



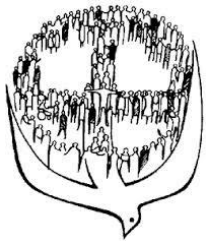
*"where the river flows everything will live"*

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

**WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING SUNDAY 24 May 2020**

**Where is the Church?**

In recent weeks there have been reports of people asking where the church has been over the duration of this Covid 19 crisis. Indeed there have been voices complaining that the church has been silent and inactive over these days.



I guess that some of this comes from the fact that our church buildings have been closed and if your understanding of the church is wholly confined to bricks and mortar then yes the church has been very much silent and inactive. However, the church, the Body of Christ, is the people of God who happen to use extraordinarily wonderful (expensive and at times crumbly) buildings to gather; and through this time the people of God, the church, despite not being able to gather together face to face in church buildings, has been anything but silent or inactive. The church has been working flat out in our

hospitals and care homes, educating children online and in school and serving customers in shops. The church has been delivering meals to the housebound, looking out for family, friends and neighbours and phoning people up to see if they are okay. The church has been involved in food production and carrying out logistics operations. The church has been active in the private, public and voluntary sectors often working in trying conditions. The church has been carrying out funerals, providing online worship all over the country; she has been engaging in political debate; she has been supporting people with debt and she has been praying ceaselessly... and so much more.

See the church is all who follow Jesus Christ and call themselves Christians. The church is those filled with the Spirit of the risen Lord Jesus and living lives displaying his love and goodness. The church is you (not just me), and I'm pretty sure that most of you have not been silent or inactive!

We will shortly celebrate the glorious feast of Pentecost when we recall the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and was poured out on the day of Pentecost 2,000 years ago is available to us today so that we too can be inspired, equipped and empowered to carry out the works of the Lord Jesus and be involved in the renewing of creation.

Come Holy Spirit and let the fire of your love burn in our hearts and throughout the world.  
God bless

Revd David Treharne

*Vicar of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir.*

## Chepstow Foodbank Update



Since lockdown at the end of March, our foodbank has moved from the face-to-face distribution centres to a Referral Agency Collection Service only. This means we can work safely, limiting the number of contacts to contain the potential spread of Coronavirus - yet still feeding vulnerable families ensuring no one in our area goes hungry. There has been a 36% increase in the foodbank use compared with the same period last year, but the people who are using the service has changed. More single people are being referred to the foodbank and there is a reduction in the number of families being referred - families who receive Free School Meals are having payments made straight into bank accounts, allowing them to buy the food they need for their children.

Food donations can still be placed in the box in Tesco - these are collected twice a week. So if you are to shop/arrange for items to be put there, they will be very welcome. We currently need tinned vegetables (peas, carrots & potatoes), rice pudding, tinned fruit, pasta & rice, pasta sauces, jam, soap/hand wash, washing-up liquid, washing powder/liquid. We are also extremely thankful for food donations being given from a number of local businesses and organisations.

Please pray for our foodbank clients. Some of the stories of the people we are currently helping are really desperate and the referral agencies are working very hard in the current climate. Pray also for our wonderful volunteers and their dedication to supporting some of the most vulnerable in the community.

[www.chepstow.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.chepstow.foodbank.org.uk)

## Take Part in the Church Singing Together...



Alex White writes to all Christians in the locality... I want to put together a congregational song for us all for Pentecost. I am looking for people to record a video on their phones/tablets/camcorders of them singing along to Love Divine so that I can stick it all together and make something involving as many from our church family as possible. Singing quality is optional - remember you will be one of (hopefully) quite a lot of people and so your individual voice won't be heard but adding to the sound of the multitude.

For any people who are used to singing in choirs/harmony parts then I also have parts for you! Anyone who would like to play an instrument would be very welcome to record themselves in the same way.

I have nearly finished my arrangement and will distribute to those who would like to take part in whatever form later today (all being well). There will be a words and a backing track to sing along to (if you are being a member of the congregation) and scores for instrumentalists and harmony singers. The arrangement is made to move through different backings to reflect our various worship styles in the churches so each verse can be recorded as a separate video to make it smaller, easier chunks to record.

Obviously, as Pentecost is only a week away, I will need a fairly quick turn around, but I'm trying to keep it simple so that as many people as possible will be able to take part. I will be available for tech support in terms of recording etc. if needed.

Anyone interested in being a part of this can email me on [alexwhitemultimusic@gmail.com](mailto:alexwhitemultimusic@gmail.com) – but do it sooner rather than later if you want to be included. Looking forward to hearing from lots of you! Recordings need to be with Alex by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, thank you.

## Up Coming Services

### PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS for the 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER (24 May)



There will be a service at **10.30am on Sunday 24 May** on the Parish YouTube channel... 'Tidenham Parish Online Church.' The material will also appear on the Parish website (follow the 'News' tab) & Parish Facebook page.

You are invited to gather on Zoom at 11.30am for a coffee time together. Zoom is relatively easy to get on to if you have access to the Internet. Click on this link to download and join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83002388238?pwd=WTgzRElWdUNSaG41SjQzbHF5ZExNdz09>

If you need help to do this give one of the team a ring or email.

The Bible readings for this coming Sunday are: **Acts 1:6-14 & John 17:1-11**

**The Collect for this Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension) is:**

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.



**Praying Daily between Ascension and Pentecost for the coming of the Holy Spirit**

Between Ascension Day (Thurs 21 May) and Pentecost (10 days later on 31 May) we will be praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. I invite you to join in praying daily at 7pm from Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May until Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> May on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83617962756?pwd=RW9qNDIYajJPbzhVZnN4cUs3OUNZQT09>

These times should also appear on Parish YouTube channel or Parish Facebook page and the resources will also be available to download on the Parish website.

**Healing Eucharist:** Live streaming on Facebook at 12:15pm on Wednesday, 3rd June.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

*Prayer* 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 24 May**

#### **Thanksgiving**

For all the key workers who serve their communities, especially those caring for vulnerable children.

That despite the circumstances we can give thanks to God for blessings in our lives.

For the blessings that we have in our lives... for friends & family.

For our homes and communities.

For our NHS and all who work there.

For all those who bring joy into our lives, for smiles and encouragements.

For the sunshine and access to outdoor space.

That we can keep in touch with one another despite not being physically together.

Thank God for Jesus, through whom we all have salvation and hope.

#### **Intercession**

Locally:

For the soul of Jeff Coombs, who died on 16th May and for his sons, Doug and Edwin.

Ron Bridson's funeral Tuesday 26th May (Susan Riordan's Dad): For his wife, Doreen, Susan and family, Heather and family. For safe travel for those driving such a long distance there and back in a day.

For all who don't have a garden/easy access to outdoor space.

For keyworkers and their children.

For all the business owners who are struggling during this time both financially and emotionally.

As some start to reopen, let's pray for them and support them by patronising them if we are able.

For all who are sick/suffering in any way, especially those you know.

For our local schools, as they live with 'not knowing' what will happen re return to school, yet have to make plans going forward.

For all learning at home/online learning... teachers, pupils and parents/carers.

For all who work or live in care homes, especially those known to us. For their protection.

Nationally:

Thy Kingdom Come: Prayer initiative between Ascension & Pentecost (21st-31st May)

Resources at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Internationally:

Pray for those parts of the world where there is war and suffering, despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pray for those places you know about and that God places on your heart/mind.

If you would like to share a specific place for prayer, please email [tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com)

## **PARISH NEWS UPDATE**

Despite not being able to gather publicly while our church buildings remain closed, our life together as a church family hasn't stopped. We continue to focus on what it means to be a Christian community while we cannot gather together for worship and with God's help are still trying to live out our vision:

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

## **Church of England Statement following government guidance on Covid 19**



The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, said: "We note from the Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy that churches could be open from July as part of the conditional and phased plan to begin lifting the lockdown. We look forward to the time when we are able to gather again in our church buildings.

*"We are examining what steps we will need to take to do so safely and are actively planning ahead in preparation. We strongly support the Government's approach of continuing to suppress the transmission of the virus and accordingly, we recognise that at this time public worship cannot return in the interests of public health and safety."*

**Children & Families** - Jane Penny is producing worship resources suitable for families and children which will be available via email.



**Help with IT** - might you be willing and able to assist with IT issues over the coming weeks and months? With restrictions to public gatherings unlikely to change anytime soon as a church we would like to be able to provide access to worship material online. However we will need support with editing & producing pre-recorded videos that involve different people's contributions; assistance with the process of live streaming at home and when permitted, from the church building too. So if you have the skills and are willing to assist with one or several aspects of the above do **please** let Vicar David know ASAP [DTRevd@aol.com](mailto:DTRevd@aol.com) !! Thanks to those couple of people who have offered so far!!



## **Christian Aid**

This Parish has been a fantastic supporter of Christian Aid, especially during Christian Aid week which was due to take place last week. Sadly the Coronavirus has meant that we have been unable to undertake house to house collection or fundraising in the usual way. We all know that the worldwide problems of war, drought and poverty haven't disappeared and that they will be compounded because of the Coronavirus. We also know that we are intimately connected as a whole human family.

If you feel moved to do so we encourage you to make an online donation to Christian Aid to reach out to our neighbours! <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

**TV BBC 1** – Sunday 24 May. 11.45am – Sunday Worship from Bangor Cathedral. 1.15pm – Songs of Praise.

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

**Volunteering** - As well as supporting the Chepstow Covid 19 Helping Group, we are hoping to partner Gloucester Diocese with 'Feeding the 5000'; a scheme to provide frozen home-style meals to those in need, either free or at very reasonable cost. Please email [tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com) if you can help with deliveries or collection of meals from Bream, or would like to help with co-ordinating the scheme and also if you know anyone who may be able to benefit from these meals. Contact details of the COVID-19 Helping group co-ordinators in each area are on the website [www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk)



**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. 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.



**Stay safe online** – Sadly there has been an increase in attempted scamming online, including some emails going saying they are from the Vicar (but aren't). Always check what emails you open. Please don't disclose any personal or financial information, be aware of grooming, stay safe and enjoy the important online connections.

**Financial Giving** - Thank you to all those who have reviewed their giving and either started standing orders or made one-off donations. Standing order and gift aid forms are available to download from the website. Please contact Ewen or Clare for any assistance.



## **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

- 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)

### **Tidenham Parish Contacts**

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Ethan Richards	07933 249210	<a href="mailto:tidenhamyouth@gmail.com">tidenhamyouth@gmail.com</a>
Clare Presley (Admin)	01291 627478	<a href="mailto:tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com">tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com</a>
St Briavels & Hewelsfield website		<a href="http://www.stbandhchurches.org.uk">www.stbandhchurches.org.uk</a>

Prayer requests [tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com](mailto:tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com) (by 12pm Wednesday for following Sunday)