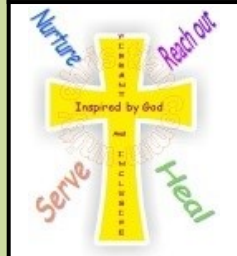


e-Concord

The 'virtual' newsletter of St George's Church, Rugby

† Rejoice and reconnect in the house of the Lord †



For week commencing Sunday 20 September 2020

Although we are now back in church please do keep in mind that this is not a complete return to the normality we remember but rather a 'new normal' featuring a variety of restrictions and special measures aimed at protecting everyone (as previously reported).

We are continuing to 'live stream' our Sunday morning services via Facebook - if you're interested in getting involved with this please see the 'News' section below. As usual, links to these services should be available on our [website](#) and/or [Facebook](#) page.

This weeks services / events:

Sunday 20 September (in church/online)

10:00am: Holy Communion, led by Carol Davies

Readings: Psalm 95: 1-7, 1 Chronicles 16: 8-11 & 34-35, Luke 17: 11-19

Thursday 24 September (in church only)

9:30am: Holy Communion, led by Revd Allan Scrivener

Readings: Ecclesiastes 1: 2-11, Psalm 90: 1-6, Luke 9: 18-22

(Sunday services from previous weeks may also still be available if you missed them - or maybe even just wish to re-watch them.)

News & General Information

Maintenance Morning

On Saturday 19th September we will be having a maintenance morning from 9.30 - 12.30. Geoff and Allan will be hedge cutting, the bungalow garden needs tidying and there is some painting to be done at the front of the bungalow. If anyone can spare some time on that morning, it would be hugely appreciated.

Live Services on Facebook

In order to make sure that we can always 'live-stream' our 10:00am service each Sunday we are looking for a few Facebook users who would be willing to use their 'smart phones' and be on a rota to broadcast this service.

It's very simple to do and uses the church Wi-Fi so won't affect your personal data allowance. Also, it won't identify whose phone is being used as you'll be set up with a role on the church Facebook page.

If you'd be prepared to be involved with this please contact [Phil Hemsley](#), who will arrange to set you up on the system and organise a trial/practice session for you.

Church Opening for Private Prayers

As our own 'regular' Sunday and Thursday morning services have now restarted the previous plans to open the church for private prayer on these days have been suspended.

If there is sufficient demand (and available resources to 'staff' these sessions) the PCC will review this, advising the outcome along with details of any new plans if appropriate. Initially, any interest in such church openings should be registered with the PCC Secretary, [Jenny Liddle](#).

A Service of Thanksgiving for 'Harvest Festival'

Our service of thanksgiving will be held this Sunday at 10am. As usual, there will be a collection in aid of Rugby Foodbank if you are able to make a contribution (non-perishables only though please).



1 Thessalonians 5:18

A vibrant and inclusive Christian community inspired by God to reach out, nurture, heal and serve.

For Prayerful Reflection

Greetings from a sunny Nottinghamshire.

Sue and I have taken an opportunity to return to my roots in Nottinghamshire for a break. As with most holidays one of the things I enjoy doing whilst away is reading, no surprise there then! The real test is limiting the library I tend to pack. As we tow a caravan weight is a real issue, and Sue reminds me that there is only so much time to read amidst the other things that we like to do. So this time I was limited to two books, *Dunston Wood and the Barbarian Way*, kindly supplied by Phil. But rather sneakily we managed a visit to the Oxfam bookshop in Belper, where for the extortionate price of 95p I stumbled on *'Creating Rituals'*, by Jim Clarke, not of the motor racing's fame, but a Christian Priest. It has proved to be a real gem with some challenging ideas for reflection.

He asks what is the role of rituals in a post modern society, and have we lost something in their demise or should we cease the opportunity to recreate, renew and reinvigorate them today? Illustrating his argument with examples from his own ministry he vividly challenges any sense of dumbing down and instead argues for a more liberal and creative approach. How do we as a species communicate the significance of important moments in life or of remembrance. How can we build confidence and integrity into life's journey for ourselves and our children?

He suggests that rituals in all their forms have something to offer.

'Rituals can change our lives, they can shift our focus, they can launch us forward into the future, they can connect us to the earth, to one another, to God himself, because they capitalise on the imagination and the mystery of creation. When we are feeling out of control, rituals can contain the chaos and actively direct the situation towards a resolution.'

This is a big ask, and he goes further. It is not the sole prerogative of a professional body of ritual masters, our priests, but of all people. Rituals can be religious in nature and outcome but they should also cover all aspects of human experience and understanding, they are as essential to us as REM sleep if we are to live healthy and productive lives.

So what is it about rituals that helps this process?

Throughout our lives we are in transitional living, coping with new experiences and events. Each has importance in shaping the kind of person we may be or become, sometimes it's a minimal impact at other times it's massive and significant. Clarke argues that in our post-modernist age, where we have ditched ritual in any meaningful sense, we have paid the price of not having appropriate mechanisms to cope with change or to educate for liminal living. Rituals are meant to be meaningful to each individual person, one size does not fit all, but they provide the lubricant to accommodate change. Where the past and the future butt up to each other in a hard way we find dissonance, tension, a sense of being out of our depth, perhaps even if losing our way and our mind. Ritual provides an environment where the past can be redeemed and/or celebrated whilst the future, even unwritten, can be

acknowledged and embraced without fear and anxiety. It is an oil that acts as a balm in both directions simultaneously. It liberates the participant to reflect and to dream. To examine past successes and failures whilst finding hopeful expression for the future. In effect good ritual blends the past and the future in a period of time where time itself does not count. The participant is 'outside' the strictures of time, they can fly, there are no limits, all things are possible. In that timeless space they become empowered to 'be' nothing less. Now if this is all true Christians should find this as a truth expressed within the cycle of our ritual worship.

As many of you know I have worked my entire ministry as a priest within the high church wing of the church, we love our rituals! Yet this is not just about the vestments, colours, cycles of the churches year or even the manual actions of certain ceremonies. That is all superficial gloss that empowers the participants to go deeper, if it's working well. Within our celebration of the life of Jesus we are all invited to join the temporal with the eternal. How many of us think of our church buildings as portals to heaven? I guess we tend to view them as assembly places, or at times even a mill stone around our necks. Only if we come to the arena with the expectation of meeting the risen Lord can we transcend the temporal. This is why sometimes holy communion outside the building also seems to work, it is not dependent on any specific space. The key understanding here I believe is that actually God, in the person of Jesus, wants to meet with us and that can be achieved in the mystical flux which we call ritual. Ritual at its best is liberating, it reinforces the encounter with our Lord and strengthens us for the tempests of the world around us. So we can't fix ritual actions and content exactly or even be certain that if we do it the same every time we meet the outcome will be the same. Because the participants need to bring their 'whole self' to bear, what appears to be outwardly the same is in fact far from it. That bit of you that you leave at home with the washing up when you come to worship, is in fact vital to the whole.

Ritual works because it joins words, symbols, actions and the reality of daily living with the conscious recollection of the life of the Messiah, in one fluent expression of our inner most interior desires. It serves to crystallise the message, bringing it alive in a more profound way, in the heart and soul of the participant. Together, within the ritual, those symbols, words, actions and life, strengthen and deepen the memory of all that is expressed. To enter into and to live such a symbolic and imaginable life is to live a genuinely Christian life.

Clark's book is not difficult reading and is littered with practical examples from his experience that helps one to enter into what he suggests. Each chapter ends with questions to be faced by us as individuals and as a parish. I commend it to your thoughts.

Every blessing.

Allan

"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. " 2 Corinthians 5: 1 (NIV)

For Your Prayers

Those who are unwell / are struggling:

Robert Poulton	Pat Moss
Chris Keightley	Michael Aldous
Rosemary Foster	Mary Hawkesley
Mary Slade	Steve Pentlow
Brenda Flack	Mary Denno
Jill Stephens	Roy Evans
Mary Gray	Rev Richard Kirton (recovering from surgery)

From our Book of Remembrance:

September	12th Ellen Lane
7th Marjory Price	13th Irene Minor
9th Thomas Gibbs	14th Andrew Martin
10th Philip Stephens	Minnie Arnold
11th Peggy Cooper	Alan Maycock
Lilian Goodchild	15th Kenneth Armstrong
Bruce Goodall	19th Edith Martha
Walter Hall	Cheshire

There's always hope...

If you're ever feeling cut-off from church for any reason please don't forget about the free "Daily Hope" telephone service set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

When you call you'll be presented with a number of options, including pressing 'star' (*) to hear the day's full message or 'one' (1) to hear the daily hymn, which includes a prayer and a short reflection and lasts about twenty minutes in total.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

As the rain hides the stars,
as the autumn mist hides the hills,
as the clouds veil the blue of the sky,
so the dark happenings of my lot
hide the shining of your face from me.

Yes, if I may hold your hand in the darkness,
it is enough, since I know that,
though I may stumble in my going, you do not fall.

(Gaelic Prayer translated by Alistair MacLean)

Most gracious Father, this is our home;
Let your peace rest upon it.
Let love abide here,
*love of one another,
love of mankind,
love of life itself,
and love of God.*

Let us remember that as many hands build a house,
so many hearts make a home.

(Hugh Blackburne)

Reaching Out

Prayer Requests

If there is someone or something that you would like us to pray for - for any reason - please do call or text us on **07393 034515**, giving as much or as little detail as you wish. All information will be treated as strictly confidential and will be deleted, along with the phone number it is received from, within 24 hours.

Pastoral Care

If you have a more practical need, or would simply like to be able to speak to someone in more depth, please feel free to call one of our pastoral team - see the back page for details. Whilst it may still be difficult to arrange visits in person (due to the ongoing 'social distancing' guidelines) we will, nevertheless, endeavour to do anything we can to support you and, hopefully, make life a little more bearable.

Contact Information

Vicar:

Position currently vacant

For Pastoral Matters:

Carol Davies 544630
Rev. Allan Scrivener 07961-317890
(preferred contact via text)

Readers:

Carol Davies 544630

Baptism Enquiries:

Carol Davies 544630

Wardens:

Walter Goodman 567133
Russell Finch 550968

Parish Office (inc Hall & Church Bookings):

Jenny Liddle 551453
07838-663062

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Web: www.stgeorgesrugby.org.uk email: office@stgeorgesrugby.org.uk
