

Welcome to our Twelfth 'Together News'.

For all that the garden looks great, with the addition of some new garden play equipment for the grandchildren, (although I did have a go on the 2 new swings to check that they were safe!), I wish the same could be said of my study! I used to be able to say that I knew where everything was, but I'm not sure that this is the case today. The general untidiness seems to grow unnoticed until the time comes when it won't let you in unless you agree to do something about it! There is no getting away from it, I've really got to sort it out, but there's always something else to do, somewhere to go and a job that is somewhat more important. I've even started working from the dining table so that I don't have to sit in the study, amongst 'stuff' shouting at me to put it away!!

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, when we remembered that moment when the Father fulfilled his promise to pour out the Holy Spirit and the Church was born. We read about extraordinary unity and almost reckless generosity amongst the believers in Jerusalem which left nobody in need. More than that, we saw such a rapid growth amongst those coming to personal faith in Jesus. Yet, just a few chapters later, Luke tells us that in all the Spirit filled witnessing and anointed worship that was going on in the city, the disciples spotted a problem. The welfare of widows in the Church was being neglected and the delivery of their 'food parcels' wasn't happening anymore. There is no suggestion that this was the result of a deliberate decision made by a committee or an official change in pastoral policy. No, it seems that it just happened! Other things had perhaps preoccupied them, more interesting, less time consuming and even less-tiring activities left no room to get food parcels to the widows in the community, and they went hungry.

A bit like my study, 'it just happened' – a weak defence, but a fact none the less. As we prepare to live, speak, worship and witness differently, with all the opportunities that change brings, we must not allow what is 'new', 'novel' and even the 'nice', to preoccupy us at the cost of neglecting to love the weak and the vulnerable, serve the poor and lonely, support the sick and the anxious. If the Book of Acts records anything, it is how easy it is to neglect what is needed to be done and to allow evidence of our neglect to grow without seeing it. In his Epistle, possibly remembering this incident in Jerusalem writes (1 v27)

'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.'

Having the skills to Live stream our services effectively and professionally and sufficient technical 'knowhow' to fix the problem when something goes wrong are already in high demand in our 'new normal', but having a heart for widows, for orphans and for our own purity is clearly something that our Father demands of us all. Something for me to think about as I face up to the neglect my study has suffered whilst I played on the new swings in the garden – amongst other things!!

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**.

Sunday 7th June 2020	<u>10.30am</u>	Service of Holy Communion and Sermon from the Vicarage	LIVESTREAM via Facebook
Sunday 7th June 2020	<u>3.00pm</u>	Airborne Act of Remembrance, LIVE (10 minutes)	LIVESTREAM via Facebook
Tuesday 9th June 2020 (Every week)	<u>10.30am - 11am</u>	<u>IMAGINE Online Forum</u>	https://www.zoom.us/join ID: 984 838 3880 PW: IMAGIN3175
Thursday 11th June 2020 (Every week)	<u>9.30am</u>	<u>STILL Online Prayer Meeting</u>	https://www.zoom.us/join ID: 984 838 3880 PW: STILL3175
Thursday 11th June 2020	<u>8.30pm</u>	Corpus Christi Taïze Service LIVE from Christ Church, Emery Down	LIVESTREAM via Facebook
Friday 12th June 2020	<u>9.00pm</u>	Compline, LIVE from All Saints' Church, Minstead	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
Sunday 14th June 2020	<u>10.30am</u>	Service of Holy Communion and Sermon from the Vicarage	Pre recorded - Available from the Office on CD.

Thank you to everyone for their support over the last (nearly) 11 weeks. We know that for many who have been sharing Services with us online, it may be the first time you have seen a 'LIVE' and perhaps Facebook is new to you too! We have spent time this week looking at all our Services and can report that there have been a staggering 21,482 'Views' of David's 95 online recordings and 'LIVES'.

We are also aware that some people do not have online access and therefore, **we will be recording next weeks Sunday's Service and it will be available on CD, by request.** Please email [Suzanne benefice@newforestparishes.com](mailto:benefice@newforestparishes.com) if you would like a copy. We would ask that people receiving CD's recognise that there is a cost involved in producing CD's (CD's and equipment). Any donations towards this initiative would be welcome. Please pass contributions to your PCC Treasurer or by post to Revd David, 5 Forest Gardens, Lyndhurst SO43 7AF.



Let's Face It

It's been a while since most of us have seen each other, and I am sure that, like me, this has not been easy. We enjoy being with each other and bonds of fellowship have been built over many years and not surprisingly, we miss each other!

Seeing each other's faces is a lovely way of 'remembering' those who are precious to us because of the faith and friendship we share. So, I want to create a video to be shared (online or on a CD) with as many faces of our sisters and brothers in the Benefice as an encouragement to remember those in our Church family and to pray for each other. Another advantage is that we just might recognise each other when we are able to congregate again! The picture to the left was taken in 1976 when I was a Junior Musician at the Royal Marines School of Music! As you can see, I've not changed much, although I haven't got the trousers anymore! So,

1. Email or WhatsApp me a photo of yourself (or both of you, include any photos of children if you're happy to share them) by Wednesday 10 June. Don't forget your pets, they're part of your family too!
2. If you cannot send your picture by email or your phone, ask a member of your family who can or call me (07468 527820) and someone will visit to take your picture safely.
3. By submitting your picture, you are giving your consent for it to be used in making a video which might be viewed by the general public and for it to be stored electronically by the Benefice Office. Please note that we never share any information with third parties and all information stored, adheres to Data Protection guidelines.

Best wishes,
Reverend David Potterton.

Crisis Line for 11 - 17 Year olds 0300 303 1590

The MIND crisis line is open **Monday - Thursday 3 - 8:30pm** including bank holidays and is for any young person **11 - 17 years old living in Hampshire & IOW** (not Portsmouth and Southampton City currently) and can provide:

- Immediate access to safe & confidential one to one emotional support via freephone
- Crisis de-escalation
- Self-harm/suicide safety planning
- Healthy coping skills & resources such as CBT/DBT skills/ mindfulness/relaxation/selfcare
- Signposting for both young people & parents

If you would like to access the Hampshire and IOW CYP Crisis Line please call: 0300 303 1590



Eco Church

WHY? - Initially this entry in *Together News* was to bridge the gap between #LiveLent and #Creationtide. It now seems appropriate for us to maintain the focus we all had of God's good creation during lockdown and to recognise how fragile and tenuous is the ability of some to maintain it as lockdown is released. What should we be doing that we are not doing already as Church and individuals?

The format chosen for this section is that devised by Putnoe Heights Church, a Methodist church in Bedfordshire which is registered with A Rocha UK's Eco Church Project.

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 <https://www.newforestparishes.com/godscreation>



LISTEN - I, the Lord of sea and sky <https://youtu.be/mgLwH5RdtPk>

READ - Genesis 2: 15

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

Genesis 8: 15-17

Then God said to Noah, 'Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth'.

Mark 16: 14-15 - Jesus Commissions the Disciples

Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation'.

REFLECT - Proverbs 8: 22-36 - Wisdom's Part in Creation

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. 'And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favour from the Lord; but those who miss me injure themselves; all who hate me love death.'

PRAY - O God, You alone are unutterable, from the time you created all things that can be spoken of. You alone are unknowable, from the time you created all things that can be known. All things cry out about you, those which speak, and those which cannot speak. All things honour you; those which think, and those which cannot think. For there is one longing, one groaning, that all things have for you. All things pray to you that perceive your plan and offer you a silent hymn. In you, the One, all things abide, and all things endlessly run to you who are the end of all. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gregory of Nazianzus (330-389AD)

ACT - Find out about Eco Church, an A Rocha UK project <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

World Environment Day 2020, 5th June calls for urgent action to protect **biodiversity**.

"Biodiversity describes the variety of life on Earth. It encompasses the 8 million species on the planet—from plants and animals to fungi and bacteria; the ecosystems that house them; and the genetic diversity among them." - World Environment Day **#ForNature** For more info checkout: www.worldenvironmentday.global/

What area of the project resonates with you in particular? Let us know so that we can discuss how it can become a focus in the Eco Church section of *Together News*. Communications@newforestparishes.com

SPOTLIGHT ON ISABEL YEO

PARISH ASSISTANT, ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



What do you do to support the church?

I started by representing All Saints' Minstead in the Churches Together Group. Later on, I joined the PCC and then became Churchwarden. 6 years later, when my time in that role came to an end, a new title suggested itself and was created for me; "Parish Assistant". Unlike the duties of a Church Warden, this role has no end date and the job has been anything I care to make it. My strengths lie mainly in administration and communication.

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

Amongst other things, I love choral singing, walking and the Great Outdoors, reading, yoga, history and meeting friends. I am passionate about anything concerned with the environment and sustainable living. With my husband Michael, I enjoy road trips to France and Spain, time with friends and family, food and wine, opera, maps. We used to orienteer together, but those days are over.

What made you want to help?

It's in my nature to want to help and feel useful. I love to be involved with people and organisations; it makes life so much richer. Sometimes I see something I could do, other times I offer help in a more general way. Village life is a community effort; the more people and institutions are involved the richer the rewards; that was the reason I first agreed to help at All Saints'. As time went on, I came to know the love of God in Jesus, the Holy Spirit and in the human race.

What do you enjoy most about it?

The sense of Community is what I value the most; both in Church and throughout my life. Community amongst those who I meet regularly in church and amongst those who love the church from afar. I have learnt that in small village communities, hardly anyone is indifferent to or disinterested in the church. That is certainly true in Minstead, where I go to church, and Emery Down, where we now live.

Is there anything you have enjoyed during Lockdown?

Community again! Getting to know all my neighbours rather than a select few. Meeting and getting to know those organising the Lyndhurst and Emery Down Emergencies Support Group which was set up to support people shielding and in isolation during the pandemic. Last, but so very important, clear air, tranquillity, quiet, birdsong, time to listen, time to spend in thought, space.

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

A realisation that Community is vital to life as a whole. More value attached to kindness and integrity. A re ordering of priorities away from material things and towards wellbeing for the earth, our fellow beings and for ourselves. That's more than one....sorry, can't help myself. There is much to do!

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 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 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.

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 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**.

New Forest Parishes

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PRAY it**
Text 07591 958856

'SAY'
what you'd like us to
'PRAY'
That's just what we'll do!

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number. If you would like to chat with
someone, please call **07468 527820**