

# Welcome to St Peter's

Inspired by Jesus to forgive, encourage and serve

## **St Peter's Church Newsletter**

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

### **Wednesday Night Prayer**

Our regular night prayer is on Wednesday evening at 8pm. Barry will open the meeting at 7.30pm for anyone wanting a chat or time of fellowship. We have a regular group of around 20 people meeting each week, so why not join us? Please follow the Zoom link to join the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5217250180>

Meeting ID: 521 725 0180

### **Paddock Praise**

This Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September at 12.30pm – a picnic service for families in the paddock behind the vicarage. Numbers will be strictly limited, but the space safely allows us to re-engage with some of the family groups that we've been in danger of losing touch with. Booking essential - please email Tony ([tonyfromstpeters@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyfromstpeters@yahoo.com)) to book your place and for more information.

### **Watching the online services in the Church Building**

This Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, we will show our online services in the church building from 10am. This is especially aimed at people who aren't able to get online. If you know of people who would benefit from this, even if they can get online but are missing out on the Zoom conversations please do let them know about it.

### **Advance Notice**

We are planning to hold a live service in Church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00am to celebrate Harvest. Numbers for the live service will be limited and booking a space is essential, so please let Ros in the office know if you would like to come. The pre-recorded service won't be shown in church that day, but we will still have a separate online service for people who do not wish to come to the service in church. Many thanks Greg.

### **Face Masks**

Please note that everybody aged 11 or older coming to church on Sunday morning or to any group in the church centre is required to wear a facemask as detailed at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>)

Facemasks are also required to be worn in the church building for private prayer on Mondays and Fridays.

Vicar:	Revd Greg Bartlem	01789 840866	gregjbartlem@gmail.com
Church Office:	Ros Jarrett	01789 841359	st.p.wellesbourne@gmail.com

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## Poem in the Porch

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 20<sup>th</sup> September

### Housekeeper

This is my little town,  
my Bethlehem,  
and here, if anywhere,  
my Christ Child  
will be born.

I must begin  
to go about my day –  
sweep out the inn,  
get fresh hay for the manger  
and be sure  
to leave my heart ajar  
in case there may be travellers  
from afar.

### Elizabeth Rooney

from *A Widening Light*, Regent College Publishing, 1984.

When you read this poem in place of “*my Bethlehem*” say “*my home, my heart.*” This is exactly where Christ wants to be born today, within each one of us. Let’s pray that we always leave our hearts ajar, in case there may be travellers from near or far. Tina Lamb

### And finally, from the Diocese...

#### 'Thought for the Week' from April Gold

*"Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long."* Exodus 14 19- 20

Exodus 14 tells us that as the Israelites reach the sea and begin to panic the pillar of cloud and fire moves. It sits behind them to protect. This resonates with our current situation. When we have been still, considered the options and prayerfully created a plan, we need to trust God and step out, knowing that he has our backs. The Israelites did not know what they were going to find on the other side of the sea, but they trusted in a God who had called them and had demonstrated his love for them in great signs and wonders.

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This rhythm of being still whilst we ask, listen and plan, and then walking confidently forward trusting that God has our backs is, for me, a Christian discipline. It is very easy to never get out of the asking and planning phase and to be overly anxious about everything that could go wrong. Instead we have to trust in the plan, that God will have our backs, and walk forwards.

Of course we don't have clouds and pillars of fire. BUT we do have a saviour who died and rose again to intercede on our behalf and his Spirit dwells within us to strengthen us. Even if we hear incorrectly and our plans are not as godly as they could be, we can trust in Paul's assertion in Romans 8 that "God works for the good of those who love him and have been called according to his purpose" and that "If God is for us who can be against us?".

*April Gold is the new Diocesan Director of Education*

*If you have received this bulletin and do not wish to continue receiving updates from St Peter's, please contact Ros in the church office.*