

From the Diocesan Coronavirus Task Group

The COVID-19 vaccine was rolled out last week – this was good news indeed. It is wonderful to see that Croydon University Hospital, right here in our Diocese, was one of the first hospitals to administer the vaccine. We are also hearing news of church halls across the Diocese being used as vaccination centres. This is a great example of what partnership working looks like as we start to return to a greater degree of normality than we ever thought possible.

Some Q&As provided by the Church of England

Will the Vaccines work?

The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are 90-95% effective in terms of preventing an individual from getting symptoms of the disease and the Oxford vaccine while averaging 70% efficacy in trials is likely to be 90+% effective on production. We don't as yet have robust evidence on whether the vaccines stop transmission of the virus between individuals.

Are the vaccines safe?

While it normally takes years or even decades for an effective vaccine to be produced, the resources applied to finding a vaccine against COVID-19 have been such that this work has been completed within a very rapid time-frame. Nonetheless, the same safety protocols have been followed for these vaccines as for all others.

Haven't some doctors and scientists said that the vaccines are unsafe or that they will be used for social engineering purposes?

There are more than 20 million doctors and relevant research scientists in the world at present. An extremely small fraction of them have contributed to various conspiracy theories or pseudo-scientific claims. Within any large group of people there will always be 'outliers'. The overwhelming consensus of medical and scientific consensus is that these vaccines are safe, necessary and ethical.

Will the vaccines offer immediate immunity?

The first generation of vaccines are dual dose with three weeks between injections. Immunity is likely to be attained by most people about four weeks after their first injection, as long as they complete the course. We also need to remember that the vaccine will not result in immunity for everyone who receives it so continued caution is recommended.

How do the vaccines work?

Different technologies lie behind various vaccines, but they all work to stimulate individuals' immune systems to recognise and counteract the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. None of the vaccines involves altering human DNA in any way.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents & St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



13th December 2020

Parish Priest: Canon Roxanne Hunte
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

President, Mother Roxanne Preacher, Cicelyn

8.00am and 10.00am Parish Mass

via:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoyzfpScnrT4W9D8X11RmDQ>

or



Welcome to our Parish Mass at Church and livestreamed at 8am (BCP) and 10am (Common Worship). Prayers continue for all of you who are unable to return to the church building. We continue to put our trust in God who is faithful *in season and out of season.*

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is still available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or Mobile 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays; or Mother Susan (07890 780572) on Fridays.

For your prayers

For Archbishops Justin and Stephen. For the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe; and Fr. Dupwa and the people of St. Philip, Mkoba Gweru, our link parish in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe. *For our bishops in this Diocese, Christopher and Jonathan, Richard and Karowei.* For **LINGFIELD & DORMANSLAND UNITED BENEFICE:** St Peter & St Paul, Lingfield Kay Savvides (SPA); National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy. *For The Rt Revd Reuben Kisembo, Bishop of Ruwenzori (Uganda); The Rt Revd Vadapalli Prasada Rao, Bishop of Dornakal (South India); and for the priests and people of their Dioceses.* **For those in any kind of need** – Enid, Alec, Una, Ted, Mick, Linda, Helen, Jennifer and Reuben, Claude, Marie-Gabrielle, Vera, Barry and Valerie, Sheila, Rose, Andrew Scorgie, Rhoma, Joanna Simpson, Allison, Caroline. **The bereaved** – the Burke families, Lynne and family; **The recently departed** - Hubert Burke, Lynn's Mom. **Years Mind.**

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,
 who at your first coming sent your
 messenger
 to prepare your way before you:
 grant that the ministers and stewards of
 your mysteries
 may likewise so prepare and make
 ready your way
 by turning the hearts of the disobedient
 to the wisdom of the just,
 that at your second coming to judge
 the world
 we may be found an acceptable people
 in your sight;
 for you are alive and reign with the
 Father
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and

as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

PSALM OR CANTICLE

Either **Psalm 126**

R The Lord has done great things for us [and we are glad indeed].

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
 then were we like those who dream.
 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**

Then they said among the nations,
 "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us,
 and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
 like the watercourses of the Negev.
 Those who sowed with tears
 will reap with songs of joy.
 Those who go out weeping, carrying
 the seed,
 will come again with joy, shouldering
 their sheaves. **R**

Or **Luke 1:46b-55**

R My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

For he has looked with favour on his

lowly servant;
 from this day all generations will call me

blessèd.
 The Almighty has done great things

for me,
 and holy is his name. **R**

He has mercy on those who fear him
 in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in their

conceit. **R**

He has cast down the mighty from their
 thrones

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good

things
 and the rich he has sent away empty. **R**

He has come to the help of his servant,
 Israel,

for he has remembered his promise of
 mercy.

The promise he made to our forebears:
 to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters, rejoice always,
 pray without ceasing, give thanks in all
 circumstances; for this is the will of God
 in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench
 the Spirit. Do not despise the words
 of prophets, but test everything; hold
 fast to what is good; abstain from every
 form of evil. May the God of peace
 himself sanctify you entirely; and may
 your spirit and soul and body be kept
 sound and blameless at the coming of
 our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls
 you is faithful, and he will do this.

GOSPEL John 1:6-8. 19-28

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these
 heavenly gifts;

kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
 that when your Christ comes again
 we may shine as lights before his face;
 who is alive and reigns now and for
 ever.