



# The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

## WEEKLY NEWS and SERVICE SHEET

Trinity 5: 12 July 2020 - Message from the Rector



### Good soil in which to grow...

The Rectory garden is, as you know, at the top of South Avenue, and as a result, can be challenging: the water runs down the hill and doesn't stay up here for very long – so the garden is dry. In addition, someone planted an ornamental ivy up against the fence some years ago, which is massive and has been strangling and

killing off other plants. On top of that weeds do like to grow, even if dry, and as quickly as the Rector removes one lot, another lot appear! What I really need is some good soil – full of nutrients to enable plants to flourish, free from weeds and other invasive plants that choke them. As we hear the parable of the sower (or sometimes called 'the parable of the soils') we can reflect on the good soil which we need in our lives in which to flourish and which helps build the kingdom. The sower in Jesus' story is unlike any farmer I have met – sowing seeds in a completely haphazard manner, hoping that some will reach the 'good soil'. Yet sometimes our efforts in mission and pastoral care are similarly wide and varying. We attempt to sow seeds in our community where for whatever reason there is resistance or we miss in our efforts those who we care for and love due to the distractions of this world – the noises off (those who might criticise for whatever reason) and many other things. During this global pandemic your Rector has worked as hard as he possibly could. As things emerge from lockdown, and the environment is easier, we now have help in the form of Taylor, our new curate, and new possibilities, as we look forward to the election of new PCC members and officers. In this post lockdown period it is my hope that we can move into a place where **all** are loved and cared for, and where, in the words of the parable, we are people 'who hear the word of God and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yield, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.' God bless you all.

**Fr James**

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

- **THE CHURCH Our Ministry Team** James Stewart, Patrick Kerley, Nicole King, Taylor Wilton-Morgan (ordination as deacon: 6 August) **Our Bishops** Graham, Alan and Jonathan **Lulea Link** The Deanery of Norra (Northern) Norbotten in Lulea (our link diocese in Sweden) and its Rural Dean, Juha Rauhala **Anglican Communion** The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, Archbishop Allan Migi
- **THE WORLD All those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic** *All key workers in NHS and all other fields of frontline work particularly our Care and Nursing homes - Broadland View, Larchwood, Dussindale, Mary Chapman*
- **THE COMMUNITY** all in Vane Close, Waller Close, Western Avenue
- **THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYER** including Brian Riseborough, Paul Carter, Mark Little, Monique Rowland, Jennifer Jones, Janet Fancy, Colin Hicks, Glenys Paflin, Audrey Camp, Alan Harrison, Jill Hall, Grace Howes, Peter and Gaynor Garrood, Anne Farthing, Rita Ward, Alison Gibson, Joy and Andy McCall, Dave Whitton, Barrie Mills, Jean High, Orrin Tyrrell
- **THE DEPARTED The recently departed** Len Bennett, Mary Kett, Janice Cooper, Iris Freschini, Marjorie Hawkings, Tom Archer, Joan Howes, Eileen Rennick **Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time (July):** 13<sup>th</sup> Doris Underwood; 16<sup>th</sup> William Licence

## FUNERAL SERVICES IN JULY

- 14 July** Funeral of **Iris Freschini** at Earlham Crematorium
- 16 July** Funeral of **Mary Kett** at the Parish Church with burial in the Thorpe St Andrew Churchyard Extension thereafter. Service is by invitation only, due to COVID-19 precautions.
- 20 July** Funeral of **Marjorie Hawkings** at the Parish Church, preceded by private cremation at Earlham Crematorium. Both services are by invitation only, due to COVID-19 precautions.
- 20 July** Funeral of **Joan Howes** at St Faith's Crematorium
- 28 July** Funeral of **Eileen Rennick** at the Thorpe St Andrew Churchyard extension, Yarmouth Road.

## OTHER NOTICES AND USEFUL INFORMATION

**IN CHURCH SERVICES RETURN** Boris Johnson announced that Places of Worship could reopen for Public Worship from 4 July. The Bishop of Norwich has urged us to take things 'slowly, steadily and safely'. I have received a lot of feedback and comments, which has been taken on board. We have been fortunate so far in that people have enjoyed our online services, which are viewed with admiration from afar. We do not know what the next months will bring and so anything that we do needs to be very provisional, learning from the past, as we plan for the future. The government and church guidelines do not permit singing. Our reopening of the church for private prayer means that we have done a lot of the work in relation to a risk assessment but it is clear that there is more work to do – and more cleaning to be done after public worship. Our toilets will only be open for emergencies, since the guidance suggests they should be cleaned after each use. We are also asked to consider the number of services we have had in the past and reflect on whether they are needed in the future. In benefices where there are more than one church incumbents are invited to consider opening one church initially and seeing how this goes. We are clear that we will keep everything under review and change our plans accordingly. We have been asked to maintain our online presence, which we will do – and since there is no singing in church we will add some services in the evening or at other times (without congregation) where Fr Taylor and I will sing (first one – 19<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm). We are anxious to keep our Café Church going and so our service this Sunday (as already agreed) will be 'Café-style'. We will try two simple Eucharists (without hymns) at the Parish Church and review. We will have a socially distanced Café Church (with no refreshments) on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00am (to enable us to have the streamed service at 9.30am). There will be more details next week and in church. Here is a provisional timetable for July:

12 July at 9.30am	Parish Eucharist, streamed on Facebook only	<b>LIVE</b>
19 July at 9.30am	Parish Eucharist in Parish Church <b>and</b> streamed on Facebook	<b>LIVE</b>
19 July at 6.30pm	Evensong with Hymns, streamed on Facebook only	<b>LIVE</b>
26 July at 9.30am	Parish Eucharist in Parish Church <b>and</b> streamed on Facebook	<b>LIVE</b>
26 July at 11.00am	Café-Style Church in the St Andrew's Centre (no refreshments)	

## **SOME GUIDELINES FOR US AS WE RETURN**

- The service will follow the same pattern as our online services, without the hymns. Organ music will be played before, during and after the service.
- Current guidelines indicate that the wearing of face coverings is voluntary. If you wish to wear one, please bring your own.
- Please ensure that you use the hand sanitisers on entering and leaving the church. Please note that a one way system (clearly defined) is in operation.
- We will continue to issue a weekly notice and service sheet for each week. Please take this away with you.
- The toys in the Children's Corner have been removed under current guidance. Children are of course very welcome.
- Alternate pews are being used and within the pews please ensure we remember to sit 2 metres away from others, unless from the same household or 'support bubble', in which case you may sit together. We are asking that the main aisle is used first and we will only open up the side aisle if capacity requires it. This is to lessen the amount of cleaning required after a service.
- We will not shake hands in the peace. Ensuring social distance we may place our hands together in prayerful form (or in Namaste form) – as a sign of peace.
- There will be no procession of the elements in the offertory.
- Please can you place your much needed offerings and collection on the brass plate, as you come in. The collection bowls will not be passed around during the service. Those who count the collection will be using gloves, where appropriate. There is separate information elsewhere about
- When you come up for communion we will not be using the rails. Please form a queue, ensuring 2 metres distance in order to receive the bread (host). Please fully extend your arms fully to ensure social distance. The celebrant alone will receive the wine on behalf of us all. Please return to your seats using the one-way system down the side aisle (the blockage will be removed to enable this to happen.) The celebrant will use hand sanitiser before the wafers are distributed and the communicants will receive the wafer in their hand. For those requiring a blessing, hands will not laid on the head but extended towards the head.
- We will keep a list of those attending in order to comply with Government guidance which includes a request for names of attendees to be recorded and kept for 21 days in order to assist 'track and trace' if required.
- The church surfaces will be cleaned after each service.

**MORNING PRAYER** This will be said at **8.30am Tuesday to Friday** at the Parish Church – **and you are now welcome to join us.**

**CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER** The Parish Church is open for private prayer to go in and light candles. The church is open as follows:

**Monday** CLOSED **Tuesday to Saturday** 10.00am 'til 4.00pm **Sunday** 11.00am 'til 5.00pm. Please use hand sanitisers and observe social distancing.

**PARKING AT THE BUCK** I am delighted to advise that after consultation with the owners of the Buck they have agreed to turn off the parking meter/camera **EACH SUNDAY from 8.00am to 11.30am**. This has been achieved through patience and prayer. This is available from when we return.

**OPEN AIR PARISH EUCHARIST AND PICNIC – SUNDAY 9 AUGUST AT 10.30AM** I have been considering an open air service in Summer months since I came here, so since the guidelines suggest that things outside are better in relation to infection risk we plan to hold a service in the Parish Church grounds (weather permitting). A bring your own picnic will follow! It will enable a (perhaps) larger number group of people (socially distant) to attend and will enable us to celebrate being back together and Fr Taylor's ordination as Deacon and his and Edwin's arrival among us. **PLEASE RESERVE THE DATE!**

**PARISH LIFE – JULY EDITION** This is out. We can make copies available on return to church but also please contact Chris George or Patience on **01603 701116**, if you need one. They are also in Coop, Thunder Lane and Yarmouth Road Post Offices.

**LEN BENNETT RIP** It was with great sadness that we announced the death of dear Len Bennett last week. Len has been a very faithful servant of the parish for many years. He celebrated 50 years as a Reader in May 2016. He has latterly been residing at St Mary's Care Home, Crostwick. I have spoken to Len's daughter, Trish, and she has agreed that we will hold a service in the Parish Church to remember Len (and his wife Barbara) at a date to fixed. His funeral this week is invitation only (due to Covid-19 restrictions). Please keep Trish and John, Len's children, in your prayers.

**MARJORIE HAWKINGS RIP** I was extremely, notwithstanding COVID-19 precautions, to minister to Marjorie at the very end of her life, just before she passed away on Sunday 28 June. Marjorie was always a very kind and bright member of our congregation and very much part of the community in Thorpe St Andrew. Please do keep Martin and Ian, her sons, in your prayers.

**100 CLUB** This is currently suspended. We will let you know more when we are back. Please bear with us.

**THANK YOU** A huge thank you to helpers (new and old) who came to help with our gardening morning on Saturday 4 July. Next one planned for Saturday 1 August (9.30am to 11.30am).

**PLANT SALE** We were sad to lose our Church Fete from the calendar, and since plants will go out of season we are holding a Plant Sale on Saturday 18 July between 11am and 3pm in the Parish Church grounds. Please bring plants to the porch of the church any time between 10 am on Thursday 16 July and 10 am on Saturday 18 July, in readiness for the sale. This is being coordinated by Margaret Hope and Alistair Stewart. A poster is included with the email version of these notices. Please be in touch with Fr James if you need a paper copy to display. Tell all your friends, that there will be lots of plants available to brighten up our Summer gardens!!

**UPDATE FOR FR TAYLOR** Having licensed Taylor on 27 June, the Bishop of Norwich currently plans to ordain him deacon in Norwich Cathedral at a very small service with limited guests on 6<sup>th</sup> August (Feast of the Transfiguration). Please keep him and Edwin in your prayers. We will have several opportunities to celebrate including our Open Air Service on 9 August.

**CAKE RECIPE CHALLENGE** We are producing a 'Thorpe St Andrew Cake Bakers' Paradise – Recipes from the lockdown' booklet to raise vitally needed funds!! Thank you to all those who have sent these in. Please keep sending these in. **Deadline extended to Sunday 19 July.** This is to enable Parish Life readers a chance to participate. Please post them to the Rectory or email: [rector@thorpeparishchurch.org](mailto:rector@thorpeparishchurch.org)

**FOODBANK** Thank you to all who have continued to keep our Foodbank Collection Point for Thorpe St Andrew going in these difficult times. By doing so we are helping people across our city, some of whom are much less fortunate than ourselves. From next Sunday the Foodbank Collection Box will be on the table where the tea and coffee is normally served. Here is a list of useful things which the Foodbank needs. The items in red are needed most at this time:

Long life milk, Powdered milk, Long life fruit juice, Pasta Sauces – esp. tomato-based (i.e. not curry sauces), Sponge Pudding (tinned/long life), Tinned custard, Tomatoes (Tinned), Tinned Veg – esp. carrots, sweetcorn and green beans, **Tinned potatoes**, Rice Pudding (Tinned), Tea Bags (40s and 80s), Instant coffee, **Instant mash potato**, **Snack bars/breakfast biscuits**, Tinned Meat e.g. ham, chicken in sauce, corned beef, Tinned Fish, Tinned Fruit, Biscuits (sweet), Nappies - especially **size 5 + 6**, Jam, Peanut butter, **Sweets/bars of chocolate**, **Petfood (dog and cat)**, Washing up liquid and sponges, Soap powder/washing gel (small quantities), **Sanitary towels/tampons**, toiletries including **deodorants**, shower gel, **shampoo**, toilet rolls, shaving gel/foam and razors etc.

**AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR, 31 OCTOBER 2020 (11am-3pm)** Subject to restrictions operating at the time this is the replacement for all the stallholders who had booked for our Spring Craft Fair. More details later.

**STUDY GROUP LAUNCH** *'The reason for loving God is God; and the measure of love due to God is immeasurable'*. With these words, St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) begins his celebrated classic, *On Loving God*. It's a short, beautifully clear, and readily accessible text with an extraordinary history. The work enflamed the hearts of mediaeval monks, yet was also one of the most popular books of Protestant Reformation, and it remains deeply illuminating to the modern mind. In a series of talks, our curate, Fr Taylor, will guide us through this fascinating piece of spiritual writing, allowing it to prompt some key questions for our times: 'Why should I love God?', 'How can I experience God's love for me?', 'What connects love of God and neighbour?', and 'How can I love myself?'. We will allow St Bernard to suggest some 'habits of holiness' through which we might grow in spirit and wisdom, and, perhaps most urgently, we'll think a bit about what this suggests for Christians living in a world emerging from a time of pandemic. All are most welcome – especially if you've never heard of St Bernard before! Dates to follow next week. You can contact Fr Taylor to express interest on telephone: 01603 387401 or email: [fr.taylor@outlook.com](mailto:fr.taylor@outlook.com)

**ROAD CLOSURE** The road will be closed from 13 July for eight weeks at the cross roads of St William's Way and Thunder. Entrance to Brenda James Close is not blocked, but Thunder Lane will need to be accessed from the Plumstead Road East end. With thanks to Norfolk County Council.

**SOME WORDS FROM OUR TREASURER** Thank you so much to everyone who has been in touch with me regarding making their Free Will Offering by Standing Order, it is very much appreciated. If you've been thinking about making your donations this way, it's very easy to set up via online or telephone banking - please email me on [treasurersa@gmail.com](mailto:treasurersa@gmail.com) and I will be happy to provide the details you need to give to your bank. You can make a monthly, quarterly or annual payment - whichever is best for you. If you are a registered Gift Aider, rest assured we can claim Gift Aid on your donations just the same as if you had put an envelope in the collection plate, in fact the administration is much easier. If you are not registered for Gift Aid, and you are a UK taxpayer, do please consider this as it means we can re-claim additional funds from the Government at no extra cost to you. It is all so vital for our mission and ministry within our community and especially so in the current situation. Please email me on the above address and I will arrange for a Gift Aid form to be sent to you. Thank you once again to all those who have already made the switch, and I look forward to hearing from you.

**PINK ENVELOPES/GIVING ON RETURNING TO CHURCH** We said at the beginning of the lockdown that we would not worry about pink envelopes during that period and that we would at this point give clear instructions. These are the ways you can help us:

- If you have been continuing to put money in your pink envelopes we will very gratefully receive them. You might put them in a bigger envelope to hold them.
- However, a lot of people have said to us that they would prefer to bring us their collections (accumulated over the period) in one accumulated amount or indeed a cheque. If this can fit in a pink envelope then we suggest you use the one for the 19 July or the first Sunday you return to church.
- We now have a contactless (and push button) card reader. This will be available at the Plant Sale and on Sundays and is available on request.
- You can post a cheque to the Rectory and I will ensure this is passed to the Treasury team.
- We can arrange to call and collect anything you are able to give. We will ring on the doorbell and then stand at distance and the envelope(s) can be placed on the doorstep.
- As Sally says above if you are taxpayer – please do help by signing a Gift Aid declaration. It really does help.
- As said above you can contact Sally and obtain details to go over to standing orders or indeed make individual online payments. For security reasons we are not publishing the bank numbers here but these can be obtained from Sally – [treasurersa@gmail.com](mailto:treasurersa@gmail.com)

Any additional amounts are very gratefully received. Whilst we have done all we can to cut costs our income is down considerably – due to no hall bookings and lack of weddings. The shortfall may be as much as £20,000 and could be more.

**ANYONE FOR AFTER CHURCH COFFEE?!** I would encourage as many as possible to join us for our Zoom After Church Coffee. We have had some very successful ones and it would be good to see you. These take place at 11.00am each Sunday. It would be lovely to see you. Since this newsletter is uploaded on the Parish Life website the zoom invitation is sent out in the weekly email – so that we know who is in the potential invitation list.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Please contact our Rector,

**The Revd James Stewart (Fr James)**

Tel: 01603 439160 or email him at [rector@thorpeparishchurch.org](mailto:rector@thorpeparishchurch.org)