



**Welcome to the newsletter of
St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham
“To know God and to make God known”
28th June 2020**



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Website: slfchurch.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintells/

3rd Sunday after Trinity Readings: Genesis 22:1-14 Romans 12:6-end Matthew 10:40-end

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on this Sunday’s Gospel reading and its overwhelming theme of welcome – I wonder how this will now play out in our Church?

Jesus reminds us that whoever welcomes the disciples (and us) welcomes him.

A disciple’s character, actions and words are to be such that they (and we) can be identified as belonging to Jesus. I feel very strongly that the welcome we offer in church is so important – first impressions matter and make all the difference to people feeling comfortable in what could be an alien environment for them.

We may often hug people, shake hands, offer a hand in comfort as a sign of welcome – but none of these are possible due to the situation we face right now.

So as we begin to open our doors once again – how will that feel? Amidst all the guidelines and instructions, signs and tape, social distancing and face-covering there needs to be a real welcome – and a feeling that despite coronavirus, this is the house of God – our Church – St Laurence’s.

For the time being Church will look different from last time you entered – and this is where we are up to:

We have moved things around so that there is plenty of space between the chairs to make Private Prayer as safe as we can. We can hold 30 people safely.

We have hand sanitisers arriving this weekend and signs are being laminated, so the building is just about ready.

The next stage is to have a group of volunteers to act as stewards and help at the times we will be open. If you are not in the vulnerable category and feel you could help in any way, please contact Rev Elaine on revelaine@nym.hush.com.

We will hold a training session for these “Welcome Volunteers” at some point over the weekend of 4th/5th July – with the hope that we will begin the process of re-opening on a limited basis during the following week. As I have said previously – the safety and well-being of you all is paramount and we must be patient.

I am still awaiting the CofE’s response to the Government’s announcement this week that there will be further easing of the restrictions relating to public worship and wedding ceremonies.

I wonder if anyone has really thought about the practicalities!

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally says, “We will not be returning to normality overnight – this is the next step on a journey.....It is important to say that the change in Government advice is permissive, not prescriptive. There will be restrictions and we must all still do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus to protect each other, especially the most vulnerable.....The challenge before us now is to take the next steps carefully and safely”.

I believe we are doing just that.

So, watch this space – there will be more information next week and details of when church will be open for private prayer.

In the meantime, let’s all think about our welcome of others whether in church or elsewhere and maybe use this acrostic prayer to help:

WELCOME.....

We ask, Jesus, that you show us how to welcome. *That...*

Everyone is accepted. *That we...*

Love all whom we meet. *That we know we are...*

Called in your name! *We know that...*

Our names are important to you. *Help us to...*

Meet people with open hearts and minds. *That we are able to see that all are...*

Equal in your eyes. **Amen.**

With love and blessings,

Elaine

Join us for
worship each
Sunday
morning.
Familiar voices
and sounds.
Go to our
website and
click the link.

NOTICES

If you would have concerns, need help or would like to talk to someone contact revelaine@nym.hush.com or ring her at the Vicarage.

Funeral of Catherine Mary Davies 25th June at 12.20 at Walton Lea.

Daily Hope, a free national phone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. **0800 804 8044**

New Leaf, run by CWAC, offer support and advice around skills and money. 0151 356 6771.

Open Hands, a local coordinated community response network to Covid-19 run jointly by Churches Together in Frodsham, Frodsham Town Council and Cheshire West and Chester. 01928 480125 covid19frodsham@gmail.com

Food Bank Although church is closed donations can be made at Morrison's, Sainsbury's and Tesco. Current needs are shower gel, deodorant and toothbrushes. Please note that they can only use food that is in date. Information about getting vouchers, donating etc. available on the website. Runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Many people will now find it difficult to make their usual weekly contributions to the church. If you would like to contribute directly. our Bank Account details are as follows:

ST LAURENCE FRODSHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL Sort Code: 09-01-55 Account No: 42559803.

The work of our church during this difficult time is reliant on people's generosity, a generosity that is a hallmark of a lived-out faith and a testament to it. If you are able to give more at this time, please go to our online donations page <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/371c0c8f-ea13-4763-9688-e0de77dd8475>

Please let Kath know any information for the website to keep it up-to-date and relevant, particularly at this time.

Contributions for the Newsletter should be emailed to saintells@gmail.com by midday on Thursday.

More lockdown thoughts from Beryl Some of you will know that as far as gadgets are concerned, I am still very much in the 20th Century. No computer and a basic mobile phone for emergencies—although some family and friends will insist on texting me. On those occasions I simply pick up the phone and give my reply or comments in person!! I cannot take photographs, video meet, tweet, poke or whatever. No emails, zooms or twerks. Sounds ideal to me. However, it does seem to have a language of its own and nothing like the O Level I achieved some 56 years ago! RU, 4U etc replace parts of a sentence. It was about 2 years into my mobile phone ownership when I discovered that LOL was not the loving endearment I thought it was, but rather Laugh Out Loud. Who knew? There are, of course, acronyms, abbreviations and short cuts in the ongoing written word. In the newsletter of 10th May I read with interest the introduction of our new vicar, Rev Elaine, penned in her own hand. She mentioned Phil and how he would be able to support her in her ministry. PTO. So I did. I scanned the first page I had already read but could not find anything relating to either Elaine or Phil. Oh well—back to the introduction and to where I had left off. Bishop's Permission to Officiate (PTO) - then the penny dropped! Never mind—what a boring world it would be if everything was straightforward. At least in my world I know there will always be a little humour. More to follow. Stay safe. Beryl x *(typed up with a glad heart and humour by a 21st Century friend! We have our uses.....)*

With the lovely weather we have been having, it's great to see everyone's gardens in full bloom with colourful flower beds, hanging baskets and pots. We would love to see amazing photos of all of your hardwork 🌱

If you would like to enter our fabulous competition, we have a prize of £100 National Garden Centre vouchers which will be awarded to the winner in each of the following categories:

- * Children's category for children aged 14 and under
- * Most unique planting container
- * Pot or hanging basket
- * Alternative garden space

To enter, please email a photo of your entry and which category to kelly@sticknstep.org and to make your £5 entry fee, Text BLOOMING to 70460

Winners will be chosen via a raffle ticket draw, deadline for all entries is Friday 7th August with winners to be announced on Monday 10th August. B&M Waste Services are kindly sponsoring our competition.

**Around the parish prayers continue to be said each day
on behalf of the congregation and the parish of Frodsham.**

Please email prayer requests to saintells@gmail.com

Pray for

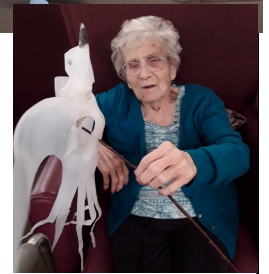
Those who are sick

Those who have died

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time



Lizzie shared the photos of the MHA Chapelfields Bible In Action Fellowship Group. It's an opportunity to worship together and do an informal Bible study – doing some actions to help us remember the words and discussing it together... and of course singing lots of hymns along the way! This week we looked at Psalm 48 and thought about how God is our protection in times of trouble. "Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. As we have heard, now we have seen – God makes us secure forever."



Also a photo of Alwyn holding the dove that has found its way down to Chapelfields.

Chester Cathedral has recently published a book, *Walking With God*, where a number of people, including our own Elaine Graham, were asked to choose a Bible passage and explain its significance in their personal or working lives. One entry is being shared on our newsletter each week and on our Facebook page each Wednesday. If you have a verse that has helped you in life, why not share it. I'm sure other's would find it interesting and inspiring to read.

Linda Banahan

Member, Chester Branch Guild of Health and St Raphael

Chosen reference: Psalms 46 Verse 10 and Psalms 37 Verse 1

Be Still and Know that I am God.

Do Not Fret

Do Not Be Afraid

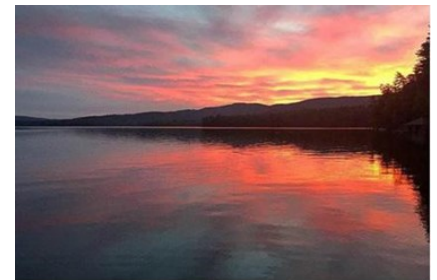
How this verse has helped me in my life:

With joy I looked forward to retirement and volunteering where I could help support others so was not expecting to suffer illnesses with increasing experience of mental and spiritual pressures. Just this past year, I experienced hand surgery; bereavements, hospitalisation of close family and friends, and an elderly family member diagnosed with cancer.

I fell into the depths of despair where no usual support structures worked and spiritual foundations on which I'd built my life no longer sustained me. I came to the low point where I was not coping and felt on the verge of breakdown.

Then someone suggested I needed to ask people to specifically pray for me so I quietly approached several spiritually mature, experienced and trusted friends and am extremely grateful for their upholding me in such a way. I also asked for prayer from Guild members and found caring support amongst them too.

So.... I Know He IS God and I am endeavouring to learn how to be still and not to fret, be anxious or afraid. A life time's learning I'm certain! Maybe it's when you are at your most vulnerable you begin to learn, He IS God.



A Happy True Story With A Sad Ending from Steph

In March 2016 I posted the words and photo below on the St Laurence Facebook page. It has been circulating ever since reaching many different people.

Last year a man called David 'liked' the post. He had an unusual surname - the name of my Godfather who I don't remember. And so I did a bit of Facebook stalking(!) and discovered that David was about the same age as my parents and lived near Warrington. I sent David a message via Facebook saying 'I think you may be my Godfather - within minutes my phone rang. "I am your Godfather, Steph. Thank you for finding me". We chatted for a while and there were tears of sadness when he learned my dad had died and happiness at being in contact after 62 years.

We continued to chat on the phone every few weeks and arranged to meet up after Christmas. However, as happens, circumstances meant we kept delaying our meeting - my mum became very ill and David was not in good health.

In February I realised we hadn't spoken for a while and left a message for David asking if he was ok and updating him on my mum. This happened a few times and he didn't reply. Then, a few weeks ago, a lady called Jenny contacted me to say that David was her grandfather and that he had died. The family had heard all about me and asked me to go to David's funeral.

How wonderful to find each other after so many years; how sad that we didn't meet; how grateful I am for those phone calls and being invited to say a final goodbye.

The Train

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum. Some, however, will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey.



A lockdown story from Heather

You will probably not be surprised that I have been spending some (well, quite a lot!) of my time following up local history enquiries. This one came from a graveyard query from New Zealand asking whether we had earlier Maddock family graves than that of Wriggan Maddock who died in 1755. The enquirers kindly shared their family history with me, including the story of Wriggan Maddock's great, great grandson Thomas, who emigrated to New Zealand as one of the first settlers. Thomas was born in 1812 at Newton (Kingsley). His family were agricultural workers and times were hard after the Napoleonic Wars so he left home, travelled to look for work. In January 1842 Thomas, his wife Ann and baby son, also Thomas, sailed from Southampton bound for a new life in New Zealand. On the voyage a second baby was born. When they landed at Nelson on South Island in August 1842, the baby (who sadly died a few weeks later), was baptised by none other than Bishop Selwyn. Selwyn had recently arrived in New Zealand with his Chaplain, Revd William Charles Cotton, later to become Vicar of a Frodsham! Thomas became the manager of a large sheep station, and wrote wonderful letters to his family in Kingsley. He never returned home and died in Blenheim in 1887. The letters were eventually found in the attic of a house in Kingsley and returned to the family in New Zealand. They have shared them with us and the story has come full circle. You couldn't make it up!

Sometimes I just want it to stop. Talk of Covid, protests, looting, brutality. I lose my way. Become convinced that this "new normal" is real life.

But, then I meet an 87 year old who talks of living through Polio, diphtheria, Vietnam, protests and yet is still enchanted with life. He seemed surprised when I said that 2020 must be especially challenging for him. "No", he said slowly looking me straight in the eyes, "I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines, I see the world through the people that surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big. Therefore, I just choose to write my own headlines. "Husband loves wife today. " "Family drops everything to come to Grandmas bedside." He patted my hand "Old man, makes new friend". His words collide with my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with a renewed spirit. My headline now reads "woman overwhelmed by the spirit of kindness and the reminder that our Capacity to love is never ending"

Spring in Lockdown

I am sure that we can all agree that this spring has been like no other in so many ways.

The weeks of total Lockdown have been very challenging for so many people, but especially for those who have not had the privilege of having a garden or easy access to green spaces.

My husband, Brian, and I consider ourselves extremely fortunate in having a garden where we can be active, grow beautiful flowers and vegetables, shrubs and trees, and by so doing create a peaceful haven to share normally with family and friends, but always with wildlife.

As the daily Briefings brought home the severity and tragedy of this worldwide pandemic, we were experiencing the most beautiful spring. Nature was carrying on as normal, although for all mankind life was far from normal. The flow of life and growth helped us to feel more grounded in this strange new world we found ourselves in. With virtually no vehicular or air traffic noise, the bird song could be fully appreciated and at times seemed so loud. Brian and I experienced the Dawn Chorus in its full glory in May by going into the garden at 4.30am; a positive memory of this time.

Everyone is aware that there is now a "new normal" and we must find our way of managing the risks that will be with us most likely

for a long time yet. We can think of numerous references to gardens and gardeners in Shakespeare and poetry, in particular Rudyard Kipling's "The glory of the garden", and of course in the Old and New Testament.

Perhaps the following words from Ecclesiastes can be a comfort at this time.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

Catherine A Tweedie

JUNIOR CHURCH THIS WEEK

The story this week encourages us to welcome everyone as we would welcome Jesus himself. As usual the resources from Roots include a re-telling of the story and more information, a colouring sheet and activity sheet for young people and a reflection sheet for adults.

Children and young people www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome28jun

Adults www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome28jun

The lessons, activity sheets and colouring pages can be downloaded from the links given above or our church Facebook page.

Links you may find useful

A simple reflection to use at home on the day of a funeral you can't attend

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/Funerals%20liturgy%20at%20home%20public.pdf>

There will be Church of England service again at 9am on Sunday (although you can watch it at any time).

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

<https://slfchurch.org>

Please find attached the reflection, this week from Rev Elaine, that will be spoken in Sunday's worship. Also attached is the prayer calendar for July.

A reminder that this newsletter belongs to us all and during current times is a lovely way of sharing what's happening in our day to day lives. It would be lovely to receive something from **you!**

Remember that wherever you are and however you're currently feeling, we are here for you, a phone call or an email away.

The Lord be with you!