

Welcome to St Peter's

Inspired by Jesus to forgive, encourage and serve

St Peter's Church Newsletter

2nd September 2020

Wednesday Night Prayer

Our regular Wednesday night prayer is on this evening at 8pm.

Greg will be hosting this week and will open the meeting at 7.30pm for anyone wanting a chat or time of fellowship. Please note this is a different Zoom link to normal.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89950741473?pwd=MjdCMTRrVWdJTk5jak4zTjVMYVY0QT09>

Meeting ID: 899 5074 1473

Passcode: 537279

Paddock Praise

This Sunday, 6th 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) to book your place and for more information.

Watching the online services in the Church Building

Just a reminder that every Sunday, we are showing our online services in the church building from 10am each week. This is especially aimed at people who aren't able to get online but we are gradually looking to open this up to more people, it feels special. 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.

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.churcofengland.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.

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Poem in the Porch

13th Sunday after Trinity – 6th September

Summer ends now; now, barbarous in beauty, the stooks rise
Around; up above, what wind-walks! What lovely behaviour
Of silk-sack clouds! has wilder, wilful-wavier
Meal-drift moulded ever and melted across skies?

I walk, I lift up, I lift up heart, eyes,
Down all that glory in the heavens to glean our Saviour;
And, éyes, héart, what looks, what lips yet gave you a
Rapturous love's greeting of realer, of rounder replies?

And the azurous hung hills are his world-wielding shoulder
Majestic - as a stallion stalwart, very-violet-sweet! –
These things, these things were here and but the beholder
Wanting; which two when they once meet,
The heart rears wings bold and bolder
And hurls for him, O half hurls earth for him off under his feet.

Gerard Manley Hopkins 1844 – 1899

Jesus said *"Blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear."* (Matthew 13:16)

Have you ever thought of nature as God's book just waiting for those who have eyes and heart and mind to see and read it?

Lift up heart and eyes this week and look out for all that beauty and glory.

Notice that it is no *"gentle Jesus meek and mild"* that Hopkins discovers. This is a passionate, wild, untamed Saviour. You can safely let rip to such a Saviour in your prayer at any time.

Tina Lamb

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And finally, from the Diocese...

Thought for the day from Helen Simmonds – *Diocesan Lay Chair*

Philippians is a great letter. It was written by Paul to a church he clearly loved. It's a joyful letter even though Paul wrote it from prison. It seems especially appropriate just now. Towards the end he says:

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." Philippians 4:8

Over the years I've quoted that numerous times to teenagers – our own and other people's. Looking at it again recently I was reminded that I need to take my own advice!

Sometimes I feel overwhelmed by all that's going on with a global pandemic as well as the rest of life. Could this teaching be the antidote we all need to much of the stuff that we are bombarded with through social media, internet, TV and radio? We can't stop ourselves thinking but we can make sure we have got some good things to think about. We can choose to look for positives. My favourite positive this week is the news that polio has been eradicated from the continent of Africa. We can decide to dwell on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy.

It doesn't mean we should ignore the news, or messages from friends and others, and then pray for God to be present. But I need to think about where I focus my thoughts. It made me change channels on the radio recently, to pick up a magazine yesterday and look up a website today.

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.

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