



The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 120

June 2020

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

We do appreciate how very hard it is that the doors of St Jude's, and indeed churches and places of worship throughout the land, are still not open for public worship. The situation changes from day to day but at the time of writing we have no idea when current restrictions can be lifted. Thank you for your patience and understanding. I am grateful to Andrew Reed for reminding us in his editorial that we can still find ways of worshipping together whilst at the same time keeping one another safe.

An article which has been circulating on social media reminds us that for the Church to be truly present requires not so much a building but rather love, compassion and the presence of God. We are all indebted to those who day by day are offering love, compassion and the presence of God among us. I also want to pay tribute to those who have been most painfully affected by the limitations currently imposed on us. They include parents who have had to defer the Baptism of their child to a later date and couples who have had to put their Marriage plans on hold.

We have also had the privilege of being alongside a number of grieving families who have been unable to hold the service they would have wished for their loved one. We have witnessed untold courage in families sacrificially keeping numbers at the funeral service to the ten people that we have had to ask of them. We are grateful to our local funeral directors, cemetery and crematoria staff for their relentless hard work, empathy and understanding.

The guidance which follows is largely a repeat of that which we have offered before. It is taken from the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org which updates its advice daily so it is worth checking the website from time to time. Sadly we still cannot open St Jude's on Saturday afternoon for enquiries.

BAPTISMS: All Baptisms in church remain suspended. If you have already booked a Baptism or made a Baptism enquiry, please do contact St Jude's. Once things return to normal we promise to facilitate the baptism of your child as soon as we can.

WEDDINGS: There can still be no weddings in church buildings until further notice. Please contact me if you already have a wedding booked at St Jude's in 2020 or if your wedding is due to take place elsewhere but you will need your Banns to be read at St. Jude's.

FUNERALS: Funerals can take place only at a Crematorium or at the graveside. Only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) - that is, spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance

Lockdown Prayer

I read a report the other day issued in April this year by Tearfund, the Christian relief and development charity, which looked at what is happening during the current restrictions we all face. It reports that almost half of adults in the UK said that they pray and a quarter of adults said that they have watched or listened to a religious service since the 23rd March. A third of people said that they had prayed about the Covid 19 virus because they think that their prayer will make a difference. Younger adults aged between 18 and 34 reported that they pray at least once a month. When asked what they prayed about over half said that they prayed for their family, a quarter prayed about people in frontline jobs and one in five have prayed for someone they know who is unwell with the virus. A sixth of people have extended their prayers to cover people and situations overseas. One in twenty people have started to pray since March and a quarter of people aged 18-24 have prayed about the Government response to the situation.

Turning to Church Services the poll shows that 24% of UK adults have watched or listened to a religious service either live on TV, on demand or streamed on-line since March. One in twenty adults have watched or listened to a service in this way who have not attended Church up until now.

People have been able to do this because Churches have recognised the importance to the community of continuing to provide a place for people to gather even if this is not in a Church building. One platform for live video conferencing has seen usage increase from 10 million "users" in December 2019 to 300 million "users" in April 2020. Clearly, not all of these meetings relate to Church services, but I know that I now attend a large number of such meetings each week and most are church related. It was sad that on Sunday 17th May 2020 there was a global crash of this particular system that may or may not have been related to the number of Church services going on at the time.

At St Jude's we do not have this particular problem because each Sunday Service is prepared in advance and goes out via YouTube at 9:30am. Each Service remains on-line and can be watched at any time after the premier. Judith and I are very grateful to Guy Bunce and to everyone who contributes to these services. Each one contains something for people of every age. Why not visit our website and join us this coming Sunday and swell the number of people who are praying and sharing together in worshipping our loving God.

You can find us at: <https://www.stjudeschurch.info>

Andrew Reed

in the prescribed way. Both Funeral Directors and Crematoria/Cemetery staff are going to enormous lengths to support those who are bereaved and arrangements can be made by telephone.

Our clergy can conduct funeral services at local cemeteries and crematoria and we shall also offer you the opportunity of a Memorial Service for your loved one at a later date.

If you would like to discuss any of the above please contact us on 01784 434133 or vicar@stjudeschurch.info

From the Registers

Funerals: (27th April) Patricia Harper-Bill; (28th) Jean Daphne Hales; (29th) Eileen Ellen Furnell; (5th May) Michael Lawson Corrin; (21st) Kenneth Chappell; (26th) Sandra Dawn Janneh; (27th) Doris Swift;

Interment of ashes: (28th May) Eileen Rosemary Johnson (née Otterwell).

Pentecost Greetings

from Canon Chris Spain, Parish Priest, Our Lady of the Assumption, Englefield Green:

I am writing to assure you as the St Jude's United Church community fraternal prayers during these times. I am so pleased that you have managed such a lovely "online" service for the community, with involvement from the community and wonderful editing placing the various participants in the Church as a backdrop. I have dipped in from Mother's Day to last weekend and was impressed to see how it is all put together (the editing). The music and children's ministry and participation are lovely to see too.

I want to wish you a very Happy Pentecost Season. We pray that the Holy Spirit will give us all faith, energy and vigour as we move on from these "difficult times", and make Christ's love even more relevant to the people of our Parishes.

Spotlight on Services

Please use our St Jude's website www.stjudeschurch.info and/or our Facebook page to access our regular Sunday Worship service, premièred from 9.30am each Sunday on YouTube. You will also find a daily "Jotting" or "Thought for the Day" from our Vicar.

Once our services are uploaded on to YouTube they remain there. Our service for Sunday 24th May included a talk from Guy Bunce, who will be known to many in Englefield Green. Guy speaks about the work he is doing in putting these services together for us and also about the work he is continuing to develop in lockdown with two of his most local choirs: The New Egham Singers and Progeny. It makes fascinating listening.

Our Methodist Circuit

Online services continue throughout the Staines and Feltham Methodist Circuit to which we belong. They can be accessed through the circuit website which is: www.sfmc.org.uk

Giving to St Jude's

For the latest information on how you can support St Jude's financially, please see the new page on our website "Giving to St Jude's".

As a church in the heart of Englefield Green we believe that we have a responsibility to the village as a whole. We are also very gratefully aware that all of our income comes from the local community. The highest proportion of that income is from the regular giving of our members; the remainder comes from collections at concerts and occasional services, one-off donations for special purposes, fees from weddings and funerals, and payment for room hire.

At present, of course, most of those streams of income are not available to us and we are extremely grateful to people who have asked how they can best support us at this time. Our giving page directs you to a Standing Order Form which can be downloaded and posted to your bank, or you can use the details it provides to set up a standing order through your online account. A Gift Aid form for those who pay tax is also available.

If you would like to make a donation to St Jude's, you can pay directly into the Church's CAF Bank account. (Sort Code 40-52-40 Account 00013020).

You will also find a brand new "Donate Now" button on our website Giving Page which enables you to give instantly if this is helpful for you.

Our Giving Page emphasises our commitment to you: The details of your giving will remain confidential. We aim to use your gifts wisely and prayerfully. Your time and your prayers are gifts to St Jude's as well. We are deeply grateful to you all and thank God for your generosity, both past and present.

Readings at Communion

7th June (Trinity Sunday)	Isaiah 40. 12-17, 27-end Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13. 11-end Matthew 28. 16-20
14th June (Trinity 1)	Genesis 18. 1-15 Psalm 116 1, 10-17 Romans 5. 1-8 Matthew 9. 35- 10.8
21st June (Trinity 2)	Genesis 21. 8-21 Psalm 86. 1-10. 16-end Romans 6. 1b-11 Matthew 10.24-39
28th June (Trinity 3)	Genesis 22. 1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6. 12-end Matthew 10. 40-end

The Village Centre www.villagecentre.org.uk

Our Centre Manager, Ali Watts, and her team continue to work with Mutual Aid Egham and Englefield Green to assist some of those people most affected by the corona virus pandemic.

Last month Ali described some of the services being offered. Over the last few weeks other kinds of help have been made available. One is "Lockdown Babies" which is advertised elsewhere in this newsletter. There are always big challenges for new parents to face, as well as welcome joys, and "Lockdown Babies" aims to provide help with free meals and gifts. It also offers a telephone buddy system to those who feel they would benefit from that. Please contact 07526 360704 for further information.

"Lockdown Birthdays" is another scheme which has been launched recently and is currently being run by two of the many volunteers who are part of Mutual Aid. There are a variety of birthday gifts on offer including IT help for those who on their birthday would like to make virtual contact with loved ones but do not have the skills and/or the equipment to do so. Other gifts include balloons and banners to decorate the homes of those celebrating a birthday. And if you are a walker you may find some decorations and birthday greetings have been placed along your route on your special day!

And then there is "Lockdown Books". Libraries remain currently closed and some people are especially missing the company of a good read. The United Church of Egham has literally hundreds of books that have been in quarantine for most of these last few weeks so can be safely delivered to a reader on request. There is no time limit on how long the book can be kept but when it is no longer needed it can be returned to quarantine. Already this service is proving popular in helping to ease some of the inevitable frustration that goes with lockdown.

Although the Village Centre itself remains closed at present some of our regular groups are beginning to consider the possibility of re-forming once restrictions begin to be lifted. Careful thought and considerable planning has to be given to the requirements of social distancing and other means of staying safe.

At the same time Ali has been continuing to investigate possibilities around the refurbishment of the Centre, something that has been under discussion for a while. She has also been singlehandedly giving the Centre a facelift with a fresh coat of paint and newly sanded floors.

In September the Centre will have been in operation for ten years. During that time it has provided considerable support to many people and it has become a focus of meeting for many villagers of all ages. We look forward to a special celebration in September! We are grateful to God for Ali and all who have given enormous amounts of time and energy as either members of staff or volunteers. Please remember especially those members of staff who have had to be furloughed. This is a challenging time for them also.

A reminder that if you wish to request help from the Village Centre/ Mutual Aid you can do so either via the RBC triage line 01932 838383, who then email through to our relevant teams, or you can contact us directly on 07526 360704. Shopping, prescription collection, dog walking and telephone contact remain among the very many facilities still on offer.

Covid-19 Mutual Aid Self-Isolating? You are not alone!

Please do continue to pray - this is an amazing piece of work taking place within our community and we are indebted to all involved.

Diary for June All services, concerts, activities etc are cancelled for the time being

Email: enquiries@stjudeschurch.info

Web: www.stjudeschurch.info



IN COORDINATION WITH BABY BASICS:

LOCKDOWN BABIES

NEW PARENT? A SPECIAL GIFT FOR LOCKDOWN BABY FAMILIES. FREE MEALS AND OTHER HELP AVAILABLE

CALL 07526 360704
OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Have you had a baby in lockdown? Do you live in Egham/Hythe/Englefield Green? This is for you!

Or do you know someone who fits these criteria and could do with a treat? Get in contact.

Food Bank

At St Jude's we have been supporting the local food bank in Egham (which has been open each Monday morning) with regular weekly donations of non-perishable foods and other basic supplies.

Under lockdown, we can no longer do this. But support is still urgently needed, and now only through cash donations made direct to Runnymede Food Bank in Chertsey, for the food banks in Egham, Addlestone, Chertsey and Weybridge. Such donations can be gift-aided if you are a taxpayer. Donate online at <http://runnymede.foodbank.org.uk> (other contact details: phone 01932 988350; email info@runnymede.foodbank.org.uk ; main location 95 Guildford Street, Chertsey KT16 9AS).

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Please do remember that if you register with easyfundraising.org.uk and select St Jude's Church, Englefield Green as your chosen charity, you can then shop online with many organisations (including Amazon, John Lewis, etc) and make money for St Jude's at the same time without costing you a penny.

Englefield Green Cemetery

We are receiving an increasing number of enquiries from families who are anxious to trace the locations of graves in the cemetery by St Jude's Church. Unfortunately we are unable to help — Englefield Green cemetery is the property of and maintained by Runnymede Borough Council based in Addlestone.

The Council Office are open as follows: Monday to Thursday: 8.30am to 5pm
Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm. The telephone is 01932 838383.