

Dear Friends

This is our eleventh update from the island – and it's our third week post confinement on St Barts. It is heartening to see other parts of the world now allowing people to come out of confinement and go back to work or back to school, or just enjoy their leisure time; albeit with everyone still aware that we are in a situation which needs all of us to continue to take safety measures – to protect ourselves, our families and our communities.

The junior schools on the island have re-started, so the usual 8am traffic has now returned to daily life in Gustavia, and the recently started road/bridge improvements by the entrance to Eden Rock and the St Jean pond are causing a lot of traffic delays in that area. The High School will be able to open this coming week and the Stadium and sports facilities are also reopening, but with limits on numbers and social distancing still in place.

There is definitely a feeling that we are getting back to normal here – with just a hint (perhaps it's only me) that we are taking it all for granted ... and slowly, slowly might be a better watchword! Shops are now not requiring masks and social distancing seems to have reduced from six feet to about a foot!

As June approaches, it is certainly getting hotter and we are glad we can cool off by visiting our wonderful beaches, although there has been a return of sargassum, particularly on the south side of the island. We have had some storms during this past week, with very loud thunder; however, as with Pagnol's Jean de Florette, we didn't see much of the associated rain.

This Sunday is Pentecost – when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit. We again have a guest preacher – the Reverend Pippa Turner, who is vicar of St Philips in Earls Court, London and who was with us in January this year. The Holy Spirit is embodied in the piece of music which we sing every week at the beginning of our service: *Spirit of the Living God*; so I have included it as our virtual opening hymn this week, along with photographs I took of two doves that I saw resting on the church cross earlier this week. The dove is often the symbol of the Holy Spirit and is portrayed (along with tongues of fire) on Charlotte Hood's wonderful altar frontal for Pentecost, which can be seen in our Sunday service videos.

Our meditation piece this week is *Somewhere over the Rainbow*, with colourful sightings of rainbows on St Barts, and I have included in the playlist a musical interlude from our music director, Ombeline Collin, playing a piece by Bach.

Pentecost brings the 50 days of Eastertide to a close and, as is mentioned in the sermon this week, it is hoped that the Holy Spirit has descended on all of us during this difficult period. Perhaps this can be also expressed in the words from the song *The Blessing*: ***May His presence go before you, And behind you and beside you, All around you and within you, He is with you! He is with you!*** At the end of this week's playlist we have included a version of *The Blessing* produced for Easter by churches in Pittsburgh; who originally came up with the 'virtual choir' idea and which subsequently has taken off around the world.

We will hold our usual virtual Zoom coffee hour at 10am on Sunday (details below) and Reverend Pippa will be online too – do please join us.

Below are details of our Bestseller Book Group (the next meeting is on Monday, 15th June), as well as our virtual Taizé services; a link to our previous updates; our prayer list and details on how to make an offering to the church.

On a personal note, I am pleased to say that after spending the last few months in the UK my wife, Rachel, will be returning to the island this coming week – under the dual-testing regime, which means she will not have to do a 14 day quarantine. (Unfortunately, this may mean the end of my lockdown beard!).

We continue to hold in our prayers all of those who are ill or suffering during the covid-19 crisis, as well all those who are helping others. Let's continue to Stay Safe – and keep washing our hands!

With blessings  
Philip

PS We are always updating our mailing list, so if you missed any of our previous emails, there is a link below! Likewise, let me know if you wish to drop off or know anyone who might like to be added.

### **1. Sunday Service**

**Pentecost Playlist:** [https://bit.ly/StBAC\\_Pentecost](https://bit.ly/StBAC_Pentecost)

### **2. Offering**

***If you would like to make an offering, please send cheques to:***

*Friends of St Bartholomew's Anglican Church*

*106 West River Road*

*Rumson*

*NJ 07760*

***Or use this Website link:*** <https://www.stbartholomewsanglicanchurch.com/donations/>

### **3. Prayer List**

*Brook Lacour*

*Lucy Day*

*Nat Day*

*Valerie Trangmar*

*Rosemond Greaux*

*Paul-Lancelot Clequin*

### **4. Coffee Morning Zoom meeting:** Sunday 10am

***Via the internet:*** <https://zoom.us/j/9713397133>

***Via the Zoom App:*** Meeting ID: 9713397133

***Via your telephone*** +1 253 215 8782 (USA) then input the Meeting ID: 9713397133

**5. Bestseller Book Club** – next discussion is on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm  
***The Children Act by Ian McEwan***

**6. Past Corona Updates**

***You can visit our website if you wish to read any of our previous updates***

***[https://bit.ly/StBAC\\_CoronaUpdates](https://bit.ly/StBAC_CoronaUpdates)***

**7. Taizé services**

***These are also posted on our YouTube Channel. There are several virtual services uploaded, including a new one this week; as well as composite playlists with our favourite Taizé chants.***

***All our Taizé Services: [https://bit.ly/StBAC\\_VirtualTaize](https://bit.ly/StBAC_VirtualTaize)***

***Favourite Taizé Chants: [https://bit.ly/StBAC\\_FavouriteTaize1](https://bit.ly/StBAC_FavouriteTaize1)***

***More Favourite Taizé Chants: [https://bit.ly/StBAC\\_FavouriteTaize2](https://bit.ly/StBAC_FavouriteTaize2)***

***And More Favourite Taizé Chants: [https://bit.ly/StBAC\\_FavouriteTaize3](https://bit.ly/StBAC_FavouriteTaize3)***

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Philip Trangmar  
Parish Administrator  
+590 (0)690 54 17 99