

ST DENYS

STANFORD IN THE VALE



Friday Fellowship News No 19 21 August 2020

JUST TWO WEEKS TO GO!

IN just over two weeks time, September 6, we shall gather again in St Denys Church to worship together. The first time since March 22!

There are lots of reasons why people go to Church. Primarily, we go to worship God, to spend time hearing and receiving His word, taking Holy Communion and building each other up as Christians in all sorts of ways.



For others, Church is also a huge part of their social structure in life. A place where they meet with friends, if living alone - get opportunity to talk and be listened to, to mix with a range of people and for human contact.

And then there's the dimension that attendance on a Sunday gives Rhythm to our lives. It's an 'anchor point' in the week. It's another 'marker' which gives a sense of perspective and puts things in perspective, in the same way seasons do.

During lockdown, the absence of our external routines, and anchor points have left many people feeling adrift- just being bounced off the next wave of news or Government announcement. Nothing is

plannable, and we can't see the horizon - whichever direction in which we look.

And so a return to church on Sundays at 1015am, socially distanced service, will not only root us corporately in God, but will meet a lot of other needs as well.

Attached to this FFNews is an important Survey. To aid our safety planning further, now is the time we need to find out who is going to come on Sundays so that we can arrange seating etc. Please print off, complete and post/drop into me or, complete it online, save and send via email back asap. Thank you!

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS - ZOOM

NOT currently in a home group but would like to explore the Bible with a few others for just one hour per week, via Zoom?

From September, we shall be providing Personal/Group Study Questions based on my Sunday Sermons - which will continue to be uploaded to our Facebook page and YouTube channel. If you would like to join in with, say, 8 others on a Zoom call to share insights together, please email me vicar@stdenys.org a We will arrange a time in the day/eve, and a day of the week to suit the majority. We're happy to run several groups if there's the demand.

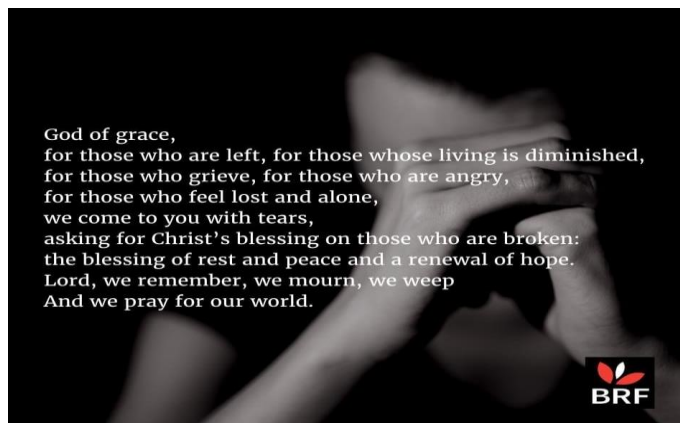
NIGEL KNIGHT JOHNSON

I AM delighted to confirm that Nigel, who along with several others, helped out whilst I was off last year, has accepted my invitation to come onto our ministry team to lead and preach regularly.

Since I've been here I have tried to have a preaching team, firstly with our curate Angela, and subsequently with a range of lay people: John Hardcastle, Katherine Gantlett, John Travis, Chris Weatherall, Anne de Letser, Julia Thorp, Geoff Withers and others, but for all sorts of reasons in the 18 months till I was off, except holidays, I preached every Sunday. Nigel will initially minister with me on Sundays until January, with sharing preaching from October so the congregation get a

variety of preaching styles and inputs. He will also be supporting me in other ways, such as taking funerals.

My GP has now referred me to the GW Hospital Orthopaedic team in Swindon. Please pray that I will get a Consultant Assessment through soon so that I can start on a treatment plan for my arthritic hip, likely to be injections first, then an operation hopefully early 2021. Thank you.



ST DENYS – OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

PLEASE NOTE that these are **now 11am till 12noon** on Sundays (not 2-3pm), until we resume Public Worship again on September 6th. **Please remember to bring a Face Covering with you.** Many thanks to Nigel and the C-19 Task Group for their continued work on all these practical issues for us.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

THERE are some excellent mental health resources to be founded at <https://www.oxmindguide.org.uk/>. Do take time to search and see what's there – even if only to pass on to a friend in need.

BIBLE READINGS & SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

I will upload a Reflection on the reding from Matthew 16: 13-20 to our YouTube and Facebook pages for Sunday. The Daily Bible readings for Morning prayer are as follows:-

Fri 21st:

Psalm 55: 1-8

2 Sam 1

Acts 5: 12-26

Sat 22nd:

Psalm 76

2 Sam 2: 1-11

Acts 5: 27-end

Sun 23rd:

Psalm 138

Rom 12: 1-8

Matt 16: 13-20

Mon 24th:

Psalm 86

Gen 28: 10-17

John 1: 43-end

Tue 25th:

Psalm 89

2 Sam 5: 1-12

Acts 7: 1-16

Wed 26th:

Psalm 119: 105-128

2 Sam 6: 1-19

Acts 7: 17-43

Thur 27th:

Psalm 92

2 Sam 7: 1-17

Acts 7: 44-53

Fri 28th:

Psalm 88

2 Sam 7: 18-end

Acts 7: 54-8:3

PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY

I AM delighted to say that as from this week, you can now collect prescriptions from the White Horse Medical Practice via the Post Office in the COOP in Stanford. You'll need to say this on your email request to the surgery. A huge thank you to Gaynor Archer, and a few others, who have been doing daily runs for many months now to collect prescriptions for villagers.

With my love and prayers:

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