

Newsletter of St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham
For week commencing Sunday 2nd May 2021 – Easter 5, Year B

“To know God and to make God known”

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

Website: <https://slfchurch.org/> Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintells/

This Week

May 2nd Easter 5	10.00	Holy Communion – please book (see below)	Acts 8. 26-40 John 15. 1-8
Monday		Church closed	
Tuesday	10.00-15.00	Church open for private prayer	
Wednesday	10.00-15.00	Church open for private prayer	
Thursday - Saturday		Church closed	
May 9th Easter 6	10.00	Holy Communion – please book (see below) Christian Aid Theme (Christian Aid week begins)	

Weekly Notice from Rev Elaine

PRAYER WALL: You might like to write a prayer and light a virtual candle on our Prayer Wall which you will find on our website: <https://slfchurch.org/prayerwall> If you would like to do this but are unable to access the website, then please either phone me or write it down and post it to me at the Vicarage and it will be added for you. Remember that we can pray anywhere and that God is with us wherever we are.

SERVICES WILL CONTINUE ONLINE AND CD AS AT PRESENT. Please contact Rev Elaine or Andrew and Wendy Rudd if you, or anyone you know would like to receive our weekly service on a CD. The current website link is: <https://slfchurch.org/easter-and-easter-season>

SERVICES IN CHURCH: there will be a service of Holy Communion at 10am each Sunday as we ease out of Lockdown. We will continue to follow Government and Church of England guidelines as we are not “out of the woods” yet. Face masks must be used in Church. Also, as you are aware seating in church has been re-arranged to comply with social distancing requirements, reducing numbers who can attend.

To help us manage this – please contact Betty Rutter: bets66@btinternet.com or 01928 732756 after 10am Monday – Friday. If you would like to book a place please do so by Friday evenings

APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting as it is officially known – but often referred to as the AGM)

This will be held on 18th May at 7pm in Church. In order to prepare for this and comply with the regulations, please see below:

Electoral Roll: This has now been revised and is displayed on our Notice board in the porch at church. Thank you to all who have advised us of changes.

PCC: There are a few people due to stand down this time and there will therefore be some vacancies.

P.C.C. Nominees must:

- be at least sixteen years of age;
- be actual communicants;
- be on the Electoral Roll of this Parish for at least six months;
- signify their consent to serve, prior to nomination.
- complete the Basic awareness level Safeguarding Training provided by the Diocese as soon as practical following nomination.

N.B. - Proposers and seconders must be on the Electoral Roll of this Parish

PCC members are:

- The support team who work in collaboration with the Incumbent and church wardens;
- Committed Christians in the Anglican tradition;
- Able to express ideas – but also...
- ...Willing to learn;
- Willing to get on with the job;
- Ready to pray for their Incumbent and each other;

- Called to share in the work of extending God's Kingdom by building up the life and work of the local church...
...send us out in the power of the Spirit, to live and work to God's praise and glory + go in peace, to Love and serve the Lord.

Churchwarden: As Betty is due to stand down this time there will be a vacancy for the role of Churchwarden if any of you feel you are being called into this position.

Please contact me if you have a genuine interest and feel you would like to discuss this further. In the meantime you may find the following useful reading.

Here is an extract description given by the Church of England for churchwardens:

- "The roles and responsibilities of a churchwarden are wide and varied: as befitting an office that dates back to the 13th century, and churchwarden's duties vary considerably according to local custom, tradition and the needs of parishes.
- Churchwardens are officers of the bishop: and their loyalty is to him, whilst at the same time remembering that they are chosen by the people of the parish, so their responsibility is to the parish as a whole, not just to the church congregation.
- A churchwarden offers lay leadership in the parish: keeping the Bishop and Archdeacon informed about the life of the parish; welcoming visiting clergy; working collaboratively with clergy and laity; exercising pastoral care of the clergy, especially the incumbent; leading and enabling others and helping others develop their gifts and offer their ministries.....

Churchwardens legal responsibilities are:

- to maintain the fabric and content of the church;
- to keep the inventory and terrier up to date and in a safe place;
- to attend visitations (meetings with an Archdeacon!);
- to keep up to date with relevant legislation and inform others as appropriate;
- to ensure the smooth running of services;
- to ensure that the PCC meets its financial obligations.....

Churchwardens legal responsibilities with the PCC are:

- to exercise leadership in relation to the mission of the church;
- to work together with all other members in leading the church forward in prayer, worship and pastoral care;
- to ensure buildings are taken care of and legalities are met e.g., faculties (church planning permission);
- to support the incumbent in the administration of the parish;
- to ensure expenses of ministry are adequately met.

It's quite a responsibility being a warden; doing much work quietly behind the scenes, as well as being present at key services and public events.

The role of Churchwarden has evolved through the centuries – you may be interested, even amused, to read about how it used to be back in 1772!!!:

'The Complete Parish Officer 1772' outlined the role of Church Warden as follows:

1. They are not to permit any to stand idle, walk or talk in the church or churchyard.
2. They are to take care that no persons sit in the church with their hats on or in any other indecent manner.
3. They are to ensure that persons behave themselves orderly, soberly and reverently, kneeling at prayers and standing at the belief.
4. They are to ensure that none contend about places.
5. They must chastise disorderly boys.
6. They are to apprehend those who interrupt or disturb the minister and bring them before a justice of the peace.
7. They are to ensure that any person disturbing the minister is liable to a penalty of £10 and 3 months imprisonment; for a second offence to forfeit £20 or six months imprisonment, and for a third offence shall forfeit all goods and chattels and be imprisoned for life!
Also, to disturb a congregation or misuse a teacher incurs a forfeiture of £20.
8. They shall see that the Lord's day be duly observed.

9. They shall search alehouses on Sundays and if they find any person therein during divine service they are to make them pay 3s4d and also 1s for being absent from church and the master of the house shall forfeit 10s.

Can you imagine if that was still the practice today!!

I understand that these powers have never actually been repealed, so you may feel that you will need to watch out if you see a Church Warden about!

However, since Church Parish and Local Parish responsibilities were separated, I can assure you that if you meet a warden now, you will not be told off or arrested, but will find that they are normal people and you will receive a very warm welcome to church!

The final thing you should know about Church Wardens, is that if you ever meet more than one, they are correctly referred to as a 'Gloom of Wardens'! I'm not sure why, because being gloomy is certainly not true of any warden I have ever known, but they have always been cheery to a person!

If you are interested – here is a summary:

Nominees for Churchwarden must:

- Be at least twenty-one years of age;
- Be actual communicants;
- Be on the Electoral Roll of this Parish for at least six months;
- Signify their consent to serve, prior to nomination.
- Obtain an Enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) prior to taking up the role of churchwarden.
- Complete the Leadership level Safeguarding Training provided by the Diocese as soon as practical following nomination.

Churchwardens:

- Are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish, working in co-operation with the incumbent (under the authority of the Bishop and Archdeacon).
- Represent the laity of the parish in matters of mission, maintenance and management.
- Have a duty to maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, particularly during the times of divine service.
- Work with the incumbent, PCC and parish safeguarding officer to ensure the safety and well-being of all young and vulnerable people attending church services and all other church events.

If you feel called to serve our parish, either as a Churchwarden or as a member of the PCC, please email revelaine@nym.hush.com and an electronic application form will be sent to you.

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

Letter

Dear Friends,

Last week we heard how Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd. As I mentioned in my sermon we are called to be like Jesus – not only to be the sheep who follow him, but called also to be good shepherds who care for all God's people.



This week Jesus tells us

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful..... I am the vine you are the branches.”

Our hope and prayer is that God will nurture our faith, enrich us with wisdom, and help us to grow in love so that we can be fruitful disciples of Christ. We are his hands and feet in this world.

Here's a reminder of Paul's words to the Ephesians:

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, blown hither and thither by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness and deceitful scheming.

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Thankfully, we are all blessed with different skills and talents and Jesus calls each one of us by name.

We all have a place and purpose in God's plan: whether that be high or low profile, up front or behind the scenes - everybody has a part to play.

God has given us important and valuable gifts and talents to use – not hide away; and God has a plan for us here at St Laurence – which is a prayerful calling to service.

As we approach our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, there are vacancies to be filled, jobs to be done. May our prayer be that we have the courage to discern our role, in the strength of Christ, and respond accordingly - we have a shared ministry and Jesus will not leave us to face things alone.

Please take time to read and reflect upon the following poem by Dennis Wrigley:

Who are we?

We are Your people, Lord
called and gathered in Your name
bonded by Your love
walking together,
travelling light.

We are Your flock, Lord
the sheep of Your pasture
to whom the shepherd's voice is known.

We are Your family, Lord
beloved children
delighting in the unity
and warmth of oneness
in Your Fatherhood.

We are the branches
You are the life-giving vine
sustaining, feeding,
enabling us to bear Your fruit.

We are Your body, Christ,
knitted, joined together
to be Your presence
fulfil Your healing work
tell of Your kingdom.

Yet we are the hungry



and You are the Bread of Life.

We are the thirsty
and You are Living Water.

We have dwelt in darkness
and You are the Light of the World,

We are the lost
and You have found us.

We are weary
and You give us rest.

We are the crucifiers
and You cry, 'Father forgive!'

Help us to know in fullness
our true identity
made in Your image
filled with Your Spirit
born to be free
called to serve
loved with an everlasting love.

With love and blessings,

Elaine 😊



Notices

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021 MAY 9-16th

As Christian Aid Week approaches, what can we do in Frodsham this year, to raise money for the poor communities across the world who are suffering from the effects of climate-change? In Kenya lack of a reliable source of water is causing families to suffer as crops fail. Last year, drought was followed by relentless rainfall and subsequent flooding. Christian Aid is working with a local partner in Kenya, to build earth dams so that communities can withstand the unpredictable weather. We can help to change the lives of millions of people by supporting this work.



Could you help by collecting for one hour on Market Day, outside MSCC or the Bear's Paw, on Thursday, 13th May? Please contact Chris Wilding

A 'Just Giving' page has been set up for your donations:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/FrodshamChurchesTogether>

An e-Envelope has been set up and shared with St Laurence Facebook and all the churches.

Take part in 'Quizian Aid' on 8th May at 7pm. Sign up at caweek.org/quiztianaid

Finally, challenge yourself! Walk 300,000 steps during the month of May. Do it alone or in a team supporting each other to reach 300,000 steps between you. If you are unable to take part in the physical challenge, can you sponsor someone who is?

Please give what you can this Christian Aid Week so that together, we can bring relief and hope for struggling families and communities. Thank you.

CUPPA AND CHAT

Now that church is open again on Sunday mornings, it has proved too much of a rush to get back for our Zoom Cuppa and Chat so, for the time being it is on hold.

We know that people are very good at keeping in touch and as the weather improves and lockdown eases we are gradually getting back to some kind of normal.

QUIZ

The Zoom quizzes are still proving popular but, for the summer, we are going to hold them once a month rather than fortnightly. The next quiz is on Saturday May 15th at 7pm. If you would like to join in the fun, do let me know. The more the merrier. Veronica York

PARISH WEEKEND NODDFA - we have a date for 3rd - 5th September. Following discussion at PCC It was suggested by Rev Elaine that we ask for interest at this stage, if it was safe for us to go. Please let me know soon, Pauline

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES I am currently counting the boxes from the end of 2019. Please can you bring those boxes back to be emptied. Thank you for your support, Pauline.

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: Tinned tomatoes and long-life milk. To find out about obtaining a voucher, opening times of distribution centres or how to donate financially online, please visit the website – runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk

DONATIONS TO CHURCH If you would like to contribute to St Laurence, 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> Thank you.

News from Church Members

THE WANDERING CHORISTERS

Today's walk on the 20th of April followed the same route as our last one, from the park into Howey Lane up the bunny run and onto the lower path of the hill, but instead of going left for Jacobs Ladder we continued round to the right over a wooden bridge and climbed up the sandstone ridge onto a path through an avenue of silver birch trees. We followed this path for about half a mile before stopping for a picnic. We were hoping to sit on the seat which overlooks a wonderful view, but when we arrived at the spot there were already a group of people sitting there eating their picnic, so we walked further on and found a low sandstone wall which was just the right height to sit on. We parked ourselves there and as always caught up with our family news and enjoyed our sandwiches. Soon it was time to move on so we continued on the same path until we came to where the path divides, we took the left hand path. This path starts to climb here and continues to do so for a good mile. Eventually we reached a plateau, thankfully, and stopped briefly to catch our breath and take in the wonders of nature that never ceases to amaze us. Back on the path again we took a right hand turn that takes you to Shepherd Houses and here we turned left



onto Manley Road and past Simons Lane and Frodsham caves. Continuing down we turned right into Hazelhurst Road and followed this into Top Road and into Kingsley Road. We crossed over the road here and over a stile to cross 2 fields and into Watery Lane and Bradley Lane. We called to see how our friend was after breaking her leg. She is doing really well now and she very kindly made us a cup of tea which we had in her back garden. After a good old chat with her we said our goodbyes and back into Frodsham. Dear Lord, we are so grateful for each new day, and we are so lucky to be able to walk and discover the beauty of the country lanes and see the flowers that grow on the wayside. Thank you Lord for the beauty of the earth. Prayers also for all those people who are suffering such anguish in India. please wrap your arms around them and protect them, in Jesus's name Amen.

Jeanie & Barbara.

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