



One inclusive and extensive  
Church family meeting in church,  
and gathering in homes everywhere  
around North and South Wootton  
near King's Lynn in North West Norfolk

Committed to God  
Committed to Community  
Committed to Growth

## News Sheet number 29

## Early Autumn 2021

### Remembering, acknowledging, and giving thanks

Unless you have lived through the Second World War, or have experienced war or some other major catastrophe in another country, I think it is safe to say that the last 18<sup>th</sup> months have been more traumatic and challenging than anything else we have experienced collectively in this country before. The COVID 19 pandemic has affected almost every aspect of our lives and many of us have been directly affected by illness, loss, and grief. The effects of the pandemic run deep within our lives and the changes to our communities and nation will be long lasting and life changing.

Some of you won't need reminding that the virus itself has brought many lives to a premature and difficult end and it goes without say that this has been devastating. Many of us won't have been able to say a proper goodbye to a loved one who died in a care home or hospital because of covid restrictions – and that must have been so awful and upsetting. I will never forget conducting funerals with only a tiny handful of people able to attend, and with so many family members and friends excluded from such important and poignant occasions because of the restrictions.

There have been other kinds of loss too. Loss of education at school, college, and university. Loss of work, income, and security. The loss of connection with

family, friends, and work colleagues during the three lockdowns has been so costly in different, but no less important ways. And so many people have paid such a price in their place of work. The extra demands placed on healthcare workers, social workers, teaching staff and many people in service industries has been extreme – many, many, people have given so much, often at great personal cost.

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 3.00pm at St. Mary's Church in South Wootton we are holding a special Commemoration Service. During the service we will remember those who have lost their lives and share our sorrow in losing people we love. Also, at the Commemoration Service, we will acknowledge the pandemic, and especially the grief, sorrow, loss and uncertainty caused by it. The Commemoration Service offers us the chance to call out to God in prayer and to give thanks for the lives of people we have loved and still love. We will also have the opportunity to bring to God all the feelings, fears and frustrations we have as a result of the pandemic.

Please do come along to this special service if you can. Afterwards we will be serving refreshments in South Wootton Village Hall.

James

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### Encouragement and thanks

At the Church in the Woottons we were very encouraged by the response to the Gift Day we held last month. We have received just over £5500 and when we claimed back gift aid the total will exceed £6000. This sum will go a long way in helping us get out financial house in order again after the recent challenges we have faced. To those of you who have able to support The Church in the Woottons with gifts of money – thank you very much!

James

### Dan Tansey

As most of you will know, Dan is still searching for his next post. In the meantime, he has been seconded to Heacham Parish to support Veronica Wilson the vicar there. Dan is still available for ministry in the Woottons as well.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December we are going to celebrate Dan's ministry with us in the Woottons over the last 4 years. Dan will preach at the 9.00am and 10.30am Holy Communion services and then we will all gather for a celebration lunch with Dan, Beti, Christian and Sera – venue to be confirmed.

### Parish Day Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

We are holding our Parish Day on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 10.00 – 4.00pm at Hunstanton Methodist Church. The day will be led by Canon Keith James who is Director of Mission for the Diocese.

As I see it, the purpose of the Parish Day is for us to worship, pray and talk with each other to get a sense of what God might be leading TCITW in the coming months and years. What aspects of our mission and ministry should we leave now? What new things should begin?

I hope that the Parish Day will help us grow closer to God, and closer to one another. If you are planning to come but haven't already let me know, please do so as soon as possible.

### New services

During August we have introduced two new services as alternatives to Holy Communion. On the second Sunday of each month the 10.30am service at All Saints Church will be Praise and Worship – a mixture of songs, prayers, readings and teaching. On the fourth Sunday of each month the 9.00am service at St. Mary's Church will be Morning Worship and will consist of hymns, prayers, liturgy, readings and teaching. We would value feedback from you when these new services begin.

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### Gathered Holy Communion

We have re-started running our Gathered Holy Communion services. Gathered Holy Communion is for people who cannot easily get to church for our Sunday services. We arrange lifts and gather for Holy Communion at the home of David and Stephanie Lake once a month. From now on we meeting on Wednesdays at 11.00am – our next one will be on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. If you are interested in coming along, please get in touch with James.

### The Church in the Woottons Dropin update.

Following a well-attended meeting on Wednesday, the Dropin is restarting in North Wootton Village Hall on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, between 9.00 and 11.45am.

For a reasonable, voluntary cost of £3.00, we will provide drinks and homemade cakes, games, jigsaws, colouring and toys for small children. We will always endeavour to make everyone feel welcome.

Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting and/or have indicated a willingness to serve. We now have a good number of volunteers to make the Dropin work well, but we can always find space on the rotas for more. If anyone is interested in becoming part of the team please speak to Linda or James, phone 673742 or [lindanash3@googlemail.com](mailto:lindanash3@googlemail.com) [james@churchinthewoottons.net](mailto:james@churchinthewoottons.net)

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## Early Autumn 2021

### Services in Church – latest information

There is no longer any need to reserve seats for Sunday and other services. Simply turn up to church from now on. Also, the wearing of face coverings in church is no longer compulsory. Of course, if you would prefer to continue wearing a face covering in church please feel free to do so.

We will no longer be restricting the number of people who attend baptisms, weddings and funerals in church.

Although we are singing in church again, we will not be reforming the church choir or the music group for the time being. David Hill, Linda Nash and Chris Symes will continue to be sole instrumentalists (and singer in Linda's case, from now on). We still intend to start the weekly 9.00am Breakfast at All Saints Church.

### Service Times

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

9.00am Holy Communion St. Mary's  
10.30am Holy Communion All Saints

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October

9.00am Holy Communion St. Mary's  
10.30am Praise and Worship All Saints

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October

9.00am Holy Communion St. Mary's  
10.30am Holy Communion All Saints

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