

# ‘Not the Parish Magazine’ but something a little different! Issue 11



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

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

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



***We are currently holding services in all our churches on a three-weekly cycle (see page 3.) It is certainly quite different but also wonderful to be together in worship and, God willing, by the time you read this we will be getting used to what is possible.***



***Don't forget that as we are offering 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 do remember the current guidance on page 2.***



## ***So, coming back to church now 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 – please bring a pen – and then take a blank one home and bring it back completed next time so you don't have to queue!**



❖ **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 the service please maintain correct social distancing outside the building!**

***Thank you!***

*This information is current at the time of writing (18<sup>th</sup> August).*

# Our new normal

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

10.00am Morning Worship at St. William's

2.00pm Holy Baptism at St. Alban's

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August

10.00am An outdoor\* service at St. Alban's  
*\*the British summer permitting!*

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am Holy Communion at St. David's

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am Holy Communion at St. William's

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# August 31st - Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne

Leave me alone with God as much as may be.  
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,  
Make me an island, set apart,  
Alone with you, God, holy to you.

Then with the turning of the tide  
Prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond,  
The world that rushes in on me,  
Till the waters come again and fold me back to you.



Aidan was Bishop of Lindisfarne in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century, he lived a frugal life, giving food to the poor and tirelessly engaged in preaching and pastoral work. He recognised the importance of education and alongside King Oswald he shared his faith across the vast kingdom of Northumbria.

## Christian Aid: a prayer for a global pandemic



‘Love...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,  
endures all things. Love never ends.’ *(1 Corinthians 13:7-8)*

Loving God,  
strengthen our innermost being  
with your love that bears all things  
even the weight of this global pandemic  
even the long haul of watching for symptoms  
of patiently waiting for this to pass  
watching and waiting,  
keeping our gaze fixed on you,  
and looking out for our neighbours  
near and far.

Instil in our shaken souls  
the belief and hope that all things  
are possible with your creative love  
for strangers to become friends  
for science to source solutions  
for resources to be generously shared  
so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need  
for your perfect love that knows no borders  
may cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.

May your love that never ends  
be our comfort, strength and guide  
for the wellbeing of all and  
the glory of God. Amen.

## Coffee /Tea?

We continue to hold gatherings through the platform of Zoom every week or so. Well done to all who have managed to get online and join in. Here are some dates to put in your diary.



**Coffee Mornings: Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> August  
and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 10.30am**

As Zoom events it is also possible to take part via a telephone call although that would mean you'll be heard and not seen! Get in touch and we'll give you a number to call.

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**Our monthly Quiz is back:  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August at  
7.30pm**



Again a Zoom event so if you are ready for the challenge do email me at [elaine.cranmer@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.cranmer@gmail.com) to book in.

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## A Question of Thought

Following a good discussion on Sunday evening Paul will be hosting another session next month (via Zoom) on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September between 6pm and 7pm – if you want to take part or suggest a topic, then please let him know.



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**KEEPING IN TOUCH!** This Newsletter continues to be sent out fortnightly by post and by email. In addition, there is also a weekly 'email only update' – if you think you (or someone you know) has slipped through the net do contact Elaine straight away. Don't lose touch, if I don't have your details then I can't contact you. Feel free to contact us at any time and share ideas for what may be possible in the churches and across the parish in these times.

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Our monthly hour of prayer continues in September.

**Trinity Prayers on Zoom:**  
**7.30pm, first Thursday of the month**

Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>

**A time to come together in prayer**

- for our parish and its people
- for the mission of God in this community
- for those who have asked for prayer
- for one another

**All are welcome**

**Email Elaine or David for an invitation**

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**The Shoebox Appeal** will still be running this year, a copy of the checklist is included with this newsletter or can be downloaded from [www.blythswood.org/shoebox](http://www.blythswood.org/shoebox) so you can start collecting now! More information about arrangements for collection will be available later in the year.



## Bible Focus and prayers for the coming weeks



Although we are now holding services we know that not everyone will be able to ‘come back’ to Sunday worship so here are the readings for the coming weeks.

### Trinity 11 – 23<sup>rd</sup> August

**Exodus 1:8 – 2:10, Psalm 124, Romans 12:1-8**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Trinity 12 – 30<sup>th</sup> August

**Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 115, Romans 12:9-end,**

**Matthew 16:21-end**

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us; remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Trinity 13 – 6<sup>th</sup> September

**Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-end,**

**Matthew 18:15-20**

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Live streaming continues every Thursday morning at 11.00am



Don't forget that we continue to live-stream a service at 11.00am on YouTube every Thursday morning. If you don't have access to YouTube then why not phone a friend who has just before 11.00am and listen in! The link to the service is posted on our **Facebook** page and included in the weekly email that is sent out each Saturday. If you are not around at the time, you can still catch up later.

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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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