

St. Michael's Church Shotwick

News Sheet May 2020

We are finding it difficult to run to a Newsletter at present, but we thought a News Sheet might help people cope with “lockdown”.

Hopefully this will be of interest, as well as the impressive amount of information in Burton's Parish magazine which can be viewed at:

<http://burtonchurch.org.uk/news-events/parish-magazine>

If you have any “lockdown” stories or photos you would like to share, please forward them to Jenny Sneddon at: jcsned@googlemail.com



A new photograph of the Church taken recently by our treasurer, Caroline Ellison

“Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish”

A message from Cathy

It's been many weeks now since we were all able to meet together and to actually enter our church to worship, to gather, to ring the bells. I know for many of you this has been a very difficult and trying time and yet there are also many new supporting friendships that have been opening up, some positive ways in which we are using this time of isolating. There is an inherent resourcefulness as we remembered last weekend with all the VE day celebrations. At times of trial, we dig deep.



For me, and I'm sure for many of you, it's been a time to really reflect upon 'into what or into whom, do we dig deep'?

Do we turn to the TV, box sets and to countless hours of news coverage to gain reassurance? We will not find it there! I'm hoping that the services which I've been sending out have been helping to focus our hearts and minds on God who is our solid foundation, who wants us to dig deep into our faith and to discover more and more the wonderful riches of His love, His mercy and His grace.

I found this wonderful quote from Mother Teresa of Calcutta which acknowledges this focus.

'God is the friend of silence. We need to find God, but we cannot find Him in noise or excitement. See how nature, the trees, the flowers, the grass grow in deep silence. See how the stars, the moon, and the sun all move in silence. The best way to show gratitude to God is to accept everything with joy. A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love.'

As we enter another phase of starting to open up slowly, this too raises new fears and worries about safety, let's use the silence to replenish our faith, to be encouraged and to be joyful in our love of God who graciously gives us all things.

I am sending out our Sunday services via email each week and you can either email me chelm@shotwick.org.uk to ask to be included or you can find these and other resources on the website.

Cathy

A prayer for these times

"Hold on to us, Lord, through this troubled time.

Where there is sickness, may there also be health.

Where there are tears, may there also be laughter.

Where there is despair, may there also be hope.

Where there is fear, may there also be trust.

Where there is hardship, may there also be help.

Where there is doubt, may there also be faith.

Where there is weakness, may there also be strength.

Where there is defeat, may there also be victory.

Where there is chaos, may there also be calm.

Where there are problems, may there also be solutions.

Where there is distancing in body, may there also be a coming together in spirit.

Where there is death, may there also be life.

Come, Lord, and work your miracle of love, out of darkness bringing light.

Amen."

Excerpt From: Nick Fawcett, *"For Such a Time as This"* : iBooks.

The Light of Christ



Every Sunday evening since the lockdown, Christians across the world have been lighting a candle at **8pm** to put in a window and to pray for their families, communities and our nations as we bring the light of Christ into the darkness of our current situation.

'We may feel that the coldness and darkness has extinguished our light. The light be very low, only a flicker, but it does not go out. Even the tiniest glow can be fanned into flame. So we pray 'Christ as a light, illumine and guide me.'
Chris Ainsley

Psalm 18: 28 '**You Lord, keep my lamp burning, my God turns darkness into light.'**

Good news: Chester welcomes the new Bishop

The new Bishop of Chester was announced on Tuesday at 10am as the **Right Reverend Mark Tanner** who is currently Bishop of Berwick in the Diocese of Newcastle. It wasn't done in the usual way but there are several clips on You Tube. You can follow the link on the Chester Diocese website to see the announcement, greetings from around our Diocese and a welcome from Bishop Mark and his wife Lindsay.

He was ordained in Chester Cathedral and served his curacy at St Mary's Upton between '98-2001 and so is known to quite a few of us in the Diocese. Steve and I were worshipping at St.Mary's at that time and have very good memories of his ministry there. I believe he will bring a new, refreshing and purposeful lead to the Diocese and look forward to when we can welcome here at St Michael's.

Cathy

Virtual access to Church web sites

If you google: you will find virtual access to Church services.



on line church services



There is lots of other virtual information out there if you google it, for example:

The Prayer Book Society <https://www.pbs.org.uk/>

Chester Cathedral <https://www.Chester Cathedral 360° virtual tour, Chester - spinoo.uk>

You can also find Virtual Tours of places like Museums, Zoos and National Trust sites.



Lockdown stories

Life goes on

Tulip planting by Vanessa

Tree planting by Joel Blakeman at Jenny's orchard in Shotwick.

Lilly of the Valley sent to Lavinia from her French friends - a first of May tradition.

Another lovely Church photograph from Caroline

