.

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

A realisation from government to individuals that we can't keep exploiting our wonderful planet as we have been. The way we produce and distribute our food and fuel must change. At the moment this creates unfair social divides. We need to push for less travel, cleaner fuel and less plastic use. As a Christian, it sits very uncomfortably with me and I really want to do my bit to effect change.