



St. Oswald's, Norbury

Newsletter: September 2020

Dear friends.

September is always a funny time of year. It is a time of new beginnings as schools, colleges and universities begin the new academic year and, in many aspects of life, there is a sense of re-gathering a community together after the summer holiday season. This all takes place as we begin to notice the shortening of the days and there is a sense of settling in for colder weather and more time indoors.

This year the idea of being safe indoors has been challenged as we've learned that, in terms of viral spread, being outside is much safer. The warm weather this summer has been a particular blessing. It has meant that, as many of us were able to come back to church for services, we have been able to do so in an airy and open church. We were able to enjoy an afternoon service with excellent music to mark our patronal festival, with some seated inside and others enjoying the shade of the trees in the churchyard.

As autumn begins to set in we have every intention of maintaining the pattern of the church year, using our newly learned experiences of gathering online alongside opportunities to be safely and legally together in person and in church. So, the Black History Month activity, the Harvest Festival and other church activities will take place, but in our planning we are preparing for all eventualities. By the beginning of October all of our usual church services will be back in place.

We make these plans in the Christian spirit of hope and expectation. There may be challenges ahead, but we are learning new ways of being together and being with God and we know that it is important to express our thankfulness for the fruits of the earth, to celebrate the joys and note the tensions of living in a diverse community, to continue to worship and to pray.

And we do all of this confident that even when it is difficult for us to be with one another, we are always in the presence of God who delights in our company.

Alison



Harvest Festival



Sunday 20th and Monday 21st September

The Harvest festival will be a little earlier than usual this year, taking place in the month of the year in which we, as a church, focus particularly on thankfulness and care for creation.

The **Sunday service, at 10am** will begin by gathering outside the church (weather permitting) and then making a presentation of gifts as we make our way inside.

As usual, gifts of non-perishable foods and toiletries are asked for. These will be donated to Croydon Nightwatch and others who would appreciate a gift of food. It is most helpful if these can be brought to church well in advance of the service, either on Sunday 13th or when the church is open on Wednesday 16th in time for decorating the church, but do keep something back to present on the day itself.

The floral displays are always an important part of the celebration. Donations well in advance would be very welcome, as would baskets, bowls or clean, used plastic food trays to hold small arrangements that will be distributed afterwards.

A **Harvest Thanksgiving 'Blue Jeans' Social** will be held on Monday evening at 7pm. More details (and requests for help) will follow but it will most likely include some fun quiz questions, sharing of stories and a 'show and tell' of things grown or created by members of the church.



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Black History Month

This year, a special effort is being made by the churches in Croydon North Deanery to organise events during October which is recognised in the UK and other nations as Black History Month. Details of these will be published shortly and all are welcome to join activities in the different churches.

At St Oswald's we will be recognising BHM in our 10am Sunday services but the main event will be an evening organised by members of our worshipping community. We hope that this evening will give us all a fresh insight into why an understanding of the history of the connections between people whose ancestors began life in different parts of the world is important to us today.

Exploring why Black lives matter

Saturday 10 October 6pm (tbc)

The death of Mr George Floyd in Minneapolis, USA on 25 May 2020 shocked and horrified people across the world. It sparked mass protests under the banner 'Black Lives Matter' and stimulated governments and institutions, including the Church, to examine their record in striving for racial equality.

This evening, during Black History Month, provides an opportunity to learn how some in the past used the Bible to justify slavery, to explore the Church's involvement in this area, the legacy of racial injustice and the actions we can take to secure justice and equality for all.

All Saints and All Souls

Sunday 1st November

10am All Age Eucharist for All Saints Day

Early evening All Souls with the commemoration of the faithful departed.

(Details to follow)



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Live streaming of Parish Eucharist trial

As we continue to explore ways in which we can worship together, whether we are at home or in church, we will be replacing the use of 'Blue Jeans' for joining the 10am Sunday service from home with a live stream for a trial period during the month of September. We will look forward to your feedback as we decide whether this is a better way of sharing in that service for those at home. The link to join the service will be published each week on the audio (worship) page of the St Oswald's website. You can simply click on that link to join the service live or at a later time.

Live streaming involves our service being openly available on the internet via YouTube – although in practice you need to look for it to find it.

For any in church who might be worried about being seen on camera, especially readers and intercessors, do speak with the clergy who can advise you on where to sit or stand to avoid being seen.

Other regular services

The **Wednesday morning Eucharist at 10:30 am** re-started at the beginning of August and is continuing on a weekly basis.

The **8am Sunday morning Holy Communion service** will re-start on Sunday 27th September and will follow its usual pattern with a BCP communion on the first Sunday of the month.

Open church for Private prayer continues on Wednesdays from 6-7pm and on Saturdays from 10:30 – 11:30am

Contacts

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