

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sunday 9 May
2021

**Sixth Sunday
of Easter**

Christian Aid Week: 10-16 May 2021

I get our vegetables and fruit from a federation of organic farms, many of them based in Devon. With them comes a leaflet very similar to this weekly newsletter, except that the subject is growing (and eating) food rather than following Christ. Its front-page article offers intriguing glimpses of crop-growing and caring for the land in today's world; and not surprisingly, the weather is a recurring theme. And not just the weather. Our climate is changing and these farmers are working to protect their livelihoods against the effects of extremes: building more irrigation reservoirs for long dry periods, planting more green manures to hold nutrients in the soil during prolonged rains, and so on.

The Christian Aid Week appeal this year reminds us of the unequal effects of climate change: how the people with the fewest resources and the most precarious lives are, cruelly, the worst affected. For millions, climate change is not a future fear but a present crisis; and many farmers lack the resources to respond that my veg-growers in the UK can muster. Christian Aid draws our attention to women in rural Kenya, who must grow food to survive but where patterns of rainfall now swing between the extremes of drought, on the one hand, and flash floods on the other. The money raised – we hope – during the Week, will fund some of these communities to build their defences against these threats: reliable systems for the storage and provision of water, seeds for new drought-resistant crops, and so on.

Each of us can take this opportunity to contribute – to send a life-giving gift whizzing over the sea to someone who badly needs it. And we will. I am proud, we can all be proud, that any charitable appeal made in our twin churches gets a warm-hearted response. The spirit of Jesus, reaching out in compassion to suffering people, is alive and active – thank God! But I also think we should be intensely grateful that reliable organisations like Christian Aid are available to us, so that we can express our concern by sending money with a strong likelihood that it will actually be used for “what it says on the packet”. Thank God also for that.

Do we need to hold a raffle for Christian Aid to be motivated to give? No indeed. Why hold one? (I freely admit it was my idea though most of the work has been done by others.) Um well – first, because it might draw our attention to Christian Aid Week and remind us to get around to making a gift. And second, as a sort of comic illustration of the deep truth that giving benefits the giver. “It is more blessed to give than to receive”, said Jesus. OK I don't think he had raffle prizes in mind, but he would whole-heartedly approve of an activity that shares a bit of joy, togetherness and a touch of humour among the givers. Let's hope that our gifts will have the same effect among the recipients!

Rachel Stuchbury

Methodist Circuit Bible Study

This takes place by zoom or phone on Thursdays starting at 10.00am, please join by 09:45. Please contact Jonathan Griffiths for details. Email: jonathan.griffiths@sfmc.org.uk

Church Notices: Southville Methodist

Services in church in May:

Today: 10:30am **Holy Communion** led by the Rev. Julie Underwood
Sunday 23rd May 10:30 am **Morning Worship** led by the Rev. Julie Underwood

Meanwhile, we will continue to circulate service material each week by email and printed, for those without access to the internet (electronic, i.e. email or Whatsapp, is easier and more cost efficient). If you have not been receiving these and would like to, please contact: Jonathan or Roger on register@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk or Text or WhatsApp: 07521 776 637 or call Marilyn Woodley on 07958 737094.

Staines Methodist Church are continuing to **Zoom their service each Sunday** at 10:30am and we would encourage you to join. For an invite contact Matt or Roz service.staines@sfmc.org.uk

Southville Church will be **open for private prayer** on Saturday once a month from 09:30 - 10:30am; watch the notices and social media for the next date.

We will be continuing to follow all the same Covid-19 practices as before for services and private prayer; booking will be require for services, but not for Private Prayer times.

Church Notices: St. Dunstan, Church of England

Our **zoom services** will continue on Sundays at 10am. All are welcome; phone or email the parish office for details of how to connect from computer, smartphone, tablet or by phone.

Services in church:

Every Sunday until further notice: 9am **Holy Communion**

Wednesdays until further notice: 10am **Holy Communion** – no need to book
(no service 12th May)

Service for **Ascension Day**: 8pm Thursday 13 May – no need to book

Because of the limited capacity due to social distancing seats for **services in church on Sunday need to be booked** by noon the previous day, saying which service, names of those attending and contact number. All the restrictions remain unchanged: seating by household, hand sanitizing, masks to be worn and no congregational singing inside the church.

Bible study begins again on Monday 10th May at 8pm on zoom. Please contact the parish office or Anne Dollery for joining details.

Details of 'Bow down' Prayers on **Feltham Green on Wednesday 19th May at 8.45pm** have been circulated separately. If you wish to attend please book in advance. There is a limit of 30 people.

Advance notice – if the weather is fine we are considering holding a service in the garden for Pentecost on Sunday 23rd May.

We are also considering how we can hold services/activities for our children and families outdoors.

All of this is providing the regulations and guidelines permit.

There are now six vacancies on the PCC (Parochial Church Council). We would like to fill as many of these as possible. Could you serve please? The PCC meets once every 4-6 weeks, currently on zoom. Membership of the PCC need only be for one year but can continue if you are

willing for a total of 3 years. Please contact Duncan Forsyth (dncnforsyt@aol.com), Ian Stuchbury (ian.stuchbury@phonecoop.coop) or the parish office by 12th May.

Nominations for Church Warden. We continue to seek a second church warden to serve alongside Duncan Forsyth. If you think this might be you and would like to find out more, please speak to Duncan Forsyth or the Rev'd Anne Dollery.

The **revised Electoral Roll** for St Dunstan's is on display on the church notice board and our website – please check that your details are correct.

St Dunstan's Church Meeting to elect Church Wardens and its Annual Meeting (APCM): **Sunday 16th May 10.45am** on zoom, i.e. immediately after the 10am Zoom service. A separate email will be sent with the joining details (which will be the same as the zoom service). Agenda, last year's minutes and Annual Report have been circulated; please contact Gary at the parish office if you do not think you have received them. You should have a Financial Report which is part of the Annual Report but has been circulated separately.

People

We are delighted to hear that John Howliston has finally had his operation and hopes to be home very soon. Possibly by the time you are reading this!

We extend our warmest sympathy to the Revd. Juliet Ushewokunze, who has suffered another family bereavement, having now lost her sister Dorcas in Australia.

Christian Aid Week and other good causes

Last week we circulated tempting colour photographs of the **14 prizes in our raffle** for Christian Aid. Briefly, you donate to Christian Aid (christianaid.org.uk), then let Rachel Stuchbury (rachel.stuchbury@phonecoop.coop, 0208 890 5632) know how many tickets you are 'buying'. Don't delay! Draw to take place on 16th May.

Celia Lawrence would like to thank everybody who has used a **Children's Society box** in the last six years, and we would like to thank Celia for acting as coordinator all that time. Celia is now retiring but would be very happy to show a new person the ropes – could anybody take this on? It involves counting up and banking the cash every six months.

Closer to home, **Feltham Food Bank** continues to need our donations to support those in need. Please donate money through their giving page, see felthamfoodbank.org.

We collected £123.53 to the **Angel Tree** appeal for Mothering Sunday, and an appreciative letter has been received from the Prison Fellowship, reminding us how important it is during the pandemic to enable prisoners to maintain connections in any way they possibly can.

If you want to give thanks for receiving your vaccination, or to donate to charities who are helping to ensure that every community is supported, the following suggestions are among ways this can be done:

- The Church of England helped to bring about the vaccinaid.org campaign with Unicef and Crowdfunder, which is seeking to help provide more than 2.5 billion vaccines worldwide. Donations can be made directly, or communities can set up local fundraisers to contribute together.
- Christian Aid's [Give Thanks campaign](#) is focusing on humanitarian support including food, water and healthcare in areas where the vaccine is not currently available.

- In addition, the Church of England has worked with yourneighbour.org on the Give Hope Campaign which works to target misinformation and encourage everyone to take up the offer of a vaccination.

‘Thy Kingdom Come’ is a global initiative, in which Christians are called to pray for the 9 days between Ascension- Thursday 13th May - and Pentecost- Sunday 23 May this year. We are invited to pray for God’s Spirit to move within the church, equipping us to share God’s love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today.

To encourage us in pray at this time below are a variety of ideas from both the Methodist Church (*please go to the ‘Methodist Church Thy Kingdom Come’ for the links and more information*) and from the Diocese of London (please go to ‘Diocese of London Thy Kingdom Come’ for the links). They include five ways to pray and a free prayer walk app.

From ‘The Methodist Church UK Thy kingdom Come’ website:

From Ascension to Pentecost, we encourage you to live out the commitment in [A Methodist Way of Life](#) “to pray daily”. Go online to explore our five ways to pray below and for creative ideas for putting them into practice. You can also [download a PDF](#) to share with others, digitally or by printing and posting (please follow COVID guidelines) and [download the graphics](#) for your own use in TKC resources.

The good news about evangelism is that it’s God’s work – and we are invited to participate in word, deed and prayer. These three are equal partners, and so as well as speaking and sharing the good news, we must be praying for God to act in people’s lives and stir their hearts. There are many different ways to pray and these are just a few suggestions to encourage and inspire you this year. Most of them can be done individually or in the community with minimum advance preparation.

No prayer is ever wasted. Ignatius of Loyola says that whenever you pray, you should start by reflecting that God is gazing on you right at this moment with love. All our prayers are heard by God, even if they’re not always answered in the ways we expect or in the timeline we want. The more we pray, the more we’re in tune with what God is doing and saying.

You may want to pray for people who are a million miles from wanting to know Jesus, or people who are already seeking him. God is already working in their lives, whether they acknowledge it or not. We encourage you to take part in Thy Kingdom Come in whatever way you feel God lays on your heart.

Be prepared that you might be changed as well! When we spend time in God’s presence, things happen that we may not expect. Embrace God’s presence, and pray about anything God might say to you during this time.



Pray throughout the day

While some people enjoy a dedicated time of prayer at the same time every day, others may prefer shorter, more frequent prayers.



Take time out in prayerful reflection

The Holy Spirit is already working in people's lives. Rather than asking God for things, you may wish to simply reflect prayerfully on the people you are praying for and lift them to God in thanks. Trust God to act.



Tell people you're praying for them

It's encouraging to know someone is praying for you, so why not contact the people on your heart, let them know you're praying for them and ask if there is anything they would like a prayer for? Although the Thy Kingdom Come movement is about people coming to know Jesus, we know God is already working in people's hearts, and cares about everything going on in their lives.



Be artistic and creative

Prayer doesn't have to be about words! Art, jewellery, dance, music – it can all be a form of prayer. Use your artistic gifts to pray differently this year.



Pray together

Praying with others can be a powerful experience. You could pray with others in your church every day during Thy Kingdom Come. Finish by commemorating Aldersgate Day, when John Wesley's heart was "strangely warmed", and pray together that all those you've prayed for will have their hearts warmed by God.

From the Diocese of London:

The new diocesan vision is '*for every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ*'. As people contemplate life's big questions over this pandemic, process heartache and search for hope, we want to pray that they encounter the love of Christ. The Diocese of London is marking Thy Kingdom Come 2021 with two interactive activities:

1) Morning Prayer

The Diocesan senior clergy warmly invite you to join them in Morning Prayer every day on Facebook at 8.30am. You can pray along using the liturgy and prayers found in the TKC booklet which is also online.

2) A 24/10 prayer vigil

We would love Christians across the diocese to sign up for an hour slot in our virtual prayer room, so that we can continuously pray 24 hours a day, for 10 days. You could sign up as an individual, as a church, or as a group (youth group, small group, prayer triplet...).

During your hour of prayer, you could:

Use the prayer guide on the link to take you through the hour

Go for a prayer walk, and pray for particular things you see on your walk – people, households, venues.

Pray for 5 friends, family, neighbours, colleagues – who live their lives not knowing the love of Jesus

3) Prayer Walk app

There is a new app – the Oikos Outreach App – a free prayer app which invites people to turn their local daily walk into a prayer walk. The app allows users to pin areas they have prayed for, with the aim of praying for the whole nation. This is available on Google play and Appstore.

A few phone numbers in case of need

Samaritans: 116 123 (and it's free)

Domestic Abuse UK: 0808 200 0247

Hopeline Suicide Prevention (aimed at young people or those concerned about a young person): 0800 068 4141

Daily Hope line of bible readings, prayers and hymns (Church of England): 0800 804 8044

Mind information line (on mental health problems and how to seek help): 0300 123 3393

CAP Christians against Poverty: free debt counselling 0800 328 0006. <https://capuk.org/>

Feltham Food Bank: 07448 831 297 felthamfoodbank@gmail.com . A referral is needed.
(If the need for food is urgent, please advise people to visit the Salvation Army Food Bank between 10am-noon on a Wednesday.)

And some important questions (thank you, Jackie)

Why do supermarkets make sick people walk to the back of the shop to get medicines, while other people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why don't you ever see the headline: Psychic Wins Lottery?

Why is lemon flavouring made with artificial ingredients while washing-up liquid features real lemon juice?

Why isn't there mouse-flavoured cat food? (and so on, in the same vein)

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| <p>Southville Methodist Tachbrook Road, Feltham TW14 8NU Change of website address: www.southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk Email address: contact-us@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk Minister: Rev. Juliet Ushewokunze (020 8890 2783) Email: rev.ushewokunze@sfmc.org.uk</p> <p>St. Dunstan (C of E) St. Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY Minister Rev. Anne Dollery (020 8890 8347) Email: AnneDollery@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>C of E Parish office 39 St.Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY (visitors by appointment only) Email: admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk Tel: 020 8890 2011 Website: www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk</p> |
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