



*"where the river flows everything will live"*

## THE PARISH OF TIDENHAM (& St Briavels and Hewelsfield & Brockweir)

### WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020



In response to Vicar David's call to rest, gather and pray over the summer months Ewen and I have taken the opportunity to invite people round for some small garden gatherings – all socially distanced of course! A few members of our congregations have met together in the sunshine, to have a catch up and chat about how 'lockdown' has been for them. We've talked about how they've been able to engage with church over these months, what they've found helpful for their spiritual life and what lessons they've learnt. There has been a real mix of responses; some loving and some loathing the online experience of church - the zoom coffee, the different styles of worship services and the life groups.

Obviously one of the biggest changes has been our engagement with Sunday services. These online recordings have been viewed in pyjamas, over breakfast, in the garden, whilst cooking dinner or even later in the week if Sunday has been difficult. People have valued being able to play parts of the service over again to really take in the message or have been known to fast forward over parts they've found 'boring'! Certainly the more relaxed nature of Sunday morning in our household has been one of the delights of lockdown – no rushing to get ready for an early service or set up with music equipment and PA or frantically practising elements of the service or afterwards counting the collection and clearing everything away before going home to dredge something out of the freezer to cook and eat for lunch. But I have been aware too that perhaps our engagement with the online service has not been the most conducive for worship – filling the dishwasher, putting the kettle on, leisurely preparing the dinner, all easily distract me from giving my full attention to what's happening on the screen.

Tom, Fiona and Nicki all recently spoke about worship as part of our Sunday series of 'Called to be...', which has been a helpful reminder of the importance of intentionally setting time aside to bow down and to praise and glorify God. Ewen and I timed one of our garden gatherings for 10.30am on a Sunday morning with the intention of watching the online service with others. Despite the unexpected heavy downfall of rain which forced us inside, I was struck by the very different feel of the occasion. Even though our internet connection was on the blink and interrupted the service a couple of times, once right in the middle of the prayers, we were able to continue together in a very worshipful mood, using the interruption to pray for our parish and community.

The very act of gathering together for worship enabled deeper engagement with the worship. Perhaps it was the assumed protocols that come into play when we meet or the sense of accountability provided by being together, or maybe the presence of God was more tangible as his people, albeit only a small group, came together in unity to worship; but whatever the reason, my participation in the service was greatly increased and I worshipped fully with my heart, mind and soul.

I would like to encourage you over the coming months, as our large physical gatherings are inevitably going to be curtailed for a while, to gather in small numbers, even in twos and threes, to watch the online service together on a Sunday morning (or other day or time if it suits!) Perhaps you could identify those who you know are otherwise unable to access the online material and invite them round. I hope you will find it an uplifting experience and your engagement with worship will deepen. Take the opportunity too to pray

together, as David asked, for wisdom and discernment about the future of our church and parish as we still face uncertainty about what the 'new normal' will be.

**Revd Janice Hamilton**

**Pioneer Curate**

## **Services/Gatherings:**

Face coverings must be worn in the church buildings (unless you are exempt), thank you.

### **Sunday, 16 August 2020 - the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**9.30am: St Mary the Virgin Church, St Briavels - Holy Communion**



**10am: St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham – Holy Communion**

*(Pre booking is required contact Clare 01291 627478, [tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com))*

**11am: St Mary Magdalene Church Hewelsfield – Holy Communion**

#### **Online: Tidenham Parish Online Church YouTube channel**

James Parsons will be leading the online service this week and Revd Janice will be sharing some thoughts about what it means to be 'called to be alive!' This will be available from 9am on Sunday morning. Details will also appear on the Parish website (the 'News' tab) & Parish Facebook page.

**Zoom Coffee Time:** You are invited to gather on Zoom at 11.30am for coffee time together. Click on this link to download and join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85981908895?pwd=djJzc2VJcHBKMHRrYURDNuUkOENuZz09>

meeting ID: 859 8190 8895

and passcode: 738226

**The Bible readings** for this Sunday are: Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 16:28-17:5

**The Collect** for this Sunday: Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Post Communion** prayer for this Sunday is: God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Holy Communion at the Vicarage** – Vicar David will resume the midweek services of Holy Communion in the Vicarage Garden after a break in August. Look out for details in the briefing.

#### **TV BBC 1: This Sunday 16 August 2020**

**10.00** Sunday Morning LIVE

**13:15** Songs of Praise with Claire McCollum

**Daily Hope** - The Church of England have announced a new free phone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections 0800 804 8044

#### **YouTube Channel playlists**

We have added a new playlist to the Tidenham Parish Online Church YouTube channel. As well as being able to access specific lists of songs, worship resources for children and families, and a collection of videos about Sedbury Space, there is now a new list entitled 'Testimony'. This includes the interviews we have recorded for previous online services and the voxpops from our ex-CYFA members and last week's voxpops of church members giving headlines of what God has been doing in their lives. If you missed the online service last week you may at least like to view this brief film (only 1:35)

## Facebook Group and Page

As lockdown restrictions endure we will continue to use Facebook to communicate and encourage online community engagement. We are using this in two ways:

- There is a 'Tidenham Parish Church' **Page** which is our public presence on social media. Here we post announcements and articles of interest to the general public. The Page can also interact with other community groups and make comments. Please 'like' this page to receive updates.  
[https://www.facebook.com/tidenhamparishchurch/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/tidenhamparishchurch/?modal=admin_todo_tour)
- There is also a 'Tidenham Parish Church' **Group**, which is 'closed' so only those who are members can see what is posted. Anyone can ask to join, but they are only admitted if they are known by the admins, or have mutual friends in the group, or can effectively explain their desire to join. We will also use this forum to make announcements but this group is for you all to communicate with one another, to share items of news, interest or encouragement with the church family and even to post prayer requests (bearing in mind the online nature of the posts, so avoid revealing confidential information!). Please feel free to interact with the posts and help to generate a sense of community, even when we are unable to gather in large numbers. It's really encouraging to receive comments.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

## Prayer Requests from The Church And Community



Thank you for sending in your prayer requests. Please feel free to email [tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com), please make it known whether your prayer request is PRIVATE or okay to send out to the public.

### Tidenham Parish Prayers for Sunday 16 August

Niah, Mum Ceri and Dad Dex are moving to Cyprus next week. It has been a joy to have Niah and Ceri as part of our church family since late 2019. Please keep them in your prayers as they settle into new home, school and job. Niah hopes to continue as part of Splash via Zoom!

For Rev'd Janice's Mum, Peggy, who is in hospital. For her dad, David and all the family as they explore future care needs.

For all those receiving exam results at this time.

For all on holiday or having a break from work that they would be refreshed. Especially for our ministers and their families.

For the Woodcroft Christian Centre and for Kate and Gareth. It has been such a place of blessing for so many and a special and important Christian presence in our community for a long time.

For all those businesses, local and national charities facing economic challenges and painful choices around redundancy. For wisdom in Government as they handle the economic and health challenges.

For the family of Jane Goatman, whose funeral was held at Yew Tree Brake Crematorium on Wednesday 12 August.

For the wedding couples who are looking to arrange and rearrange their marriages at this time.

Where The River Flows Everything shall live. Ezekiel 47:9

PRAISE GOD for all the signs of His life flowing: new babies being born. Relationships being developed and restored.

PRAISE GOD that we are able to gather physically as parts of the Body of Christ.

PRAISE GOD for the Parish Life Groups and the support/connection they provide.

THANK GOD for all our families and the joy & inspiration that children bring.

THANK GOD for all the keyworkers who are still giving their time and energy to serve the community.

THANK GOD for his amazing love for us all. John 3:16

THANK GOD for forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ.

THANK GOD for Holy Spirit and his guidance. 2 Corinthians 1:22

### **Intercede:**

For the lonely, that God will surround them with His eternal love.

For those who are fearful that they would know the complete love that casts out fear. 1 John 4:18

For the sick and suffering, that they will turn to God as their source of healing and strength.

For those who grieve that they will know God's comfort and support. Matthew 5:4

For our Parish Schools: Offa's Mead Academy, St Briavels, St John's on the Hill, Wyedean... that all staff would have a good rest and be refreshed for the new term.

For all children and young people, especially those transitioning to a new place of education, for them to know God with them.

That we may all learn to become like little children, trusting our Father in heaven to provide our needs.

For our government and leaders, for Godly wisdom and clear communication.

For our church leaders, nationally and locally, for good rest over the summer.

That we will all be open to God, able to sense His guidance for our lives.

For our Parish, all who live or work here... that God's life giving Spirit will guide and lead us as we move forward in the flow of His love.

### **PARISH PRAYER**

Where the river flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's love flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's forgiveness flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's joy flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's blessing flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's people's prayer flows, everything will live.

Where the river flows, everything will live.

### **Parish News and Information**

*"Living life together in the flow of God's love."*

**Tutshill Scarecrow Trail** will take place from 19 August until 5 September. The trail will be free and follow the usual route. Paper maps and sheets are not being generally distributed. A small number will be available at Life Style Express where you are also able to make a donation. If you require further information please contact tutshillscarecrow@yahoo.com or call Jane on 01594563803. Thank you

**Ride and Stride** - This is a chance to have some fun and raise funds for our churches. This year and it is vital anything we do is done safely and following government guidelines. However, so far, on or around 12 September plans include:

A sponsored 5 mile walk will take place on Friday 11, September. There may be a sponsored cycle ride for young people. We HOPE to put on a coffee morning and afternoon tea.

Could you organise an event or activity? Possibly open your garden to donating visitors, sell one of your paintings, bake some cakes, organise a longer walk etc. For more information or to discuss ideas please contact Wendy 01291 623642, email wendy.moppett @btinternet.com.

**Village Cricket** – If you are interested in playing, umpiring or scoring Tidenham Parish Churches are organising a friendly cricket match, players of any standard are welcome to join in. It will be a short match played at Francis Field, Tutshill on Sunday 30 August at approx. 2pm and should finish by 6pm.

If you are interested please contact Andrew Palmer at [a.palmer@sportradar.com](mailto:a.palmer@sportradar.com)

### **Church Buildings Open within the Parishes...**



**St Luke's Church** - will be open 9am-4pm Tuesday-Friday through August.

If you would like to volunteer to open, close and wipe clean areas at the end of the day, please contact Clare [tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com). Many thanks!

Please be aware that there may be small groups meeting occasionally in the church building during the week. If you arrive at such a time you will be able to access the choir stalls in order to pray privately. ***Please note that we have been given guidance if you are in the clinical vulnerable category (e.g over 70's) we are currently unable to accept your kind offers to volunteer at this time, but a big thank you for the offers!***



**Tidenham Chase** - St Michael & All Angels' Church will be open Saturdays only 10am-4pm for private prayer and reflection.



**Hewelsfield** – St Mary Magdalene Church Hewelsfield is open daily 9am-4pm for private prayer and reflection.



**St Briavels** - St Mary's church is open between 10am-12 noon daily for private prayer and reflection.

**Church grounds Prayer Trail** - Prayer Trails are now located in the grounds of all our church buildings: Tutshill, Tidenham and Chase. Copies of prayer prompts also available on Parish Facebook Page or by emailing [tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com)

**Financial Giving in the Parish** - For discussion and advice about electronic giving please contact Ewen on 01291 626158 or email [ewen.hamilton@outlook.com](mailto:ewen.hamilton@outlook.com). Standing order and Gift Aid forms are available to download from the website. PCC wishes to thank all who have continued to give throughout the shutdown of the church buildings.



**CVM (Christian Vision for Men)** - Sunday evenings at 8pm

The CVM live shows have stopped for the summer but this new men's group will continue. If you would like to learn more about this group and the work of this Christian organisation please give James Parsons a call on 07970 489362 or [james.darsie@gmail.com](mailto:james.darsie@gmail.com) CVM's website is - <https://cvm.org.uk>

**New mental health service** – Qwell, provides anyone in Gloucestershire over 18 yrs, access to self-care resources, information, peer support and trained counsellors <https://www.qwell.io>

**Pastoral Care of the Church Family** – A number of people within our Parishes have had bereavement in recent weeks. You are very much in our prayers. May God be with you in a special way. DO keep in touch with and support one another through this time. A reminder that if anyone from the church rings you the CHURCH is ringing you. However, if you are aware of someone struggling ***please*** do contact a member of the Team.



**Good News** – please do email in with any good news at this time.

Don't forget to a new Link Word Search can be found on the Parish Facebook Group.

## **TIDENHAM PARISH ONLINE LINKS AND CONTACTS**

Parish Website: This has information, documents and links to other sites. <https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>  
Facebook page – all welcome to join and post comments. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>  
YouTube channel: 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' with videos and resources to assist you in your devotions.  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkRjOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

Life Group meetings via Zoom – please contact relevant people if you'd like to join in

- Sunday 8pm – for men! James Parsons at [James.darsie@gmail.com](mailto:James.darsie@gmail.com)
- Wednesday 10.30am. [DTRevd@aol.com](mailto:DTRevd@aol.com)
- Wednesday 8pm. [fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com)
- Wednesday 8pm. [janice-hamilton@outlook.com](mailto:janice-hamilton@outlook.com)
- Thursday 1.30pm. Jane [cfmtidenham@btinternet.com](mailto:cfmtidenham@btinternet.com)

### **Other Online local resources**

Daily Prayer via Zoom with CYTUN Monday to Friday at 8.45 for 9am start <https://zoom.us/j/122778377>

Cytun Churches Together Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/206786133181081/>

Chepstow's Virtual Café Online via Zoom Every Saturday at 2pm. Find the link on CYTUN Facebook page

Tidenham Parish Council [www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk) has useful links and information

For the latest Church of England Covid 19 guidance which covers all kinds of issues including weddings, baptisms and funerals. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

There are also some really helpful resources for prayer and worship on the Church of England website. Click on this link... <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>  
[https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/568755/Home/Coronavirus/Coronavirus\\_guidance\\_and.aspx](https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/568755/Home/Coronavirus/Coronavirus_guidance_and.aspx)

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Nicki Bullivant (Curate)	07922 833835	<a href="mailto:benedictusnicki@gmail.com">benedictusnicki@gmail.com</a> (Parish Day is Thursday)
Revd David Rees	01594 530443	<a href="mailto:david.rees17@btinternet.com">david.rees17@btinternet.com</a>
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St Briavels & Hewelsfield website		<a href="http://www.stbandhchurches.org.uk">www.stbandhchurches.org.uk</a>
Prayer requests	<a href="mailto:tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com">tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com</a>	(by 12pm Wednesday for following Sunday)