

## Vicar's update 30<sup>th</sup> Jul 2020

### A huge thank you!

First of all, a message of thanks to all those who've been keeping church alive and kicking throughout lockdown. There's so much that goes on behind the scenes, and people just quietly get on with it. Without their wonderful work, care, and support, things would grind to a halt. So thank you to all who have been faithfully doing your stuff: caring for each other with shopping and phone calls; caring for our employees, buildings, administration and finances; and helping us to worship, challenge ourselves to discipleship, and deepen our faith and understanding despite the circumstances of lockdown. As we begin to emerge out of this strange season into another that may be equally strange, we can thank God for those we have shared it with, and for his presence with us thorough it all.

### Worship in the church building from September

There are mixed feelings about returning to worship in church. We've been delighted with the reach of our on-line worship over lockdown but know it can never replace meeting in person to worship. We're looking forward to being together and sharing communion again, but many also feel the adjustments required to make that as safe as possible will be hard to get used to. The PCC have agreed in principle to returning to worship in church from the start of September and we will be finalising these arrangements at the PCC Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Do feel free to contact me or PCC members if you have any particular concerns or suggestions you'd like us to consider.

Some people's circumstances have meant they have been particularly isolated during lockdown or have not been able to access on-line services. We will be inviting these people to an Evensong Service, 6.30pm 9<sup>th</sup> August. If you know anyone in these circumstances who you feel would value an invitation, or you yourself would like one, please do get in touch. Private prayer on the 9<sup>th</sup> will be cancelled to accommodate the Evensong service. All other Sundays in August will follow the existing pattern of a YouTube service (All-Age zoom service at 10.30am on 9th August) and private prayer in church 3-4pm.

From September we will begin the following pattern of weekly worship which allows for the recommended 72-hour quarantine of the building between services:

- Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion (with children's groups)
- Thursday 10.30am BCP Holy Communion

This will be supplemented with a monthly on-line all-age service on zoom.

Social distancing limits the number of people who can worship at each church service so, sadly, we will need to operate a booking or ticketing system for the services in church. We will need to continue to provide online worship alongside church services during September and beyond for those who can't attend in person. We'll record the Evensong Service on the 9<sup>th</sup> August in church to help us decide if filming Sunday Services for publication on YouTube would be a suitable way of providing online worship in the future.

## **COVID-19 shopping support**

We owe a debt of gratitude to the lovely volunteers who have given their time so generously to shop for and support the more vulnerable members of our church family throughout lockdown, and to Amy Graham for co-ordinating this support. The scheme will wind down from 1<sup>st</sup> August, (when even the extremely vulnerable need no longer shield), and will cease completely by the end of August to allow volunteers to focus their energies on their families as they prepare to start school. A huge thankyou to all who've been involved in providing this vital support.

## **Rhythm of life**

How is your rhythm of life? Many say lockdown has provided welcome time to reflect and deepen their spiritual life. As we move out of lockdown, perhaps we need to hold on to some of the wisdom gained and not let the returning busyness of life take over completely. I'd like to invite you to join a new Diocesan initiative to help us develop Christian rhythms of life which fit our changing and challenging circumstances. Inspired by monastic rules of life, it provides resources and encouragement to reflect on different aspects of our 'loving, living and learning' and make practical fixed-term commitments. Further details are set out on a new [Rhythm of Life page](#) on our Diocese' Digital Learning Platform.

*Jesus said, "Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."*  
*Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)*

## **Green Team work parties**

The St Chad's churchyard is looking a little unloved, despite the continued work of the gardener to keep the grass and hedges under control. Could you join the green team for either or both 2 work parties, August 1st and 15th, 10.00 am – noon? There's space to social distance and lots to do! We don't think we can yet plan to offer a coffee break, but do bring your own refreshments and do please come and join us, even if you can only offer a short time on one of those Saturday mornings.

## **Giving generously**

During the UK lockdown many of us have not spent as much as we would normally do if we had been travelling out and about. Of course, many people here have lost their income and security, and not everybody will be able to give; but many have been able to save during lockdown here. We can show our gratitude to God by being generous to others. Here are a couple of great causes to give to...

### Sudan Emergency Appeal

The Diocese of Leeds link diocese of Sudan is suffering terribly from the coronavirus. Bishop Nick has launched an emergency appeal for funds to help churches there meet the needs of their communities. The funds raised will go for emergency food, water, medical supplies, and any other emergency help that local churches may identify themselves.

- £25 could help buy an emergency food pack for a one family. Perhaps that equates to a meal out for two not taken over lockdown.

- £50 could pay for fuel to help the Sudan Mothers Union safely distribute food and emergency supplies in the townships. Perhaps the cost of a tank of fuel saved during lockdown here.
- £500 could help provide a church with weeks of emergency funding to support their families in crisis.

Information and ways to give can be found at <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/sudan/initiatives>

Or you can simply make a cheque payable to 'Leeds DBF', posting it to Leeds DBF, 17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX with a note saying it is 'for Sudan emergency'.

#### All Hallows Rainbow Junk-tion

A plea for food donations for the All Hallows 'Rainbow Junk-tion' who are providing food parcels and meals to many in desperate poverty around the Hyde Park area. People who receive these don't always have cooking facilities, so ring-pull cans and 'just add hot water' meals are especially welcome. Suggestions include:

Tinned meals of any sort – meat and vegetarian Especially tinned meat and fish (High protein)	Sugar
Tinned potatoes and veg (Not baked beans)	Instant coffee
Pot noodles	Pots of custard and jelly
Pasta and curry sauces	Powdered milk
Smash – instant mashed potato	Shower gel
Rice	Deodorant
Cereals (Not porridge)	Toothbrushes
Tinned fruit	Toothpaste
Chocolate bars, energy bars, cereal bars	Shaving foam
Fortified meal replacement drinks	Razors
Jam	Wet wipes
Salt pepper spices condiments	Vegetarian baby food (6 months and older)
	Nappies

Feel free to drop donations at the vicarage if you are unable to deliver to All Hallows yourself.

#### **Announcements.**

I'm sad to announce that Pat Allot, a former member of St Chad's, died on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Do hold her family in your prayers. Although Pat moved to the North East to be closer to her family in old age, we expect her ashes will be interred in St Chad's garden of rest.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of a new caretaker to the Parish Centre. John Bremner will commence work at the start of September. Do give him a St Chad's welcome!

Beatrice and John celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary today. Big congratulations!

*With love in Christ, and prayers that we would all know his care and encouragement in this new season, Hannah.*