

St Sampson's PCC Newsletter 9 June 2020

Lots of Good News to report – Thanks be to God!

First and foremost – a huge thank you to all who have already responded so generously to the recently circulated PCC letter appealing for funds to cover our church's ongoing expenses whilst we are unable to hold public services.

Meanwhile, contact is continuing to be made with those in the community who are shielding, self-isolating, etc – with errands being run, messages exchanged, and phone calls being made.

Isn't it great that now many of us are able to enjoy meeting in groups of up to six in our gardens or open spaces?

Church Open for Supervised Private Prayer

The day is fast approaching when supervised private prayer will be allowed in the Widhill Aisle of our church. We are planning for that area to be open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, starting on Tuesday 16 June, from 10am – 2pm, observing social distancing rules - and no more than six people may be in the building at any one time, including two church sitters. A rota is currently being drawn up by Adina Grace to cover these hours in two-hour time slots.

Vacancy – Transition Team

A group is now being formed with representatives from across our Benefice to work together to plan and write an Upper Thames Group profile, together with our parish outlines, job description and person spec. The Team's first Zoom meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10 June and an initial plan, drawn up by Adina Grace and Alison Beadle of Ashton Keynes who are heading up the Team, is taking shape showing projected timescales. Please hold this group in your prayers as the process begins, especially for God's leading throughout.

An Appeal to the Green-fingered

The two lavender-edged flower beds alongside the path from Church Lane are terribly overgrown with weeds and very unsightly. Whilst maintaining social distancing, the PCC is wondering if there is a green-fingered person out there itching to do some weeding? If so, please feel free! We will all be extremely grateful to see them tended.

The Light Continues to Shine

In view of the exceptional situation in which we continue to find ourselves with the Coronavirus Pandemic, the cross is going to remain illuminated at night until further notice, shining out as a beacon of hope for all who are travelling to and from work at night, as well as continuing to cast its reassuring light over those living in Cricklade.

St Sampson's Roof Fundraising

Further Good News - donations to the roof appeal are still being received despite the continued lockdown and the total stands at around £50,000. The team is now ready to seek matched funding from grant bodies to cover the first phase of work – repairs to the South Transept – at a cost of approximately £100K. In hopeful anticipation, we are about

to go out to tender, so any contributions to the Roof Fund, made payable to "St Sampson's Church", will be gratefully received.

St Sampson's PCC

The PCC is due to meet again on Wednesday 24 June at 8pm.

Wishing God's best for you all,
St Sampson's PCC

Should you have newsy items to include in a future St Sampson's Newsletter, please email them to katy@bell.waitrose.com - many thanks.

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