



The present booking arrangements will continue for this Sunday 30th May, we would encourage you to just come to church as normal the weeks after.

We are getting regular updates from the diocese with the latest guidance and will of course continually review things as we move forward.

Thank you for your support and we will update you again as soon as we can.

**Andrew & Josephine - Churchwardens**

**Thursday 27th May at 7:30pm**  
**Bible teaching from Rivi Litvin**  
 - The trial of Jesus.

## St. Paul's Barton Newsletter 27.05.21

### New arrangements for Sunday morning

From Sunday 6th June we are NOT going to be booking seats in advance at St. Paul's for our Sunday services.

We will also be reviewing the current seating pattern and following the latest guidance, so you can just come to church from Sunday 6th June.

As we move into the summer we hope that some who are able will be willing to give up a seat inside when things get busy and sit outside on seats provided, near the west door.

This will enable those less able and our new church family members to have a seat inside. A relay speaker will be available for those sitting outside, but you might like to bring an umbrella, just in case!

This is going to be a real test in our love for each other, but a wonderful opportunity to serve and bless others. We will be filling the seats inside the church building on a first come basis, so don't be late! Our stewards will of course need to direct you to a seat and you will be asked if you would be willing for us to record your name for track and trace.

On a practical note, if you are planning to come and sit within a bubble we would ask if you would kindly arrive all at the same time, this will help our stewards.

As a church family we express a huge thank you to Ian and Kathy Pugh who have done a very difficult job managing the bookings over the last nine months and we are very grateful to them.



To take part please contact us with your email address and you will then receive a Zoom invitation for the session along with an email with a handout for the study from Rivi.

**Sunday 30th May at 10:00am**  
**Trinity Sunday**

**Word and Worship Service** - Speaker John Yates.

**For young people:**

**"Shine"** 10:00am in the Christian Centre (Primary School Age).

**"Refresh"** 11:30am - 12:30am in the Christian Centre (Secondary School Age).

**Join us on Zoom for Coffee** at 12noon.

**Monday 31st May - Spring Bank Holiday**

**Wednesday 2nd June at 10:15am**

**Holy Communion BCP** (Book of Common Prayer) - Rev. Dozie Moneme.

**Wednesday 2nd June at 7:15pm**

**Wednesday Fellowship Group** (Zoom) - Speak to Rev. Dennis for more information. Contact us for a link.

**Wednesday 2nd June at 7:30pm**

**Evening Prayer (at home)**

If you can, join with us at home as we come before God.

**Readings: Psalms 11, 12 & 13, Joshua Ch8 v1-29 & Luke Ch11 v1-13.**

**Collect:**

**Holy God,**

**faithful and unchanging:**

**enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you,**



**Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Sunday 6th June at 10:00am**

**1st Sunday after Trinity**

Worship & Communion Service - Rev. Dozie Moneme.

**For young people:**

**"Shine"** 10:00am in the Christian Centre  
(Primary School Age).

**"Refresh"** 11:30am - 12:30am in the Christian Centre  
(Secondary School Age).

**Join us on Zoom for Coffee at 12noon.**

**Monday 7th June at 7:30pm**

**Monday Fellowship Group (Zoom)**

Speak to Andrew for more information. Contact us via the church website for a link.

**Tuesday 8th June 09:45am - 11:30am**

**Little Rascals Toddler Group** - in the Christian Centre.

Book using 'Eventbrite'

**Bits & Pieces >>> Cleaners this week** - This week the church is being cleaned by Liz C & Liz D - thank you!

**Pray!** - Please continue to pray for Dave C, Kirsty, Pat, James Tom (John & Barbi's friend), Heather, Beryl and all those who need God's healing touch at this time.

## ***This Sunday is Trinity Sunday***

**The Christian belief** that God can be understood in terms of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is a complex one. Surely God is one or other, he cannot be fully in all three places at the same time. Over the years this teaching has been the cause of considerable doubt and confusion. Why don't we just simplify the whole thing and make it more believable?

The problem is that this is not a teaching Christians have invented. It has come about because that is how God has chosen to reveal himself to us. God is Father, Jesus is also God and we know God at work in the presence of the Spirit.

It is difficult, but it is a credit to the church that it has lived with an understanding of God which is bigger than human reasoning and not made God more like us.

**Triquetra (Try ket ra Latin for three cornered)**

You will find this symbol used on the spines of the NKJV version of the bible - fish in a triangle shape

The triquetra uses shapes like one of the oldest Christ symbols, the shape of the fish. Remember it was found in Pompeii which destroyed in AD 79! The shape in the triquetra, the three equal arches of the circle expressed the equality of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Second, the union of the arches represented the unity of the Godhead. Third, their

continuous form symbolized eternity. And last, the fact that they were interwoven denoted the indivisibility of the Trinity. In the centre of the triquetra was an equilateral triangle, the most ancient of the Trinity symbols, and each pair of arches formed an ellipse, the symbol of God's glory.

**None of our readings today use the word 'Trinity,'** yet God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is central to them. Indeed the word 'Trinity' is not used by Jesus, it is not found in the Bible at all, yet faith in the Holy Trinity is the touchstone of what it means to be a Christian. Those who do not believe in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit cannot use the term Christian to describe themselves - Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians etc.

**Trinity Sunday is a special Sunday** because we think about who God is - the Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit. Even the most committed Christians find this hard because we all know that something cannot be individually three and also completely one. But this Sunday expresses and celebrates the fact that we encounter God in contradictory ways.

In our world there are some certain simple truths, like - 'water is generally wet.' But when we start to speak about things which really matter - like God, then we soon find out that we run out of words. Human language and thoughts simply fail to work. Truth is no more easily reduced to trite slogans than the scientific explanation of the creation of this wonderful world can be reduced to two chapters of Genesis.

Through history we can see times when people have imagined that they did possess understanding and knowledge of God. But, actually this is an illusion, faith is not built upon the measure of the human mind.

**As Christians** we need to be honest about our inability to explain God. It would be wonderful to be able to speak of God in certain and simple truths, but if we are honest, certainty is the property of fools, not the learned. Those who are more intellectually secure will usually admit that the more that we find out - the less we seem to know. Issues are only seen in simple terms of black and white by the simplistic and those who seek to lead them.

Does this make our task of speaking about God more difficult? I think not, it is a fact that people cannot be argued into belief. They can be attracted, they can be welcomed and embraced but they cannot be argued. People most usually come to believe through faith not through facts. Preachers will often preach the certainty, the black and white. However, truth is much more often grey. The more we learn the more we realise that the less we know. This is not to say that we should stop the task of learning, but we must be more prepared to recognise that God is too big for us. It is human sin and pride aspire to lift us to God, humility sees that God into the human mind will not go. It is no more possible for us to understand God than to put the ocean into a bucket.

Whilst the word Trinity is not found in the Bible, the belief which it expresses is stated many times. The early Christians soon discovered that they simply could not speak of God without speaking of the three ways in which he had revealed himself to them. This does not mean that there are

three Gods. It means that there is one God who has shown himself in three ways: God the Father, God the Son or Jesus, and Holy Spirit of God who came to them and made God alive in them.

Clearly this teaching is absurd from the point of human logic, it makes no human sense! All of the clever illustrations (Clover leaf, the sun as heat, light and energy etc.) which we have heard since Sunday School, they all fall short of explaining how logically God can be totally three and yet totally one. Indeed some of the best illustrations used in sermons serve only to illustrate serious heresies such as modalism! If we are honest it is something which is more clearly explained in terms of that great Christian word, mystery. It is a mystery of our faith. We know why we use the term 'Trinity' because it expresses our experience of a God who can be present in Jesus, whilst at the same time, the voice of God is heard to speak from heaven and the Spirit descend as a dove. But nevertheless it is a mystery.

**It is important to remember that the Trinity does not actually attempt to explain God.** It only explains what we know about God, that which he has revealed to us in a very elementary way. So we Christians affirm the Trinity, not as an explanation of God, but simply as a way of describing what we currently know about God. This is honest and it should not make us frightened. In **1 Corinthians Chapter 13 it says where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.** Anon.

### Holy Communion on Wednesdays is back!



We are pleased to announce that commencing on **Wednesday 2nd June** our mid-week service of Holy Communion using the book of Common Prayer will be returning. This will continue at 10:15 each Wednesday. No booking required.

### Offering / Giving



If you are part of St. Paul's and have not yet committed to regular giving, we ask you to prayerfully seek God's will regarding this.

#### Ways to Give:

**Set up a Standing Order** from your bank, you can request a form from Penny (our treasurer), or download one from our

website. Just fill it in and send it to her at or phone her (see directory) for more details or to arrange for your form to be collected.

**You can send a cheque**, payable to: **PCC of St. Paul's (Barton Parish)** to Penny.

If you use online banking, you can give to St. Paul's by **Bank Transfer or by setting up a Standing Order**. Details of the church bank account are:

Bank: **NatWest Newport Isle of Wight** Account Name: **Parochial Church Council of St. Pauls, Barton Parish** Sort Code: **54-10-34** Account Number: **92513263**

If you are a tax payer and have not filled in a **Gift Aid Form** these are available from Penny or on the church website.

**Our Sunday services** are streamed live on the church Facebook page and available to watch later on the church Facebook page, Website and YouTube channel. Audio copies of most of the talks are also available on the church website.

**For the last time this week**, if you would like to attend in person you need to book as due to ongoing Covid restrictions seating capacity is limited. **Remember that you must maintain strict social distancing in the church.** To book contact Ian (see the Church Directory for the number) contact us via the church website or text **07947 153 344**. **If you do book and are unable to come please cancel to allow the space for others.**

Don't forget that, weather permitting, you can sit outside and listen to our external speaker (and sing or wave a flag!).



### Little Rascals Is Starting Again...

It's great to see Little Rascals our group for toddlers and babies starting again on **Tuesday 8th June**. The group meets in the Christian Centre from 9:45am to 11:30am each Tuesday in school term time. Due to the current Covid restrictions numbers are limited and bookings can be made on line using a website called "Eventbrite"

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>

All you need to do is search for 'Little Rascals Toddler Group' and register a place. Please pray for all those returning to meet again and our leaders as they look forward to welcoming them back after such a long break.

