



"where the river flows everything will live"

THE PARISH OF TIDENHAM (& St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir)

WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2020

Following on from David's thoughts last week about blessing, on Sunday we will hear those beautiful words of Jesus, known as the Beatitudes, in which our Lord pours out blessing on the poor in spirit, the pure in heart, the meek, the merciful, and the peace-makers. He blesses those who mourn, those who hunger for righteousness and, significantly, those who are persecuted *because* of righteousness.



This week in the Church of England we mark the feast of St Jude and St Simon on Wednesday 28th Oct. Both these men were numbered in the twelve disciples and were both later martyred for their belief in Jesus. The week concludes with the celebration of All Saints on Sunday 1st Nov when we remember those of old who lived saintly lives, many of whom were also persecuted and often killed because of their faith.

It's easy to forget in our privileged Western society that around the world many people still suffer persecution because of their Christian faith today, both low level ridicule and discrimination and more seriously, imprisonment, torture and even death. Samaritan's Purse reports that persecution of Christians has risen for the fourth year in a row¹ and, according to Open Doors, nearly 3000 people were killed for faith related reasons last year².

Open Doors publish a World Watch List which annually ranks the top fifty countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. For each country they also produce a profile with information, stories and prayers. It makes for mind-blowing and heart-rending reading. These are our brothers and sisters in Christ, with whom we are one, and when part of the body is hurting, it affects the whole.

With these examples of faith in mind we will continue our sermon series 'Called to be...' by thinking this week about the call 'to be committed'. I wonder how we would each respond to the challenges faced by our fellow Christians around the world? What challenges do we face in our context? And how can we show commitment and dedication to our Lord where we are?

¹ <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/article/help-persecuted-christians/>

² <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

Charities supporting the persecuted church around the world through financial aid, prayer, trauma support, employment projects, advocacy and raising awareness etc:

- **Open Doors:** founded in 1967 after a young Dutchman, Brother Andrew, started smuggling Bibles into Eastern Europe. www.opendoorsuk.org
- **Release International:** founded in 1968, inspired by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned for his faith for 14 years in communist Romania. <https://releaseinternational>
- **Barnabas Fund** works to provide hope and aid for the persecuted Church, from Christians, to Christians, through Christians. <https://barnabasfund.org>

The Lord bless you and keep you
Janice

Rev'd Janice Hamilton

Assistant Curate and Community Minister in Parish Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut.

Parish News and Information

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

Technical support – A big thank you to all those who have offered to help with the technical provision for our online congregation, as well as managing our physical Sunday services. We will endeavour to have the online provision uploaded as soon as possible, please bear with us if it takes longer than expected, especially in these early days. We would also welcome offers of occasional help setting out St Luke's chairs on a Saturday afternoon ready for Sunday morning, please contact Janice.

Church Heating - You may have seen reports that ventilation needs to be improved to reduce Covid-19 spread, and wondered if it is safe for us to turn on the heating in church? The answer is YES it is safe to operate all parts of our church heating. The Church of England nationally has taken expert advice and concluded that no Covid-related concerns have been identified with the use of traditional, electric heating (including under pew) and underfloor heating. We can also close doors and windows in the churches. Consequently we will ensure that our buildings are kept warm for our church gatherings.



Fairtrade - There is still time to order your Fairtrade Advent Calendars, and any cards and gifts you need for birthdays or Christmas. Please contact Julia, 622163 for a catalogue and to place an order.

Food Bank - Thank you for all the kind donations, we are continuing foodbank collections a box is in St Luke's porch and donations can also be taken to Tidenham Church on a Sunday mornings. These will be delivered to the local foodbank at the beginning of each month (as long as Covid restrictions allow)

Financial Giving: For discussion and advice about electronic giving please contact Ewen on 01291 626158 or email ewen.hamilton@outlook.com



Services/Gatherings

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

Online Acts of worship coming up <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChRjOlvDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020. There will be a Parish Act of Remembrance, involving members of our community, available to watch on the Parish YouTube Channel from 9am. Also there will be a 9.30am service of Holy Communion including an Act of Remembrance at Tidenham Church and a Remembrance Sunday service beginning at 10.45am in St Luke's Tutshill.



You will need to book a place for both services, please contact Clare



All Souls' Memorial Service Sunday 1st November 2020 when those who have died will be remembered before God. This was filmed in the Church of St Michael & All Angels, Tidenham Chase and will be available from 9am.

This Sunday, 1st November 2020

9.30am: St Mary & St Peter's Church, Tidenham – Holy Communion

11.00am: School field at Tutshill – 'Worship without Walls' for All Saints Day

(To book please contact Jane this week cfmtidenham@btinternet.com, 07856 679387 or 01594 563803)

8.30am St Mary the Virgin Church, St Briavels - Holy Communion, BCP

9.30am: St Mary the Virgin Church, St Briavels – All Age Eucharist

11am: St Mary Magdalene Church Hewelsfield – Morning Worship



Tidenham Parish Online Church YouTube channel

This week the 9.30am service at Tidenham will be recorded and uploaded to the Parish YouTube channel after the service is over ...hopefully by Sunday evening (*see note on Technical support above*)

The Bible readings: Revelation 7.9-17, Matthew 5.1-12

The Collect for All Saints' Day: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Post Communion prayer for All Saints' Day: Lord of heaven, in this eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Holy Communion – Holy Communion will be available in St Luke's Church on **4 Nov at 11 am, 12noon & 1pm**. Services at 11am and 1pm will follow Common Worship and at noon we will use Book of Common Prayer. Please contact Clare to book a place.

Morning Prayer in the Parishes.

Mondays: St Mary & St Peter's Tidenham at 9.30am

Tuesdays: Zoom online at 9.00am <https://zoom.us/j/122778377>

Wednesdays: St Briavels at 9.00am

Wednesdays: St Luke's at 9.15am Prayer Gathering for YCFM

Thursdays: St Briavels at 9.00am

Prayer



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 to assist your devotions.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkRjOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

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

- Sunday 7.30pm – for men! James Parsons at James.darsie@gmail.com
- Tuesday 1pm in St Luke's Life Group- Julia Parsons 01291 622163
- Wednesday 10.30am (restarting soon) DTRevd@aol.com
- Wednesday 8pm. fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
- Wednesday 8pm janice-hamilton@outlook.com
- Thursday 1pm in St Luke's Life Group- Jane cfmtidenham@btinternet.com

Revd David Treharne	01291 760034	dtrevd@aol.com
Revd Janice Hamilton	01291 626158	janice-hamilton@outlook.com
Revd Nicki Bullivant	07922 833835	benedictusnicki@gmail.com (Parish Day is Thursday)
Revd David Rees	01594 530443	david.rees17@btinternet.com
Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer	01722 504938	tomclammer@gmail.com
Fiona Gardiner	01291 624868	fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
James Parsons	07970 489362	james.darsie@gmail.com
Jane Penny	01594 563803	cfmtidenham@btinternet.com (urgent only Mon/Fri)
Ethan Richards	07933 249210	tidenhamyouth@gmail.com
Clare Presley (Admin)	01291 627478	tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com (Monday to Friday)
St Briavels & Hewelsfield website		www.stbandhchurches.org.uk