

‘Not the Parish Magazine’ but something a little different! Issue 12



**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 2.) It is certainly quite different but also wonderful to be together in worship and we are getting used to what is possible in each setting.



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. The number of chairs is increasing as we follow the current guidance.



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 – please bring a pen – and then why not take away a blank one and bring it back completed next time so you don't need 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 a service please maintain correct social distancing outside the building!

Thank you!

This information is current at the time of writing (31st August).

Our new normal:

Sunday 6th September

10.00am Holy Communion at St. David's

Sunday 13th September

10.00am Holy Communion at St. William's

Sunday 20th September

10.00am Morning Worship at St. Alban's

Ordination 2020 - a new pattern

As you will be aware, Paul and Yvonne joined Holy Trinity a year ago following his ordination as Deacon. Paul's ordination as a priest should be taking place on Saturday, 26th September, 3.00pm at St. Justus Church, Rochester.



Due to the current Covid19 restrictions and guidance it will probably not be possible for members of our congregations to be present at that service and even his first celebration of Holy Communion in the parish will not be quite as anticipated.

We shall be aiming to accommodate as many as is safely possible at St. William's on 27th although the traditional 'bring & share lunch' will not be taking place this time! You will be kept in touch with any changes to these plans but please do hold Paul in your prayers as he prepares for this day.

Sunday 27th September

10.00am Holy Communion at St. William's
celebrating Paul's ordination as priest and
welcoming Rev. Canon Jean Kerr to preach.

A Question of Thought

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



Do you want to talk about your faith in interesting and life transforming ways?

sPEAK jESUS...

Webinars on Simple Evangelism

'EVANGELISM - Children & Youth'

Please join us for our Rochester Deanery course on faith sharing.

Sunday 6th September @ 6PM on Zoom

Join Graham and learn how to simply sPEAK jESUS in contexts with children and youth



Scan to Join the Webinar

Presented by the Rochester Deanery Churches:







St Stephen's, Chatham
St Matthew's, Borstal
Christ the King, Princes Park
St Peter with St Margaret, Rochester



CHURCH ARMY
ESTD 1882

WITH
GRAHAM NUNN

Catch up with previous sessions and speakers at <https://www.facebook.com/RochesterDeanery>

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.



Tea @ 3 – Tuesday, 8th September
Coffee Morning: Wednesday, 16th Sept – 10.30am

Live streaming continues every Thursday morning at 11.00am




HTSC
Thursday Worship
at 11.00am

Find us on YouTube each week
a new link will be posted on our facebook page
every week to take you straight to the service

Image from Facebook.com

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.

WHAT NOW?

THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN TACKLING RACIAL INJUSTICE

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Amelia Gentleman (*Guardian*)
- Professor Anthony Reddie (*Author of is God Colour Blind*)
- Chaired by Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

FREE ONLINE CONFERENCE

facebook/rainhamchurch
www.rainhamchurch.co.uk

WEDS 16TH SEPT 2020 2PM-4PM

ST. MARGARET'S RAINHAM

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Our monthly hour of prayer continues.

Sept. 3rd and Oct. 1st

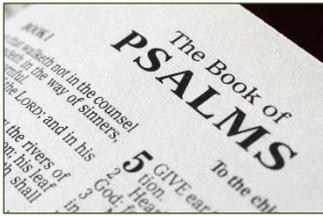
**Trinity Prayers on Zoom:
7.30pm, first Thursday of the month**

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



Within that 'library of books' we call the Bible are five books which have been gathered together to form The Book of Psalms (or Psalter.) In the early days of lockdown I suggested that we might use our time to read through these 150 'songs' and I know some people did take on that challenge.

It is a varied collection, some only two verses long whilst Psalm 119 has one hundred and seventy six (split into 22 sections, one for each letter of the Hebrew Alphabet!) No two psalms are identical although there are some phrases which the psalmist uses repeatedly. We are familiar with some as a whole (Psalm 23) whilst from others a single verse stands out. (Psalm 22, v1.) There are psalms of praise and hope, psalms of lament and despair. The psalmist is frequently overwhelmed, ranting at God in the darkness and yet finding peace and light in his presence.

Psalms have been at the heart of the worship of God's people (Jewish and Christian) for thousands of years yet we often overlook them in our own Sunday worship. Perhaps we should rediscover this ancient treasury?

Martin Luther claimed that the Psalms were a Bible in miniature, Bonhoeffer saw them as the Prayer Book of the Bible, others find Christ revealed in them.

Contemporary theologian, Walter Brueggemann, encourages us to see the life of faith expressed in the psalms. Why not read the psalm set for each Sunday and use it for your reflections and prayers through the following week?

Elaine



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 13 – 6th 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.

Trinity 14 – 13th September

**Exodus 14:19-end, Psalm 114, Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35**

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trinity 15 – 20th September

**Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:37-end, Philippians 1:21-end,
Matthew 20:1-16**

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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' that flies to inboxes each Saturday and includes the link for the following week's Thursday Service – if you think you (or someone you know) have slipped through either the print or electronic net do contact Elaine straight away.

Don't lose touch, if we don't have your details then we can't contact you! Feel free to contact us at any time and share ideas for what may now be possible in the churches and across the parish.



Congratulations to Carolyn and David Burch on their triumph in our August Quiz – look out for details of a September one!

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or visit the parish website

www.southchatham.org

and, of course our facebook page

Holy Trinity South Chatham



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