

## Prayer Diary – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**The Collect for today** – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity:

*Merciful God, by whose gift alone your faithful people offer you true and acceptable service, grant that we may serve you faithfully so that we do not finally fail to obtain your heavenly promises, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Specific Requests for Prayer:

All those in our church family (or their relatives) who are working in the NHS, care homes or in COVID-19 research; please pray for their safety at work and for their families (and especially children) not to be anxious but to know God's peace.

All those who: are faced with redundancy, had medical treatment cancelled, are caring full-time for family members, have lost job opportunities, had to postpone their wedding, had finals/exams cancelled and many similar situations.

### Please also pray for...

*the sick and the bereaved:*

*mission partners:* The Gideons and Peter & Julie Fraser (Bible Encounter Trust).

*our local schools:*

- Hartford Manor Primary School & Nursery, and other schools which members of the church are involved in.
- Hartford Church of England High School.
- For Christian governors in our congregation to fulfil their duties wisely.

## Notice Sheet for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Services are in **St John's Church** unless stated otherwise.

**10am All Age Service** - Ephesians 6:1-4

**8pm Crossover** 'virtual' meeting - Bible study

### After church 'coffee'

Even though some of us will be meeting together in St John's this Sunday, we still intend to have the regular after church 'coffee', as we won't be able to chat in church or in the church grounds. A Zoom meeting will start at 11:20, to allow people who've been in the church building time to get home before 'coffee' begins. Once a reasonable number of people have joined, we will be randomly allocated into 'breakout rooms'. These groups will end after 30 minutes and then you can go and make your lunch! Of course, you don't have to stay till the end and can leave your small group at any time.

### Crossover

Crossover will be restarting this evening (Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September). Meetings will initially be virtual using 'Zoom' but we hope to be able to meet in person soon. Details of the zoom meeting have been sent out to parents of those aged school years 10-13. If you have not already received an email about Crossover resuming and have a young person of the correct age under your roof, then please get in touch with Ruth Port.

### Ladies' Walks

... will be resuming on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September and then take place every fortnight. Each walk will start at 10am and the walkers should be back in Hartford by 12.30pm. The starting locations will vary so, for more details on where the ladies will be meeting, please contact Mary Shorter.

### Prayer Fellowship and housegroups

For the new term, housegroups will be looking at Peter's first letter and we will return to the pattern of alternating housegroups with Prayer Fellowships. Here is the timetable up till October half-term (all meetings are virtual):

- 9 September - Prayer Fellowship (*Jeremy*)
- 16 September - Housegroups - 1 Peter study number 2
- 23 September - Prayer Fellowship (*Kevin*)
- 30 September - Housegroups - 1 Peter study number 3
- 7 October - Prayer Fellowship (*Charles*)
- 14 October - Housegroups - 1 Peter study number 4
- 21 October - Prayer Fellowship
- 28 October - Prayer Fellowship

### Church Office

Until 14<sup>th</sup> September, the Church Office will be open for phone calls Monday to Thursday (9.30am-5pm) but will be closed every Friday, while Jacqueline is away.

### Temporary Welcome Team members needed

As you will be aware, we are resuming Sunday morning services, in the church building. Some of the people who served on the Welcome Team previously are in the vulnerable category or aren't ready to return yet, so we are looking for volunteers who would be happy to join the team on a temporary basis. At the moment we are just trying to sort out a rota for September and then the situation will be reassessed. If you would be willing to help serve in this way, please get in touch with Debbie Nobes.

### **Church Centre – future planning**

Now we have reopened the church building for services on Sunday, we are starting to think about when we will be able to open the Church Centre again. The Centre will remain closed for now but, if you are the leader of a group which used to meet there, please do let us know any plans you are making for restarting your group in the future. As we will have to carefully manage numbers in the Church Centre once it is open, please do not make any decisions about meeting there without first consulting the Church Office.

### **Tots & Tinies online activities**

While Tots & Tinies are unable to meet together in the Church Centre, Teresa is still trying to keep in touch with all the families who would normally come on Wednesday mornings. Every week she records a Bible story and produces a video with a related craft activity for the children to try. There is also a Tots & Tinies singing time at 11am each Wednesday, live on Facebook. You can find all these on the Tots & Tinies Facebook page. The weekly Bible stories and craft videos can also be found on Teresa's YouTube channel. If you have any friends or family with young children, why not suggest they take a look.

### **Abortion (cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill**

A cross-party group of MPs, including Fiona Bruce, have come together to bring forward this bill which would change the law to clarify that cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK. This would mean that abortions could not occur when these were the primary diagnosed condition – all of which can be corrected after birth. All MPs, regardless of where they stand on the wider issue of abortion, will be invited to get behind and support this sensible law change. If you agree with this bill, please get in touch with your MP and ask them to support it.

### **Church Centre Gift Day**

In past years, we would normally have a Church Centre Gift Day in early summer. Due to the current circumstances, we don't want to have a specific gift day but, if you would like to offer a gift towards paying off the loan for the Church Centre, please do so. For more information on how to do this, please contact the Church Office.

### **Church Giving**

Many people make their gifts to church via standing order, however, those who would normally use envelopes or put their offerings on the plate in church are not able to give in this way at the moment. If that is how you would normally give, please consider setting up a transfer directly to the church's bank account instead. The details are:

Sort code: 05-06-34

Account number: 52275551

Account name: The Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist

### **Snowdon climb for charity – change of date**

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September, Wang (Lowansa) Moore is climbing Snowdon to raise money for Northwich in Need. This is a local charity that has done lots of good work in helping the homeless of Northwich. If you would like to donate something, please speak to Wang or search for her page (Lowansa Moore) on the JustGiving website.

### **Diary – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 2 Samuel 1, 1 Corinthians 12, Ezekiel 10, Psalm 49*

Jacqueline away until Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September

9.30am-5pm Church Office open for phone calls

10am Staff meeting

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 2 Samuel 2, 1 Corinthians 13, Ezekiel 11, Psalm 50*

9.30am-5pm Church Office open for phone calls

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 2 Samuel 3, 1 Corinthians 14, Ezekiel 12, Psalm 51*

9.30am-5pm Church Office open for phone calls

11am Tots & Tinies singing time live on Facebook

8pm 'Virtual' Prayer Fellowship (*Jeremy Hunns*) - email link will be sent early in week

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 2 Samuel 4-5, 1 Corinthians 15, Ezekiel 13, Psalms 52-54*

Teresa's day off

9.30am-5pm Church Office open for phone calls

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 2 Samuel 6, 1 Corinthians 16, Ezekiel 14, Psalm 55*

### ***Church Office closed***

Mike attending Diocesan Finance & Scrutiny Committee (1-4pm)

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 2 Samuel 7, 2 Corinthians 1, Ezekiel 15, Psalms 56-57*

Mike's day off

9.30am St John's Golf Society play at Aldersey Green Golf Club

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September** *Readings: 2 Samuel 8-9, 2 Corinthians 2, Ezekiel 16, Psalms 58-59*

10am All Age service in St John's

8pm Crossover 'virtual meeting' - Bible study

8.30pm After 8s & TFG 'virtual meeting'

*For more details about the daily Bible reading plan, including online readings, please visit our website.*