

We're Back!

St. Paul's Barton Newsletter 07.01.21

From the Vicars desk



Another Lockdown. Lockdown! Lockdown!! Lockdown!!! - a new word that has been added to the dictionary along with 'social distancing' and many more. These

words only became part of our lives and vocabulary in the year 2020.

As we process these words and the difficulty they present in our lives individually and collectively, as Christians, we must pause to check what God's mind is regarding all these or what He will have us do. In understanding God's mind, may I start with an encouraging word from the bible?

Isaiah 46- 9-10: Remember the former things, those of long ago. I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'

Have you forgotten who God is and what he can do? He is telling you to remember. Remember how good he has been - the last time the world dealt with a pandemic was 100 years ago in 1918 during the Flu pandemic. Has God not been good allowing the world to carry on for 100 years without allowing sickness despite our many sins. He is God and there is none like him. He deeply cares for you (**1 Peter 5: 7**), has engraved you into his hand (**Isaiah 49: 16; Proverbs 30:4**) and knows that these challenges are difficult to deal with. You must never forget that.

Also, only what he says concerning this pandemic will stand. This is why he sits in heaven laughing at those who choose to do things without his power. In the end only what God wants stands. Do not let the difficulty of this season consume you with discouragement rather hear what God will have you do, please.

Did you know that several people in the bible experienced Lockdown? See some examples:

When there was a plague in Egypt during the time of pharaoh, the Israelites were asked to stay indoors and put the blood on their doors as the Angel of death passed by - a lockdown that was inconvenient however saved their lives - **Exodus 12:22-23**.

Joseph was in prison - a form of lockdown until God was through with that season and elevated him to second in command - **Genesis 39: 19-21**.

Paul soon after his conversion stayed in a form of lockdown for 7- 8 years before he began his ministry. Remember he

left the political elites of his days and joined Christians. A radical change that put his own life at risk. Read the book of **Acts. Chapter 9** and more.

After these seasons the Israelites and individuals (Joseph, Paul and many more) came out refined and was used by God mightily.

Can this lockdown be possibly a time for personal reflection or prayers? Perhaps you have never read the whole bible before. Why not utilize this time. Your upset you can't meet people why not write an encouraging letter or make a phone call. The list is endless what you can prayerfully consider doing while in the lockdown. Do not complain like the unbeliever rather use your attitude this season to witness, showing those around that the Prince of peace lives within you and you have peace amidst troubles.

Finally, may I end by telling you this - I know I am yet to meet all of you personally? However, I am praying for every one of you. Please feel free to call or mail me personally if you need to talk or want me to pray with you regarding anything. Do not carry the burdens of life alone because a problem shared is half solved.

Love and blessings to you all,

Rev Dozie

What's Happening...

Sunday 10th January at 10:00am

Word & Worship Service - Rev. Dr. Dennis Lloyd.

Monday 11th January at 7:30pm (Zoom)

Monday Fellowship Group - To join speak to Andrew.

Wednesday 13th January at 10:15am

Holy Communion (BCP) Service - Rev. Dozie Moneme

Evening Prayer (at home) 7:30pm

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

Readings: Psalms 47 & 48, Genesis Ch2 v4-25 and Matthew Ch21 v33-46.

Collect: Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Thursday 14th January at 7:30pm (Zoom)

Bible teaching from Rivi Litvin

To take part please send your email address to stpaulsbar-ton@hotmail.co.uk and you will then receive a Zoom invitation for the session along with an email with a handout for the study from Rivi.

Sunday 17th January at 10:00am

Word & Worship Service - Rev. Dozie Moneme.

Monday 18th January - Monday 25th January

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - See the website:
<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on **John 15:1-17** and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Wednesday 20th January at 7:30pm

PCC Meeting (Zoom).

Don't Forget!

Our Sunday services are all streamed live on the **church Facebook page** and are available to watch later on the church's Facebook page, Website and YouTube channel.

You need to book for our Sunday services as due to Covid restrictions seating capacity is limited.

Remember, that due to the current restrictions and the current level of infections on the Island at the moment, you must maintain strict social distancing in the church and enter and leave without standing around talking!

To book contact Ian (see the Church Directory for the number) or text **07947 153 344**.

Light In The Darkness - Christian Friends of Israel Holocaust Memorial Online Event

This year, a Holocaust Memorial event will take place online on the CFI YouTube channel at **7pm- 8:30pm on Sunday 24th January 2021**.

Presented by Christian Friends of Israel UK, the event will be an evening of film, music, art and poetry as we remember and learn regarding the Holocaust. See the trailer at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw5NSWj_SsAyhghoEVuJUA



FORGET-ME-NOT



When to the flowers so beautiful the Father gave a name,
Back came a little blue-eyed one
(All timidly it came);
And standing at its Father's feet and gazing in His face,
It said, in low and trembling tone and with a modest grace,
"Dear God, the name Thou gavest me,
Alas I have forgot!"
Kindly the Father looked him down and said;
"Forget-me-not."

Emily Bruce Roelofson (Born 1832)

(Thanks to Pauline for this.)

New Believers Class with Nnenna Moneme

New Believers Class with Nnenna Moneme - **Lesson 7 "Mentoring" - Using available support systems.**

There is another video in Nnenna's series of the "New Believers Class" which gives encouragement to believers old and new. Visit the St. Paul's YouTube channel or church website (Video page) to watch.

Around the fellowship

Happy Birthday Tina! It's Tina's birthday on Tuesday next week (12th). Not a 'special' birthday but a special person! Much love and birthday greetings from us all at St. Paul's. P.S. We hope that Quiz gets you a decent present!



Lost and found - The earring pictured was found in the church after our Christmas services. Can anyone claim it? Let us know.

New Year's Eve / New Year's Day Prayers...

Happy New Year St Paul's!

As we concluded our crossover night prayers now the Lord gave these words.

*"This year, I will make a difference between those who serve me and those who do not **Malachi 3:18**"*

The key to having this fulfilled in our lives is daily dependence on him no matter the challenges this year brings. **For without me you can do nothing- John 15:5**

Love and blessings, Dozie and Nnenna.

For your prayers. Stella & John, Brian & Wendy and Gisele's family.

Bits & Pieces >>>

Did you get a new mobile phone for Christmas? If you did (and even if you didn't) why not sign up to the St. Paul's WhatsApp Group? It's a great way to share fellowship and keep in touch. Contact Andrew for a link to join.

Hearing the Word... Video recordings of our Sunday services are, as you know, available to watch on the church Facebook page, YouTube channel and the video page of the website. Audio copies of the just the sermons and talks can also be found on the Audio page of the website. If you are unable to access any of these and would like a CD of the talks please let Kevin know.

Cleaners this week - This week the church is being cleaned by Liz C and Liz D - thank you!

December Reflection from Dozie - Have you watched 'Reflections from Psalm 37: 25 & 2 Chronicles 15: 5-6' on the YouTube channel?

Offering / Giving

The PCC will soon be meeting to consider a church budget for 2021. As things stand at the moment, we are looking at a rather large gap between income and expenditure.

The PCC is grateful to the 40 people in our congregation who are currently giving regularly into our bank or by sending cheques to Penny.

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.

If you would like to set up a Standing Order from your bank, you can use the form enclosed. Just fill it in and send it to Penny or phone her (contact details in the Church Directory) for more details or to arrange for your form to be collected.



Turn the world upside down!

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Watching Yeshua (Jesus) lay down His life to die on the cross was not what His disciples were expecting, but rather a shocking, perplexing, and apparently hopeless ending to what had seemed like a promising fulfillment of Messianic hope. The shattering ordeal of Yeshua's trials, torture, and horrific death must have left them all feeling bereft, miserable, and uncertain of the future. What would they do now? What would their future hold?

2020 with its shocking developments, a "pandemic" promoting a gigantic paradigm shift, has left many of us in a similar condition, perhaps not as severe, yet not without much of the same emotions and challenges, especially the sense of uncertainty about our future.

As deep and depressing as their shock was, Yeshua's disciples had only to wait three days for the restoration of their vision, hope, and joy. A massive inversion of their reality, exactly what He had predicted, His bodily resurrection, was another shock, but this time... indescribable joy, wonder, and phenomenal relief; and a restoration of meaning, purpose, and vision which carried them the rest of their lives.

As His disciples, our life often follows this pattern: trial, testing, perplexity, suffering, despair, etc..... which then yields to the opposite feelings and experiences of hope, healing, restoration, relief, and the faith and character which emerge along with vision and renewed purpose.

As our Lord knew before He died that He would rise again, He also knows the good things which He portends for the future of His disciples, that is, us, who have been passing through a season of stress and uncertainty. He really, truly wants us to believe in the rest of this wild story; to really and truly accept the fact that He will, again, turn the world upside down as "all things work together for good for them that love God and are the called according to His purpose"!

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Witnessing and being exposed to the serious and nasty things that are happening around us now, how can we imagine that anything good can emerge from it all? The future seems bleak and downright frightening. But let us remember the Lord's cross -- His disciples' shock and despair...and the predicted, inevitable resurrection which followed!

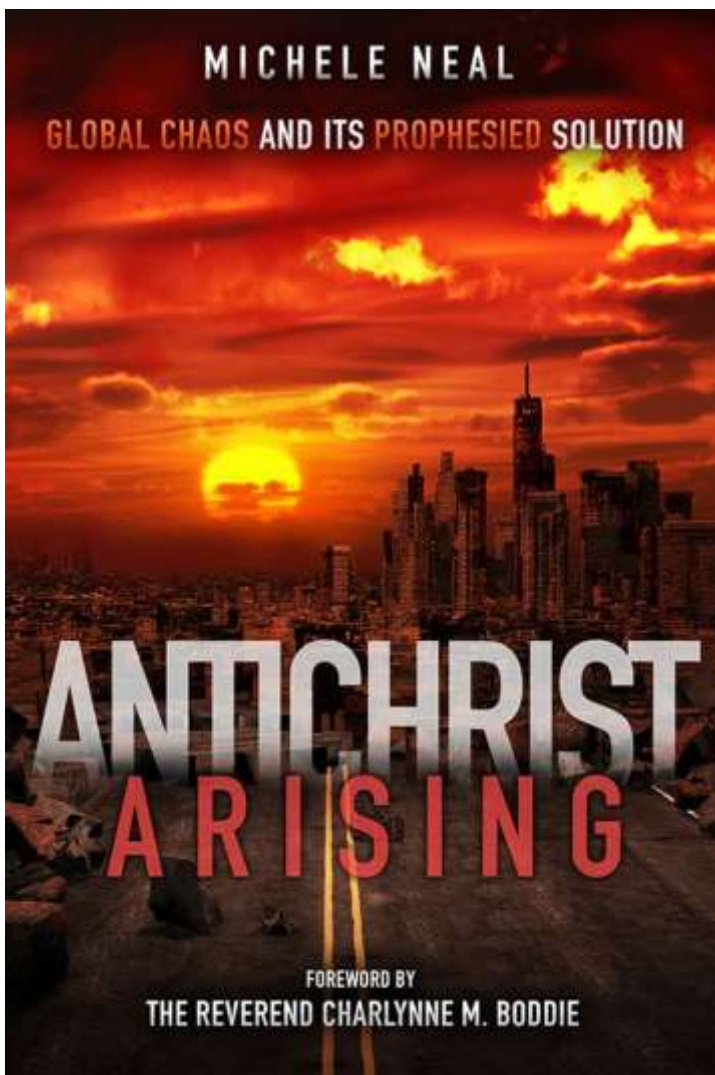
Be at peace as we embark on 2021, remembering the unalterable pattern God has given us in the revelation of His Son. Enter the new year assured in your faith foundation —and the secure expectation that once again, with Him, as the Apostles did 2000 years ago.....we too, will "turn the world upside down."

George Whitten - <https://worthyministries.com>

Antichrist Arising

- A New Book From Michele Neal

Many of us will remember Michele and her husband Chris as members of our fellowship here at St. Paul's.



The Antichrist is arising! This is not the fantasy of a blockbuster Hollywood movie, nor is it a joke. The rise of the Antichrist is prophesied in the Bible, and this reality is coming to pass. With chaos engulfing the nations, and a pandemic resulting in unprecedented global lockdowns, the appearance of the Antichrist is waiting in the wings; an event that will affect all of humanity, with catastrophic consequences for those who have not turned to Jesus Christ for their salvation.

The whole of heaven is watching the unveiling of Revelation,

whilst the world ignores it at its peril. Packed with scripture to support the message, this book brings to life the rise of the Antichrist in easy-to-understand language. It is time to wake up to what is unfolding in front of our eyes with each passing day and make the urgent choice to follow Jesus Christ... before it's too late.

Available on Amazon at £8.99



A free phonenumber of hymns, reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Faith in Later Life CONNECTIONS



stpaulsbaron.co.uk



07947 153 344



stpaulsbaron@hotmail.co.uk



@StPaulsBarton



facebook.com/StPaulsBarton/

