

St. Augustine and St. Aidan Tonge Moor and Hall i'th' Wood

PARISH PAPER

“Lesser Lockdown Edition 3” - July 2020



Dear friends

Two things happened on the day I sat down to write this Letter: the first was the Prime Minister's announcement both that the 2m social-distancing rule was to be relaxed and also that churches were to be allowed to reopen for public worship towards the beginning of July. Both these developments are good news - even though they render out-of-date parts of my article later in the Parish Paper, although the overall considerations mentioned therein remain the same.

The second “happening” was the first day of the Manchester Diocesan Clergy Conference. The Conference takes place every 3 years at Swanwick in Derbyshire, but the venue cancelled the booking soon after we went into lockdown, so rather than deprive the clergy of their triennial treat, the Bishop's Senior Leadership Team decided to conduct a pared-down Conference via Zoom. This was the first of two days.

Part of the day's two hours was given over to small groups - yes, even with Zoom! - and one of the things that quickly became apparent - when combined with my knowledge of

others areas of the Diocese - was the proportion of parishes which have had no structured worship throughout the period of lockdown.

Many of these - if not all - have made "worship resources" available on websites and social media for people to dip into as and when they wish. Now this may say more than I realise about my own personality and preferences, but none of this is structured; none of this is communal.

Here in the parish of Tonge Moor our tradition of daily mass has been preserved, with more people sharing in midweek masses than would normally be the case (although, sadly, far fewer people have been sharing in the Sunday mass than would have been expected).

The Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer have been put on the website as an aid to prayer, which is useful for those of us who find our minds wander all-too-easily if we try to pray with no such aids. As well as being structured (see above) these have the great advantage of being something we do with others: although we are not in the same physical space, the mass is being celebrated as we watch it - and share in it - at home; when we say one or other of the Daily Offices, there will be dozens if not hundreds of people, somewhere in the world, who will be saying it with us, at the same time.

The Christian faith is a corporate endeavour: it is something we share with other people, and share in with other people. We support each other, and we grow together in the faith. Prayer can be both private and public, but worship is something we do together, as a body, the Body of the Christ who is the object of our worship.

This is something that has been brought home to me powerfully over these past few months, and I hope those who have shared in the masses, and made use of the Daily Offices, have also found strength, growth and comfort in doing so.

I say this not to give ourselves a pat on the back, but to remind each of us of the importance of gathering together to worship the Lord of our Salvation, and gain the benefit of sharing in the Sacraments, sharing fellowship with one another and being members together of the family of God: and also the importance of worship for those who, through infirmity or ailment, are unable to join with us to share that physical space.

I hope to be able to say more about that last particular point at a later date. In the meantime, please keep your eyes on your email inbox and our Facebook groups for information about our churches reopening for public worship.

With my love and prayers

Fr Tony

WHEN ARE WE REOPENING THE CHURCHES?

As the world continues its tentative steps towards the 'new normal', this is one of the questions we hear most often (in churchy circles, at least). There are two parts to this question: the first concerns opening for public worship. The answer to this - at the time of writing - is quite clear: not yet. At the moment, this is still not permitted, although we are giving thought as to how it might be achieved when it is permitted. Rest assured, though, that there will be plenty of

advice and directives issued that we will have to follow. The second part is the reopening of churches for private prayer, which has been permitted since 15th June (a spokesman's slip gave this as 13th June, which the Government felt was better to go along with rather than highlight another error). This permission is permissive, though, and not compulsory: many churches have decided not to reopen for private prayer, often because it was not felt worth the effort that would be involved. Many of those that have, use chairs, rather than pews, which are far easier to manage for social distancing. So what would be involved in reopening the church(es) for private prayer? The first thing to say is that much thought has been put into all these matters at national and Diocesan level, and advice/instructions/guidance has been issued. During the closure, dust has had chance to settle, so before reopening, churches have to be aired and dusted down by volunteers, none of whom must be in a vulnerable group. All papers, books, kneelers and cushions also need to be removed. Reducing the risk of contagion is paramount. Hand sanitiser and disposable wipes would need to be placed at the entrance, together with a suitable container for disposal. Some way of ensuring social distancing would need to be drawn up, probably also using only a section of the nave at a time. By limiting opening to no more than once every 72 hours, any virus would have time to die off, so no 'deep cleaning' would be required, thankfully. Using a one-way system has also been advised, as is using separate entrances and exits where possible. This gives just a hint of the wide-ranging advice that has been received, and some of the issues that the PCC will be considering at its Zoom meeting this month, when it decides whether to reopen for private prayer or not. The PCC will also consider whether to allow the church

to be used for funerals, which is also now permitted: again, the same considerations apply. Following the PCC's decision, a notice will be placed on Facebook and the parish's website.

Fr Tony

The Rev. Canon Brian Findlay R.I.P.

An “exceptional” clergyman, who was an “integral part” of a village church, passed away of prostate cancer aged 77

He began his career as an academic scholar, studying at Cambridge and going on to become Dean of Divinity at Magdalen College, Oxford. He went on to supervise postgraduates in church history and music.

After ten years he decided to enter parish work and became Vicar of Tonge Moor and then Rector of Monks Eleigh in Suffolk.

In 1988 he and his wife Kirsty moved to the village of Thwaites near to the Duddon Valley to enjoy their retirement. During this time, he had been helping with the parishes of Millom benefices, particularly St. Annes in Thwaites.

His wife said, “He was a keen scholar and had a personal library of more than 20,000 books. He was an exceptional gardener and loved plants. He was also an exceptional organ

and harpsichord player. He enjoyed cooking and having people round for dinner. He was a very warm person and a great listener.”

Peter Ford, churchwarden at St. Annes, described him as “very understandable and an exceptional clergyman, very devoted to his wife. He helped to improve St Annes and made everyone feel welcome. He will be greatly missed.”



HOLY DAYS

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE - 3rd July

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God"(John 20.26ff).

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the

Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.

ST. SWITHUN -15th July

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he

was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

ST. MARY MAGDELINE - 22nd July (The woman with a past)

Later this month Christians all over the world will commemorate probably the most unlikely saint in the Bible, Mary Magdalene. There was something in her background that has always fascinated people. All we are told about her 'past' is that Jesus had cast 'seven devils' out of her, but on that

slender if intriguing evidence she has become the patron saint of 'fallen women'.

Some see her as the woman 'who was a sinner' who washed Christ's feet with her tears at a respectable dinner party. Of that person Jesus remarked that 'she had been forgiven much' and consequently 'loved much'. Whether she was that woman or not, the description perfectly fits her. No one who has heard or read it could surely fail to be moved by her tearful encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden on Easter morning, the man she had taken to be the gardener revealing Himself in one word, Mary, as her beloved Teacher.

The problem with a good story - and hers is as good as it gets - is that people can't leave it alone. Down the centuries she has been John the Apostle's fiancée until he left her to follow Christ. She has gone with Jesus' mother and the same John to live in Ephesus and died there. In art and literature she has become an alluring, sexual figure, disapproved of by the mother of Jesus. There is no historical evidence whatsoever for any of this. In fact, the Gospels suggest the two Marys were close in their shared devotion to Jesus.

Her popularity is shown in the fact that 187 ancient churches in Britain are dedicated to her, and a college at both Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever the details of her story, we cherish it because it shows that having a 'past' is no reason not to have a future.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, THOMAS CLARKSON AND OLAUDAH EQUIANON

During the 18th century many people in England were involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. The CofE remembers especially William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson - three very different but all tireless campaigners against the evil practice.

Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) was an Anglican clergyman and one of the most prominent of the anti-slavery campaigners. In 1787 he helped form the first Abolitionist Committee, and his energy and hatred of injustice made him a 'moral steam-engine'. He travelled hundreds of miles, gathering evidence from people caught up in the slave trade, from ship captains to doctors.

Olaudah Equiano (1745 - 1797) had been kidnapped in Nigeria, sold into slavery and sent to the West Indies. When he finally escaped, he made his way to London and became one of the most prominent black campaigners. His brutal autobiography of 1789 ran to nine reprints, and was translated into many languages, bringing home to people the horrors of the slave trade.

William Wilberforce (1759 - 1833), of course, became the main figurehead in Parliament. He came from a wealthy family in Kingston-upon-Hull, and represented the town in Parliament. He was recruited by Thomas Clarkson, who saw the need for a brilliant advocate within

Parliament. Wilberforce was an inspired choice: not only wealthy and well-connected, but a gifted orator with a social conscience, especially after his conversion in 1785. He made his first speech in Parliament against slavery in 1789, but it was not until 1807, after a debate that raged for many years, that the Abolition Act was finally passed.



The start of a new month and hopefully we are closer to meeting together in person. Until then we stay in touch via phone, email and internet.

Thank you to Fr. Tony for our M.U. Mass last month.

MU members will have received their families' worldwide publication which includes a letter from our Worldwide President and also the Prayer Diary for July to December.

The Annual Deanery Festival will not be going ahead on 1st July, though Christ Church Harwood hope to hold a Commemoration Service in the (not too distant) future to Celebrate 100 years of MU at the Church.

All MU resources are constantly updating on the Mothers Union web page, please do visit the site.

Elsie Hollinrake

100 CLUB NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their number/s and even taken on new ones. The third monthly draw was via a Zoom meeting at 11.30am after the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 7th June 2020.

Pam and Fr Tony were in charge of the drum containing the numbers at the vicarage, inside for this draw. Ruth & David had list of numbers and names, in their dining room.

First Prize Number 3 - Enid Butler wins £25

Second Prize Number 72 - Gill Teixeira wins £15

Third Prize Number 1 - Theresa Stott wins £10

The fourth draw for this term to be drawn

Sunday 5th July 2020 after the streamed mass approx. 11.30am, enough time to get yourself some tea and toast before Fr Tony joins us.

If you are not a member and would like to join it is just £1 a month.

Please see David or Ruth Taylor.



WALSINGHAM NEWS

Further to the article in last month's *Parish Paper*, I had some good news on the Feast of Pentecost as my suggestion of naming Sr Angela's knitted angel was drawn out of the hat. 'Angelina' is currently residing in the Priory, awaiting relocation to a good home as soon as I am able to collect her. I'm delighted by this, especially as I saw Sr Angela knitting her during last October's Craft Week. No doubt Angelina will make an appearance at a future Cell meeting.

On the first Saturday in June, a significant number of us would normally have been at Ladyewell near Preston. Of course not this year, but hopefully one of those dates to be added to the list to be transferred into next year's diary.

On Tuesday 16th June, the intention at Mass was for our Cell of St Nicholas and then later in the evening, Fr Tony led the Litany of Our Lady through the wonders of Zoom. This made it rather more inter-active than being streamed, although Fr Tony very sensibly 'muted' us so we could see and hear him and Pam led the responses. It was very good to share a short chat before we began as there were some people using the technology who are not on the PCC nor have taken part in the

Zoom 100 Club Draws. Sadly, no cakes or scones afterwards - at least nobody was admitting to having them!

The techies (and others) at the Shrine worked hard to stream the 'National Pilgrimage at Home' which was thoroughly enjoyed by a great number not only in the UK but also across the world. It seems quite a long time ago now, but being on Monday 25th May, was too late to feature in our June *Parish Paper*. After some words of welcome from Fr Kevin in the Holy House, he sung Mass in the Shrine Church and the excellent homily, which had been recorded a few days earlier, was given by Fr Tim Pike CMP. Some glorious hymns were an added bonus. As for so many, it's a steep learning curve for those responsible for putting it all together but very, very much appreciated. Quite a few of us then enjoyed our 'home' picnics and completed the day by joining in Shrine Prayers. Who would have anticipated the 2020 version of the day as we sheltered from the couple of deluging showers last year? We probably didn't miss the 6am start we usually have, but definitely made the most of what we could do instead. At the time of writing, the Shrine Church and the Guild of All Souls Chapel are opening daily from 1st July from 10 am - 3pm for private prayer. A one-way system will be in operation and they are limiting one pilgrim or family in the Holy House at a time and two in the Guild Chapel. An up-date will be issued shortly concerning plans for pilgrim groups and visitors, so we look forward to that. St Mary's Parish Church opened for private prayer at the first opportunity on Monday 15th June from 9am -5pm daily but as the Priory Chapel forms part of the House, it was decided that it would not open for the time being. The Sisters continue to use the Chapel for the 5 fold Offices and Exposition in private.

The facebook groups *Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham (Anglican)* and *Walsingham Friends* continue to attract considerable numbers of new members and play their part in promoting the Shrine and all it stands for. Please pray for all those who have important decisions to make in the coming days and weeks with regard to the safety of staff, pilgrims and visitors, all staff who have been furloughed and for those who have continued to do essential maintenance and communication work. Please also remember Fr Andreas and his family as they prepare to leave for Oxford and for Fr Ben as he and his family move to Walsingham from the Isle of Man.

Linda Parkington



MY SPECIAL PLACE: FIRWOOD FOLD

So close to home, my special place awaits my need for quiet and space
Well hidden down a cobbled hill,
where all is peaceful, calm and still
There is a hamlet quaint and old, unchanged, unspoiled,
lies Firwood Fold

Today a bent old man I see
who came right up and spoke to me
He pointed to a cottage door
I've passed so many times before
"A boy was born" he said
"Last night - I'm told he was a wondrous sight
Still wrapped within his cawl was he, a portent of destiny!"

Although the day was warm and bright
the old man faded from my sight
I walked down to the sparkling stream
and thought it must have been a dream
Yet as I leant against a tree
I felt the man was watching me
And suddenly the air turned cold
as I walked home from Firwood Fold

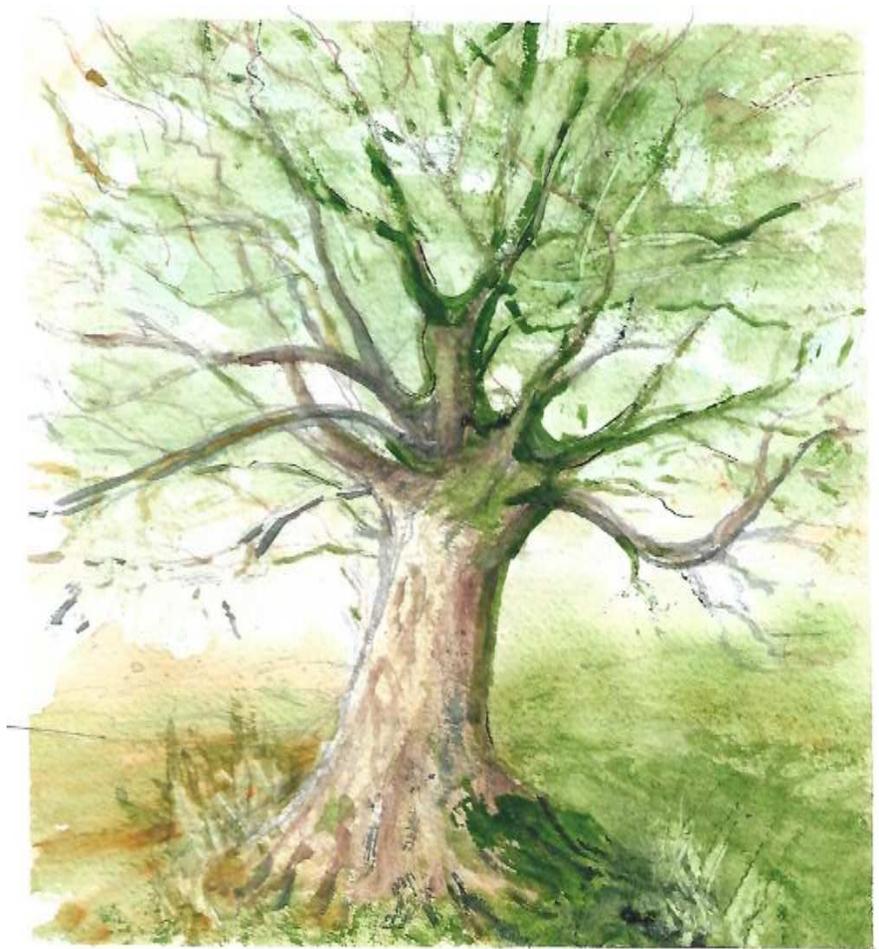
Leonie Price

THE SYCAMORE

Right outside our cottage door
Stood a lovely sycamore
Where I would sit and hope
For better times and sunlit days
When healing hands and gentle ways
Would give me strength to cope

For years I've drifted far from home
Yet no matter where I road
My thoughts return again
To that old cottage and its tree
And though my eyes no longer see
The memories remain

Leonie Price



The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

When producing material for your magazine or church services, beware the computer spell-checker. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and, on the night, found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manger”, mangars apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature - as with metal coat hangers - that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus, on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won't be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

Never, ever, print on them ‘Do not take home’ as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction ‘Take this sheet home for reference’ would ensure

that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice solve the problem.

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

KEEP SMILING! (THE 'LOCKDOWN FUNNIES')

I'm sure that all the shoppers were on something at the supermarket this morning - they all seemed really spaced out!

I can see why some people are calling this lockdown 'gardening time' - ten weeks ago I planted myself on the sofa and now I've grown twice the size!

This week's top coronavirus tip: Maintain social distancing from the biscuit tin and you'll flatten the curve!

They said that masks and gloves were enough to go to the supermarket. They lied - everyone else had clothes on!

It's interesting how parcels just get left on your doorstep now. Someone left me a pile of LEGO outside my door - I just don't know what to make of it!

It's been such a joy being at home with my wife for the past 10 weeks. We've caught up with all the things I've done wrong in the last 30 years!

I was in the supermarket the other day when this guy threw a block of cheddar at me.

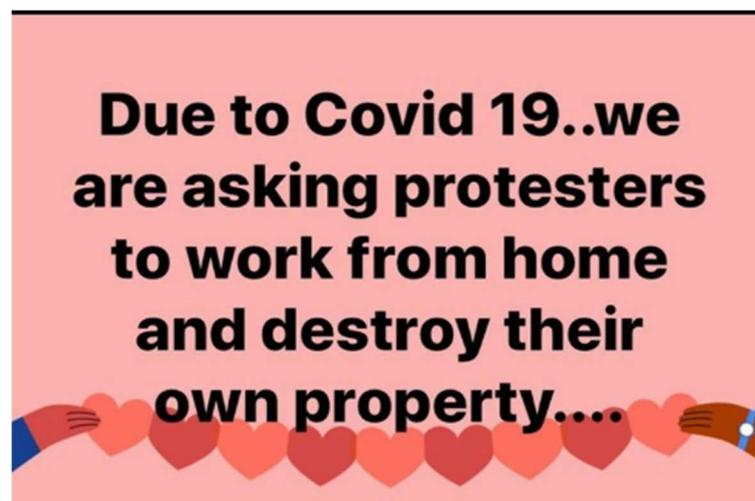
Outraged, I shouted, "Well, that's not very mature, is it?!"

"Ladies, if a man says he will fix it, he will. There is no need to remind him every six months about it."

BREAKING NEWS

Insurance companies are warning campers:

"If your tent is stolen during the night you won't be covered"



**The spread of Covid-19
is based on two factors**

**1. How dense the
population is**

**2. How dense the
population is**

The queue

While waiting in a socially distanced queue early one morning for the supermarket to open for us 'seniors', I was surprised to see a young man saunter along and try to cut in at the front of the queue. A furious old lady waved her cane at him, and he quickly backed away.

A moment later, the young man tried again. He managed to dodge the old lady, but then two old men started shouting at him. Again, the young man backed away.

But he wasn't giving up, and soon the young man approached the queue for the third time. By now, all of us pensioners were ready for him, an angry wall of opposition.

The young man stood there for a moment, and then shrugged his shoulders. "If you people won't let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop."

.....

I would be grateful if you could let me have your contributions for the August edition of the Parish Paper by no later than Friday, 24th July 2020. Thank you.

.....

PARISH DATES

SUN 5th 100 Club Draw, 12.00pm (via Zoom)
SUN 12th 6.30pm: Evening Prayer & Benediction (YouTube)
Tue 14th PCC Meeting (via Zoom)

Please keep an eye on Facebook on your email inboxes for information about our churches reopening for Public Worship

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

There have been no Occasional Offices this month

Calendar and Intentions for July 2020

Wed 1 feria: Those who have volunteered to contact parishioners by telephone
 Thu 2 feria: The Unity of Christ's church
 Fri 3 **S THOMAS:** The Church in India
 Sat 4 feria: The mentally ill and those who care for them

SUN 5 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God

Mon 6 feria: The Bishop of Manchester and his staff
 Tue 7 feria: Those who would normally be receiving the Blessed Sacrament in their homes this month
 Wed 8 feria: The work of Forward in Faith
 Thu 9 feria: The Churches Together in Tonge Moor
 Fri 10 feria: Our local Councillors and Borough officials
 Sat 11 **S BENEDICT:** Europe

SUN 12 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God

Mon 13 feria: Our PCC and Church officers
 Tue 14 John Keble: All parishes whose patron is Keble College
 Wed 15 S Bonaventure: Religious Communities, and the work and mission of the Mother's Union
 Thu 16 feria: The fire, police and ambulance services
 Fri 17 feria: Those intending to be baptised into the Church
 Sat 18 feria: Those intending to be married in the parish

SUN 19 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God

Mon 20 feria: The homeless, the unemployed and the lonely
 Tue 21 feria: The work of ACS and Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood
 Wed 22 **S MARY MAGDALEN:** All those who seek the Lord
 Thu 23 **S BRIDGET OF SWEDEN:** The peoples of Europe
 Fri 24 feria: Walmsley Deanery, its churches and congregations
 Sat 25 **S JAMES:** The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and its Priests Associate

SUN 26 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God

Mon 27 feria: The work of local hospitals, hospices and care homes during this pandemic
 Tue 28 feria: The Bishop of Beverley, and all Bishops of The Society
 Wed 29 S Martha: The Mothers' Union
 Thu 30 feria: Evangelism
 Fri 31 S Ignatius Loyola: All teachers of the Faith

PARISH OFFICE

email: paroff@staugustinestm.org.uk

website: www.staugustinestm.org.uk

CHURCH WARDENS

David & Ruth Taylor: 31 Wisbeck Road. Tel: 01204 396409

OFFICERS AND ORGANISERS

email addresses can be completed by adding "staugustinestm.org.uk"

PCC Secretary: Katherine Taylor Tel. 01204 531053 - email: [pccsec@](mailto:pccsec@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Treasurer: Sue Loftus Tel 01204 302051 - email: [treasurer@](mailto:treasurer@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Walsingham Cell: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586

Church Flowers: Cath and Ted Hale Tel: 01204 533745

Safeguarding: Margaret Mullen Tel: 01204 695964 –
email: [safeguarding@](mailto:safeguarding@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Brownies: Nichola Smith Tel: 01204 396409 – email: [brownies@](mailto:brownies@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Sunday School: Ruth Taylor Tel: 01204 396409

Mothers' Union: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586 – email: [mu@](mailto:mu@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Organist: (St Augustine's) Mike Cheetham Tel: 01204 391963

Organist: (St. Aidan's) Peter Pemrick Tel: 01204 527699

Parish Hall Bookings: Sandra Anderson Tel: 01204 383158 –
email: [hallbookings@](mailto:hallbookings@staugustinestm.org.uk)

Wednesday Morning Coffee Shop: John Harrison Tel: 01204 792691

Caretaker - St Aidan's Hall: Andrew Settle Tel: 01204 450321

Parish Paper: Mike Cheetham - email: [magazine@](mailto:magazine@staugustinestm.org.uk)