

# **‘Not the Parish Magazine’ but something a little different! Issue 15**



**St. Alban's  
Church,  
Bluebell Hill.**

**St. David's  
Church  
Lordswood.**

**St. William's  
Church,  
Walderslade.**



***We are continuing to hold services in all our churches on a three-weekly cycle (see page 3.) However, on the 18<sup>th</sup> October we shall be gathering at St. William's for our long-delayed annual meetings during Morning Worship.***

***Don't forget that as there is just one service each Sunday morning you are welcome to come along (if it is safe for you to do so) to any of the three churches even if it is not your 'home' space but please remember that space continues to be limited at all the churches.***

***We follow Government Covid 19 guidance for the arrangements we have put in place for everyone's safety when we worship in the parish, but this may need to change at any time. Thank you for your understanding.***

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

# Annual Meetings

The much-delayed Annual Parochial Church Meeting and AGM for Holy Trinity, South Chatham will be taking place during worship this **Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am** at St. William's Church, Walderslade Village.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019 are available together with the '2019 Groups and Activities Report.' If you would like a copy of either they can be emailed to you or let Elaine know and they can be delivered.

The meetings need to include the election of Church Wardens, representatives to Deanery Synod and members of our Church Council. There are vacancies at all three churches, please consider whether you may be able to play your part in any way.

## 'A Question of Thought'

'All ... are equal, but some ... are more equal than others' (*Animal Farm, George Orwell*).  
To what extent - if at all - does this accurately and appropriately describe our world, faith and discipleship?



Let Paul know that you'd like to take part if you haven't already done so.

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 **YouTube Live streaming continues every Thursday morning at 11.00am.**

The link to the service is posted on our **Facebook** page *and* included in the weekly email. You can watch live or catch up at any time afterwards.



## ***So, coming back to church means:***

❖ you should aim to arrive no more than 15 minutes before a service, but not less than 3 minutes to allow for hand sanitising, seating etc.



❖ you will need to complete a consent form for your name and phone number to be recorded for NHS test & trace. Alternatively a QR code is available in each church if you are using the App!



❖ you must not allow children to run around, not even in the grounds, there are no toys, etc available in the churches for youngsters.



❖ the wearing of face coverings is now mandatory in all places of worship.



❖ if you need to use the toilets please be aware of others: one in, one out!



❖ if you wish to chat to one another after a service please maintain correct social distancing outside the building!

***Thank you!***

## **Our new normal:**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October - St. Luke – Physician and Evangelist**

10.00am Morning Worship and Annual Meetings at St. William's

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Bible Sunday**

10.00am Holy Communion at St. David's

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints Day**

10.00am Morning Worship at St. Alban's

## Coffee /Tea?

Not everyone feels ready to return to church and we are unable to offer events such as Oasis and Lunch Club. However, we are continuing to hold gatherings through the platform of Zoom each week. Well done to all who manage to get online and join in. Here are some dates:



**Coffee Morning: Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. – 10.30am**

**Tea @ 3: Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October – 3.00pm**

*and*

**Coffee Morning: Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. – 10.30am**

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## The Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

will still be running this year, a copy of the checklist was sent out with issue 11 and can be still downloaded from [www.blythswood.org/shoebox](http://www.blythswood.org/shoebox) so you may already be collecting and decorating!

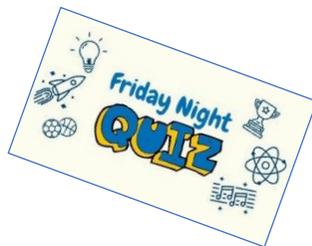
The warehouse will be opening in mid-October so you are welcome to bring your completed box to services at any of the churches *from Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and the following four Sundays*. If you don't have a shoebox then Elaine has some simple cotton drawstring bags that you can use - just ask.



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**It's back!**

**Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October  
at 7.30pm on Zoom**





## Bible Focus and prayers for the coming weeks



Not everyone is able to ‘come back’ to Sunday worship so here are the readings for the coming weeks.

### **St. Luke, Physician and Evangelist – 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**Isaiah 35:3-6, Psalm 147:1-7, 2 Timothy 4:5-17,  
Luke 10:1-9**

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the power of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Last Sunday after Trinity: Bible Sunday – 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 8-12, Psalm 119:9-16, Colossians 3:12-17, Matthew 24:30-35**

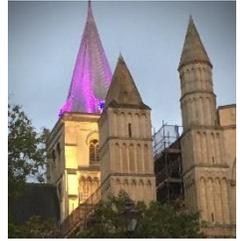
Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **All Saints Day – 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18, Psalm 149, Ephesians 1:11-end,  
Luke 6:20-31**

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Hard Questions, no easy answers.



Last week saw the publication of the report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse into the Anglican Church (IICSA). It is neither an easy nor a comfortable read. IICSA found systematic failings within the Church of England in how it deals with safeguarding issues along with its failure to support victims of abuse. You can find the full report on the IICSA website.

Interviewed on Sky News Archdeacon Julie (Archdeacon of Tonbridge and the Bishop of Rochester's Safeguarding lead) reminded us that this is not just an historic issue but one we need to continue to face in the church today.

What does this mean? Surely our churches are places of welcome: we preach forgiveness and yet the inquiry heard many stories not only of abuse but also of denial and cover-up. At all levels churches have failed to address the evil that has been done by clergy and others, we've belittled those who have had the courage to come forward and preferred to think that 'Christians' are incapable of such behaviour. The structures of the churches have often compounded the abuse by failing to investigate, and causing further emotional and spiritual damage to victims.

I hope that you are still reading this because we share the responsibility of confronting the evil of abuse in our communities. Together we need to be wholeheartedly sorry for what has happened and committed to ensuring that the harrowing stories contained in the report are not repeated now or in the future.

Practically, this means that Safeguarding appears on the agenda of every Church Council meeting, all members of the Council must undergo training and be DBS cleared as must all in the parish who undertake work with children or other vulnerable people – these are not ✓box exercises but practical steps to help us identify and support our community.

This is not merely the job of our Safeguarding team (Mark Salter and Dave Bassett) or Church Council but a responsibility for everyone.

**Holy God,  
teach us to thirst for righteousness in your  
Church...**

**Merciful God,  
we cry to you, we lament the safeguarding  
failings of your Church...**

**Gracious God,  
help us to hear the voices of victims and  
survivors of abuse and re-abuse and make the  
profound changes needed in your Church...**

**Compassionate God,  
help us to repair broken lives so that those our  
Church has harmed may no longer just survive  
but thrive. Amen**

I commend to you the book, ‘Letters to a Broken Church’ (ed. Janet Fife and Gilo) - essays drawn from the personal experiences of survivors and their allies. It is a painful read but one we must surely not dismiss if we are to witness to the love of God for all his children.

*Elaine*



Many thanks to those able to bring donations earlier this month more than 90kg!) for Medway Foodbank. We recognise that the traditional ‘drop off’ in church is not possible at the moment but as mentioned previously it is possible to download the **spareable** app to your phone and donate through it.

*Thank you*



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## **Cornerstone Coffee Shop @ St. William's**



**is now open**

**Monday-Friday: 10.00am – 2.00pm,**

**Saturdays: 9.00am – 2.00pm**

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**Rev. Elaine 01634 684888**  
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or visit the parish website

[www.southchatham.org](http://www.southchatham.org)

*and, of course our facebook page*

**Holy Trinity South Chatham**



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*Holy Trinity is a partnership between  
the Church of England and the Methodist Church,  
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