



St. John's Wednesday Weekly News

Message from Matt:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am sure we are disappointed, but unsurprised that we are about to enter another lockdown. In their letter to clergy the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London lament the loss of gathered worship. While this is not now possible they recall us to the 'fundamental spiritual disciplines that shape our Christian life.'

Two particular disciplines are important, Henri Nouwen describes them as Solitude and Community.

In solitude we can put aside time just to be silent with God. It may help to have a few words of scripture, though it isn't study, a prayer - though it isn't a list to go through; it could be a few words from your favourite song, or just be outdoors in creation. But it is time to let the distractions and chaos of life settle so that we can be more aware of God's presence through the Holy Spirit. It will be hard at first. We are easily unsettled at the moment and distractions can help hide the unsettledness in our souls. But persevere and you should become more aware of God in you and you in God, as Jesus himself prayed, John 17:20-23

In Community we share when we listen together. We belong to the body of Christ. it is made up of many people and we need not be alone. For those groups that have been meeting, carry on! We can share what we feel, what we are learning from Scripture, what we need. Be open with one another, be a good listener, and be authentic. Although we cannot be physically together, a phone call, a letter or card, a small gift dropped off or a virtual chat over coffee or something stronger, makes the difference. I am glad we studied 2 Timothy, we see Paul valued the things his friends could do for him, without being there.

...we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character, and character, Hope. And Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.
Rom 5:4-5

Love in Christ

Matt

Services and life at St. John's during Lockdown

As a result of Lockdown, regular church worship services will be **online only** from next weekend until December 2nd, which includes Remembrance Day. All centre based activities will have to stop for a month and staff will return to working from home. Funerals and Weddings may still be held in church with the relevant restrictions. We will continue our virtual online ministry, daily updates, evening Bible study, monthly prayer meeting and Alpha group and also our pastoral support. We have been expecting there would be a second spike so we are working towards a streaming service which can also be recorded, but this will take a little time to set up.

News from Richard and Kim

Not again!

I know what you're all thinking because I'm thinking it too. Not again! Not another lockdown! We'd just got face to face provision back up, running and growing and it seems we are back to square one! Utterly frustrating!

Well, let's not be down hearted. Let's not be dismayed. Let's not shrink back. Let's take courage. We can't meet together but what can we do?

Family Step Together Service and Alpha Youth:

The first step is that Kim and I are going to put the Family Step Together Service and Alpha Youth online, using Zoom. We can't meet physically but that doesn't mean that we can't meet. Technology provides us with a unique opportunity to meet without being physically present and we are going to take it.

So, this Remembrance Sunday Alpha Youth are still going to meet over Zoom. We are going to Remember, lest we forget, observe the two-minute silence and then find out, through the Alpha Course, why Jesus gave up his one perfect life on that cross for us. The week after that Kim will be launching the Family Step Together Service on Zoom.

I have one request of you please. Join with us in persistent prayer this season. Let's pray that God's Kingdom come to dwell within the people, both adult and children, who are engaging with us, for His glory, for His fame and for their salvation.

Let's pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins. As we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever and ever (how long is that?) and ever Amen!

Street Prayers

Tuesday 10th November (9.30 to 10.15 am) By Zoom – contact Anne Marsden for full details.

As well as praying for various streets each week we will also be praying for the Schools in the Parish. Care and other organisations have an initiative for every school in the country to be prayed for on a regular basis and we have signed up to

pray for our schools. Please let us know of any pray items in any of the street mentioned and in our schools.

The streets we will be praying for this week are: -

Kelsey Avenue, Barnfield Close, Eastfield Close, Overton Road & Glenwood Road,

If you are aware of any item for prayer in any of the roads or at one of the schools please us know – peter.p.b.pearson@btinternet.com or 317597.

Quiz Night Results



...and to keep our spirits up doing Lockdown, the Quiz is now going to be once a week. Thank you Jon!



Message from the Treasurer – Alan McNeill

Introducing the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS):

"Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor 9:7

Thank you for your financial support of St Johns during this very difficult time. We really appreciate your commitment. As you know, the church is not free and your regular giving keeps us running. From last year's accounts the church costs £13,500 a month with the largest items being our payment to the diocese of £6,000 a month and £3,000 a month for staff salaries.

The Parish Giving Scheme has been introduced by the Diocese as a better way to give to St Johns church regularly. You have the option to donate monthly, quarterly or annually.

You also have the option to give linked to the rate of inflation so your donation is "inflation proofed".

If you are a tax payer then PGS claims the Gift Aid monthly, 25 per cent added to your giving, directly for us. That saves a huge amount of our administrative effort and improves our cash flow.

If you do not pay tax, please enroll in PGS as your way of regularly supporting the work of St Johns.

The scheme is paid for by our Diocese. St Johns PCC has voted to introduce the scheme to church members and have taken the lead with enrolling in the scheme. Their feedback has been positive; it is easy to complete the form and send it off. You can increase or decrease your giving at any time.

Please consider prayerfully how much you give. The last thing we want is for you to get into financial difficulties.

For more information on PGS go to: www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/

If you have any queries then email Alan: treasurer@stjohnssouthbourne.com

Dear All,

The Tearfund quiz is fast approaching and I hope you can still take part even if you can't invite your team to your house: think techie and have them on a video link on your phone? (but no calling your mate Google!).

The Justgiving page is open for donations to Tearfund's life changing work: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnssouthbourne>

We are still offering to deliver puddings to your door: would you like some brownies for a donation? Or a delicious pudding? Let me know. sarah@maclennans.org

I will send out the Zoom link for the quiz with next week's update, but if you know anyone who will be signing in and who may not read the update please get them to email me so I can send them the link.

Happy quizzing! Sarah Maclennan



Emmanuel International have now got their Christmas Catalogue out.

Please have a look at the link below to give yourself some Christmas Gift ideas.

<https://www.eiuk.org.uk/christmas-gift-ideas/>

A promotional banner for Emmanuel International's Christmas Gift Ideas. It features a photograph of two young girls in pink shirts and grey overalls, one hugging the other. The background is white with faint, stylized snowflake and human figures. The text "Christmas Gift Ideas" is in large red font. Below it, the slogan "Many Lives Changed Love UNITES US" is displayed, with "Love" in a larger, bold font. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "EASY ONLINE ORDERING" in white.

**Christmas
Gift Ideas**

Many Lives
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