

***St Mary and St Cuthbert's Church***  
***Chester-le-Street***

# **JULY 2020**

# **NEWSLETTER**

**Be strong and take heart, all you  
who hope in the LORD.**

Psalm 31:24



## **NEXT STEPS – Rev David Tully, Rector**

We have opened up the church building for private prayer (Tuesdays & Thursdays 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm) and for church funerals in the last couple of weeks – with 2 metres social distancing, so that the capacity of the building is severely reduced. We have hand sanitising at entrance and exit and a one-way system. We thoroughly clean where people have sat after every service (hence 10.00 am service being moved to 10.15 am)



**SUNDAY services in the church building are starting on July 5:- 8.00 am HC (BCP), 10.15 am (All Age) & 6.00 pm HC (CW)**

Numbers are very limited in the church because of the social distancing, it will be difficult to get more than about 35 in for any particular service.

If you want to come to a service, we encourage you to book via Jan [jrowland@clsparish1.plus.com](mailto:jrowland@clsparish1.plus.com) or 388 3295 starting at 9.00 am Thursday July 2. Specific places will be allocated in church.

There will be no Area services in the schools before September at the earliest. We want to continue online services. On July 5 (we do not want to try too many new things initially), we will do a **10.00 am online service** from a clergy house. We hope to record and broadcast the 10.15 am service in the church building soon

There will be no live music (but we will use recorded music before and after the services), certainly no singing. We will use the screen for congregational words at all services.

As regards Holy Communion – it will only be wafers for the congregation, no Peace, facemask for celebrant, and people will line up 2m separated and receive standing at the chancel step. This is in accordance with our diocesan guidelines.

The Parish Centre will not open for any gatherings as yet. In mid-July we are having much needed repairs to the kitchen floor and new units installed, it is sensible for it to be done when the Centre is closed.

Weddings can now take place in a very limited way; the government say that the maximum number is 30.

## **PRAYER AND FASTING DAY - FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

We have decided to have another day for prayer and fasting. As a church community we encourage people to draw together in prayer and if it's suitable for you, to fast too.

As this is still a period of transition, we will be having a combination of online prayer and worship throughout the day on our Facebook page as well as having **the church open for private prayer between 10.00 am - 3.00 pm.**

The focus of this prayer and fasting, us demonstrating our humility and reliance upon our Sovereign God, will be prayer for our communities. Concentrating our prayers on the people around us, the town, the schools, the businesses and charities.

We will also be encouraging people who are taking part to prayer walk (following distancing guidelines) around the streets and localities asking for God's Blessing upon this place.

## **CHURCH CLEANING**

We need a list of people prepared to help **clean after each service** (including funerals). Contact Dorothy Hall (church warden) 07570 016783 or 388 4710. Over 70s may be allowed to help (but would have to talk to David before starting).

## **PCC**

The PCC are meeting next on Tuesday July 21 in the evening. The PCC met on Zoom on June 3. We plan to have another PCC meeting on Tuesday September 15 and the Parish annual meeting is pencilled in for Tuesday October 20.

## **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office is still functioning with Jan Rowland working from home at present. She can be contacted in the normal ways – on the phone 0191 388 3295 or [jrowland@clsparish1.plus.com](mailto:jrowland@clsparish1.plus.com).

## **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

There is a Daily Hope Line, on it you can hear hymns, reflections and prayers. Many people are finding it very helpful. It is a free phonenumber: 0800 804 8044

## QUIET CORNER – John Hopper, Lay Reader

One of the nice things about this time of year, and June in particular, is that most of the seeds sown in February and March, are now young plants growing outside. Having been watered in by the April and May showers, they are happily growing. As any gardener will tell you, June is the month when you sit back, take it easy and watch the garden grow and bask in the full glory of all that you have achieved.

You are the master of all that you survey aren't you. The admiring glances and comments from friends, neighbours and passers-by, as you soak up the sunshine for that body tan you will get on the short holiday abroad or maybe "down south".

Hang on a moment, was that some greenfly you've just spotted on the rose bush and what's that leaf doing curling up, turning a nice shade of brown instead of bright green? Who's going to do the watering of the garden, the pots and tubs early morning and last thing at night? Is there anyone to open and shut the greenhouse windows and make sure that "wee beasties" of the red spider mite doesn't get to infest everything? The neighbour's cats are a problem and who is going to chase the pigeons off the strawberry plot? Even coming home, the lawn will resemble the South American pampas areas.

No, forget the holiday, there's too much worry and far too much after care still to do. I'll spend the money on a new lawnmower, a greenhouse or perhaps replace the garden shed with a much bigger one.

The self-satisfaction has soon dissipated and been replaced by total deflation. As I write, today's Old Testament reading is Deuteronomy 11.1-15. Moses addresses the nation of Israel about to enter the Promised Land saying in v10 and v11 *"It's better land than you had in Egypt where you had to struggle to water your crops"; "but the hills and valleys in the Promised Land*

*are watered by rain from Heaven". The final nail is driven into the inflated ego in v12 "**because the Lord your God keeps His eye on this land and takes care of it all the year long.**"*

God **commands** us to love and serve Him with all our heart and soul v13 and He will make sure the ground produces the fruits of **His** labour not ours. If we don't do that, all will be a miserable failure. OK, no worries, put away the smugness and self-satisfaction, and help someone else.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funerals

#### June

- 6 John Thomas Trotter (89)
- 11 Tom Linton (20)
- 12 Hilda Smith (90)
- 16 Dorothy Dixon (96)
- 18 Martin Denathorn (90)
- 22 Annie Hamilton (91)
- 24 Valerie Ann Routledge (62)
- 25 Ann Wilson Farnsworth (92)
- 26 Ruth Brown (65)  
James Michael McLinden (74)

# LIVING IN A TIME OF TURMOIL

Blog by **J.John** (slightly edited)

There is the dreadful COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing issues of how the government should have responded and the concerns about our economy. There is the way the appalling killing of George Floyd in the USA has ignited a bonfire to do with how we treat Britain's past acts of history and its present mixture of cultures and races. 2020 is certainly going down as the year to remember that we would like to forget.

These are tricky matters to comment on: profound, sensitive and complex. Christians have different political views. It's tempting to say nothing, but I think this is neither wise nor right. We Christians must be involved in some way. I don't want to offer specific answers here. Yet what I can offer is some suggestion about how we begin to find answers to these issues.

Our starting point must be to recognise the fact that we all find ourselves between two opposing power systems: The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of this World. It's a division clearly expressed by Jesus himself (Matthew 22:15–22). In summary, the Kingdom of this World represents those systems, structures and organisations of politics, economics and power that owe no allegiance to God. They set their own agenda and goals and seek to gain them with the aid of political persuasion, finance, the media and even, if necessary, with force. The Kingdom of the World is proud: delighting in its authority, and displaying it in its buildings, mass media and grand events. Sometimes the Kingdom of this World appears in apparently competing forms, such as left-wing or right-wing politics, yet, deep down, there is but a single system: A Kingdom of the World that seeks to control all in every way.

The Kingdom of God is very different. It is a countercultural movement across all nations made up of people whose

allegiance is not to any power system but to Jesus Christ. Sometimes, the Kingdom of this World may openly and visibly oppose God's Kingdom through abuse and persecution. Perhaps more frequently – and dangerously – it may disguise itself in the language of God's kingdom and, by doing so, seduce God's followers into supporting it.

The responsibility of those in the Kingdom of God has always been to resist the direct and indirect attacks of the Kingdom of this World. It's a long, tough battle and it isn't over yet. That final victory (guaranteed by the victory of the cross) will only occur at the coming of Christ when, as Revelation 11:15 tells us, the *'Kingdoms of the World' will become 'the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah'*.

Given this idea of two warring kingdoms, let me lay down three foundation stones for how we are to think about how we live in the world, whether tumultuous or not.

The first foundation stone is that as Christians our ultimate *loyalty* is to God's Kingdom. We will inevitably be involved in the Kingdom of this World; we may earn a salary from it, we may even hold power within it but, when it comes to any conflict between kingdoms, we are God's men and women. We may be mocked or persecuted for standing against the Kingdom of this World but we have no alternative. To call Jesus 'Lord' means that there can be no other lords and no other loyalties.

The second foundation stone is that our ultimate *morality* comes from God's Kingdom. One of the problems with earthly kingdoms, whether republics, monarchies or multinational organisations, is that they set their own rules and demand that they be followed. Here again we must resist: our Lord has told us in his Word what is right and wrong and it is those values that set our standards. Living as we do amidst the Kingdom of this World there inevitably comes a time when we believers in Christ have to say, 'I'm sorry but I cannot do that.'

The third foundation stone is that our ultimate *destiny* is God's Kingdom. The kingdoms of this world are appealing yet we need to be reminded that, for all their power, they are limited and will not last. Where now is Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon? Hitler's Reich? Stalin's Union of Soviet Socialist Republics? However powerful the Kingdom of the World may seem, we need to remember that in eternal terms, it is God's Kingdom that conquers and conquers completely.

We are not in the land of the living going to the land of the dying. We are in the land of the dying, heading towards the land of the living.

We have no option but to be involved in this world's affairs. Jesus has instructed us to be salt and light. In all our involvement we must constantly remind ourselves that we are people of the Kingdom of God and we have a loyalty, morality and destiny. And, as we play our part, let's continue to pray that great prayer at the end of the book of the Bible in Revelation: *'Come, Lord Jesus, come!'*

## FACEBOOK SERVICES

These will continue on our church Facebook page each Sunday – [St Mary and St Cuthbert Parish Church, Chester-le-Street.](#) Either streamed from the services in church or from a clergy house.

There are also video messages posted each week usually on Monday and Thursday.

There is usually a daily reflective photograph and prayer topics posted each day on our [St Mary and St Cuthbert Parish Church Congregations and Friends](#) Facebook page.

**Messy Church** is on our church Facebook page on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month with **Messy Mini Bytes** the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

Rev Simon continues to post on his Facebook page Contemplative Morning and Evening Prayer

## **EMERGING** *Written by Rev Simon Grundy*

Emerging blearly	Was always there
Eye rubbing	Tightly cocooned
Adazement	Burst out beautiful butterfly
Sleeping Beauty	'Come out'
Without the kiss	Leave behind linen bindings
Touch less	Emerging light
Hibernation hangover	Wash off
Open door	In living waters
Stumbling through	What risks death
Let in	Dies
Fresh air	new dawning
So much that's new	time to rise.

## **CHURCH FINANCE**

Below are details of our church account and the Parish Giving Scheme if you wish to give directly through the bank or the Giving Scheme.

The account is: *St Mary and St Cuthbert, Chester-le-Street*.  
Account No. 50050083 Barclays bank. Sort code: 20-27-41.

The national **Parish Giving Scheme** (PGS) which a lot of us use now has a "donate by phone." You can set up a regular gift to our Parish by a single phone call to: **0333 002 1271**. The PGS code for our parish is 130313004 (For more details of this scheme see our May newsletter. If you do not have a copy of this it can be found on the Church Website – [www.maryandcuthbert.org.uk](http://www.maryandcuthbert.org.uk))

*Newsletter produced by Rev David Tully, Rector of Chester-le-Street.*  
*Tel: 0191 388 4027 Email - david.tully1@sky.com*