

St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham

Newsletter for week commencing Sunday 25th October 2020 – Last after Trinity, Year A

“To know God and to make God known”

Vicar: Rev Elaine Atack – revelaine@nym.hush.com

Website: slfchurch.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintells/

This week

Sunday 25 th	2.00	British Summer Time ends - clocks go back.
Last after Trinity	8.00	Eucharist - spoken. Please book (see below)
	10.00	Eucharist - with music. Please book (see below)
Monday	10.00-16.00	Church open for private prayer – please wear a face mask
Tuesday	10.00-16.00	Church open for private prayer – please wear a face mask
Wednesday	10.00-16.00	Church open for private prayer – please wear a face mask
Thursday	10.00-16.00	Church open for private prayer – please wear a face mask
Friday		Church closed
Saturday		Church closed
Sunday 1 st Nov	8.00	Eucharist - spoken. Please book (see below)
All Saints Day	10.00	Eucharist - with music. Please book (see below)

Also, please join us for our online service each Sunday – and hear familiar voices. The link currently is: <https://slfchurch.org/trinity-17-on> and is also displayed on our website and Facebook page

We continue to follow Church of England guidelines closely, accepting that there will be restrictions in place for quite some time to come. Current advice is that face coverings **must** be used in church. As you probably all know by now, seating in church has been re-arranged to comply with social distancing requirements, reducing numbers who can attend. To help us to manage this, please contact Betty Rutter: bets66@btinternet.com or phone her after 10am if you would like to reserve a place at one of next week’s Sunday services. (Please do so by Friday evening at the latest).

Many thanks for your continued prayers, patience and support at this unpredictable time.

Letter

Dear Friends,

As I reflect upon the fact that October is drawing to a close and the clocks go back this week – hours of daylight will get shorter – I find myself reminded of the words of the chorus in T.S. Eliot’s play “Murder in the Cathedral”:

“Golden October declines into sombre November and the apples are gathered and stored..... And yet we go on living, living and partly living.”

As this pandemic continues to run riot and even more restrictions are imposed, our daily lives are distorted by social distancing and face-masks, with no sign of a return to normality anytime soon – it can feel as though we are only “partly living”.

Maybe we will have to re-imagine what “living” is going to be, at least for the near future.

Shakespeare tells us that “all the world’s a stage,” where we are, “all players” who “strut and fret their hour upon the stage and then are heard no more.”



What we do with our time on this stage is our choice. Although the present situation seems to be encouraging us to remain “backstage”, maybe we can use this time to reflect on our lives and focus on what we CAN do rather than what we can’t.

How often have we said to ourselves, “I wish I could...learn something new/different... have the courage to venture into the unknown.” Even though so many things are not possible right now, we can still dare to proclaim our faith and rejoice in it.

How do we know what else life holds for us unless we have the courage to keep knocking on God’s door, to keep pushing back the boundaries – “living” rather than “partly living.”

As we enter our season of remembering: those we have loved but no longer see, the saints whose lives illumine our faith, and those who gave up their lives for us – let us be shaped by their influence in our lives and enable them to live on in us – to be part of who we are and what we do, in the name of Christ: to focus on “living” rather than “partly living”.

With love and blessings, Elaine 😊

Prayers

Our prayers for those who are sick: If you know of anyone whom you feel needs our prayers – please ask permission from them or their family and then pass their name to Rev Elaine: revelaine@nym.hush.com

Please pray for -

Those who are sick

For those who have died

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time

Notices

THE FEAST OF ALL SOULS: THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.’

“The believer's pilgrimage of faith is lived out with the mutual support of all the people of God.

In Christ all the faithful, both living and departed, are bound together in a communion of prayer.”

Since its foundation, Christians have recognised that the church - the assembled people of God - is at its most perfect when it recognizes its unity in God's redeeming love with all who have said, who say now, and who will say in the fullness of time, "Jesus is Lord".



Because of the present circumstances we cannot hold our All Souls service as usual. We are instead sending out "Forget-me-not" cards which will be sent with the newsletters next week:

- To print yourselves if you receive the newsletter electronically
- Or a hard copy with newsletters delivered to your door.

Please write the name(s) of anyone departed you wish to pray for.

At 7.00pm on All Souls Day, 2nd November: Reverend Elaine and some of the Ministry team will meet in church to offer prayers for the faithful departed.

We ask you to join us **AT HOME** at 7.00pm by lighting a candle and praying the prayer (on the card) for your loved ones, as a sign of solidarity.

As the names are read out in church, please listen out for the single church bell being tolled.

If you would like the name of a loved one read out in church - please contact Rev Elaine.

(Please note that those whose funerals have taken place at St Laurence since last November will automatically be read out)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (NOV 8TH) AND REMEMBRANCE DAY (ARMISTICE DAY) NOV 11TH



Until 2019, lots of things traditionally happened here in Frodsham to commemorate Remembrance. But in 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has changed all that.

Here's what will be happening this year:

Armistice Day – November 11th

The town event which is usually held on the hill at 11am cannot take place this year.

Instead, Rev Elaine and Rev Andrew Emison have prepared an Act of Remembrance which includes other church ministers, the Town Council, our schools and members of the community.

This will be pre-recorded and will include the reading of all the names, the two minutes silence etc. It will be available to watch on the day on our various websites, Facebook pages and YouTube.

Remembrance Sunday – November 8th

Due to restricted “safe seating” in St Laurence Church we are unable to invite the usual organisations to attend. The service at 10am will be dedicated to Remembrance but will not include the reading of the names etc.

Covid-19 restrictions mean that booking is essential for all our services – please do not just turn up on the day. If you would like to reserve a place please email Betty Rutter: bets66@btinternet.com or phone after 10am (Mon to Fri).

Laying of wreaths:

Any organisation wishing to lay a wreath at the War memorial in St Laurence churchyard is invited to do so **after 12 noon on November 8th**. Please comply with current social distancing rules.

“Lest we forget - Poppy Prayer at home”

At 11am on Remembrance Sunday or Armistice Day please join with us from your own homes to remember those who died in war, using the following prayer:

Look at your poppy or hold it in the palm of your hand:

Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers: give thanks to God for the lives of those who have died in war, remembering the joy they brought to families and friends, and all the good things they did for their home and country.

Then look at the red petals:

Red reminds us of danger and harm. Ask God to be close to those who still face danger each day, to give courage to the armed forces, and compassion to all who help others.

Place your whole hand over your poppy:

Poppies are fragile and need to be handled gently. God cares for those who are hurting and those who are sad. Ask God to comfort all who are grieving the loss of someone they love.

Finally place a finger on the centre of the poppy:

Ask God to help you play your part in working for peace in the world. Amen.



NEWS FROM THE APCM (ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING)

The meeting agreed unanimously to rescind the 6-year rule (as a one-off) in order for Betty Rutter to continue as Warden until the next APCM. This is a positive move given the present circumstances – allowing for continuity, and more time for Rev Elaine to get to know people.

Betty Rutter and Joanna Ayliffe will therefore continue as church wardens and we thank them for all their hard work on our behalf. Elaine Graham has agreed to become Sub-Warden, to help out as part of a “warden’s team”; again a decision which was agreed unanimously.

Joanna Ayliffe and Elaine Graham are happy to continue as Deanery Synod representatives.

Heather Powling and Kath Williamson were due to stand down from the PCC and thanks for their participation were given. Many thanks to Kath Williamson who is now producing the newsletter and helping with other administrative tasks.

SUE CAMERON

Tom here. After the wonderful and constant prayers and support from so many at St Ls during my Mum's decline of health, I thought I'd just bring everyone up to speed with where we are. Mum's health has been gradually getting worse over the past 3 years or so, manifesting in symptoms very similar to dementia, as well as a general lack of mobility and her now being dependent on multiple daily carer visits. She is still very much herself, and when St Ls is mentioned she reminisces fondly and always sends her love back to all here. Following a series of CT and MRI scans it's been discovered that she has a serious neurological condition that is responsible for her symptoms. It is, thankfully treatable, although apparently very often misdiagnosed as early-onset Alzheimer's. She is going into Stoke University Hospital for brain surgery on Thursday 29th, and the consultants are hopeful that this may lead to a reduction or reversal of her symptoms. She is very keen to get something done about it, even given the risks of surgery, so I am hopeful that this is the right path forward for her. Thank you to all who have sent their love and best wishes to her, and I hope you will keep her in your prayers in the weeks to come. Many thanks.

BOTH BERYL AND RUSS NOW HAVE PRESERVES FOR YOU TO BUY Proceeds, as always, to St Laurence Church. Please contact Beryl directly regarding purchases for jams and chutneys and to arrange collection on weekdays. Please email saintells@gmail.com if you don't have her telephone number. "Russ' Garden Chutney" is from

his own, and an excellent Frodsham garden! Russ's email is russnaylor@ntlworld.com or 07730 137917 for collection on Sunday at church.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY Please bring your collection boxes back to be emptied if you can; alternatively I will arrange to pick them up. Many thanks, Pauline

OVER 70'S CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS The Town Council is again offering Christmas Gift Vouchers to residents of the town who will be aged 70 or over on 31 January 2021. The vouchers can be spent in a range of our local independent shops or donated to local good causes. If you wish, you can donate the voucher to St Laurence Church, as in previous years. The online application form can be found at <https://frodsham.gov.uk/gift-voucher-application/> Please fill it in and click the Send button by 6th November. Paper forms are available in the front porch at Castle Park House, in Frodsham Post Offices and selected locations in the Town, or can be downloaded and printed from <https://slfchurch.org/files>

FOODBANK Donations can be made at Morrison's, Sainsbury's and Tesco and also to Frodsham distribution centre at Guide HQ, Ship Street between 1 and 3 pm on Fridays (excluding Bank Holidays). Current needs are biscuits, tinned fruit and long-life fruit juice. To find out about obtaining a voucher, opening times of distribution centres or how to donate financially through the online donation page, please visit the website - runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk

DONATIONS TO CHURCH 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. Alternatively, you can use our online donations page <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/371c0c8f-ea13-4763-9688-e0de77dd8475>
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. Thank you.

Contributions for the Newsletter should be emailed to saintells@gmail.com by 7pm on Wednesday. Thank you