

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN MELBOURNE, SMISBY,
STANTON-BY-BRIDGE AND TICKNALL

THE BULLETIN

A weekly publication for the Benefice

Sunday 13th September 2020



Holy Cross Day

Across the Benefice Today

10.30 am Parish Eucharist – Melbourne

*the Revd Steve Short & the Revd-to-be Alan Winfield
Preacher – Canon David Edwards*

From the Rector

Dear all,

At the time of writing this, we know that cases of the COVID-19 virus are increasing across the country as the 'R' number is now once again above 1. Bishop Libby emailed this update below in response to the government's announcement:

'You will no doubt be aware that the Government has announced new rules regarding social gatherings in England, making it illegal for people to gather socially in groups larger than six, indoors or out.

The new rules come into effect on Monday, 14 September so any arrangements you have for this weekend will not be affected.

Despite the prime minister giving the example that Covid-secure places of worship will continue to be allowed to have up to 30 people gather (though there can be no individual groups within that number that are larger than six), we must await the finer detail and clarification on what, if any, impact this will have on our ability to meet and worship in churches and to conduct our normal business.

Although Downing Street has promised that a full list of exemptions will be available before Monday, experience tells us that this might be quite late in being released, due to the complexities of the process, and that the government department that oversees how these decisions apply to places of worship may not be able to publish final guidance for some days to come.

However, rest assured that our colleagues at the Church of England will be making sense of the new rules as soon as is possible.'

The life of Jesus tells us that God is with us across the whole spectrum of our emotions and experiences.

The 'Holy Cross' we celebrate in our worship today is a powerful image of God suffering with us and for us. As the eminent German theologian Jurgen Moltmann observes, because of the cross, 'the sufferer is one who hopes.' Through the cross comes resurrection and the whole of creation is renewed.

Booking your place at Melbourne

Thank you to all those who booked their place using the below contacts. Just a few notes of clarification on the booking process: -to be as fair as possible to everyone who might wish to attend, booking will, at present, need to be every week. The booking line and email will be active from 10 am each Monday morning for the following Sunday.

-the above means that block booking isn't possible but it has been lovely to see that people have been indicating they would like to attend week by week!

To book your place/places (clarifying if you are attending alone or in a 'bubble') please contact Rachel Short, ideally by email on: **rach.short27@gmail.com** or by phone: **07747 898638**. To comply with 'track and trace' requirements, worshippers will be asked to supply name and telephone numbers.

If you wish to attend regularly, we will ask permission to keep your details for longer than the current 21-day period to enable ease of booking on future Sundays.

COVID protocols

You will notice that it will take a little longer than usual to enter the church in order to ensure contact details have been taken and everyone has sanitised their hands. Again, in line with national requirements, masks will need to be worn unless you are exempt. Stewards and acting warden (or deputy) will be on hand to show worshippers to their allotted seat as per the seating plan to ensure that social distancing is observed. Entrance will be via the North Door (facing Church Square) and exiting, for approximately half the congregation, by the South Door (facing towards the Pool), sanitising hands once again on leaving.

Reopening at Smisby and Ticknall

Work is also being earnestly undertaken so that worship may soon begin again throughout our benefice. In Ticknall we hope to reopen on Sunday 27th September with more news on Smisby soon.

Alan's Ordination as Deacon

This Sunday is also a celebration for Alan as he finally gets to minister in one of our benefice churches! You might remember that, due to the pandemic, the services of ordination have had to be postponed?

Alan was licensed as a lay worker to our benefice by bishop Libby on July 5th but this was only ever intended to be a 'stepping stone' whilst the ordinations services were rearranged when lockdown easing allowed. It is good news that the ordinations have been set for the Michaelmas weekend at the end of September and Alan will be ordained deacon at a service in Derby Cathedral on Sunday 27th September at 2 pm. Unfortunately, the worship will be subject to the current regulations meaning that there will be very few able to attend. This aside, I'm sure the service will be a wonderful occasion where God is powerfully present as Alan takes 'Holy Orders'. Do please pray for Alan, Sue and the family as this momentous and holy day draws closer.

Every blessing,

Steve

News from Jen Smallwood, our flower guild coordinator

Very sadly, following a number of injuries that need recuperation, Jen has indicated that she needs to step down from this important role. I am very grateful indeed to Jen for all she has done and pray that she will soon make a full recovery as she continues to be most ably supported by John.

If anyone would like to volunteer, please speak to me or Terry our acting warden. Many thanks again to Jen.

A pattern for daily prayer, so that, at home or at church we can pray together:

Monday: Those in great poverty or need.

Tuesday: Those who have asked for our prayers: Anne Brazier, Roo Hubbard, David Ingram, Kate Landenberger Bob Smith, Margaret Stockley Joan Tatam.

Those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage.
All who are suffering from Covid-19.

Wednesday: Our benefice and our diocese. For our bishop, bishop Libby and our cathedral dean, Peter.

Thursday: Our schools as they continue their new academic year. The church worldwide. All Christian people.
The local church. The Anglican Communion.

Friday: All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

The Departed

We also remember those whose anniversaries occur near this time among them Ronald Sugars, Nellie Smith, Lorraine Whitworth, John Simpson Binmore, William (Bill) Latchford.

Bible Readings for Today

Old Testament Reading – *Numbers 21. 4-9*

From Mount Hor, Moses and the people of Israel set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live."

Gospel Reading: *John 3. 13-17*

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Collect for Holy Cross Day

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Faithful God,
whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree
and gave us this sacrament
to show forth his death until he comes:
give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation, our life and our hope,
who reigns as Lord, now and for ever.
Amen.

Daily Hope

The Church of England continues to run a free phoneline service of hymns, reflections and prayers. To access call: **0800 804 8044**

Contact Us

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If there is anyone you know who would like to go on our prayer list or who would appreciate a phone call, do please contact Steve or the parish office. Thank you.

Jesus said,

**‘The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve,
and to give up his life as a ransom for many.’**

Mark 10.45

**Please take this bulletin home with you
to minimise any transmission risk.**