



"where the river flows everything will live"

WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Good news...

I've been very impressed with some of the good news stories on the ITV news. It seems to me they have been making a big effort to give viewers upbeat positive news stories alongside the more sad and troubling ones.

Last week I had goose bumps hearing what former Scotland and Man Utd footballer Lou Macari has been up to. Here's the wonderful positive piece from ITV News. Here is the weblink if you'd like to watch the news article.

<https://www.itv.com/news/central/2021-02-18/former-stoke-city-manager-adapts-homeless-shelter-with-covid-safe-pods>

Former Manchester United player and Stoke City manager Lou Macari adapts homeless shelter with Covid-safe 'pods': Friday 19 February 2021, 7:13am

A homeless shelter opened by former Stoke City manager and Manchester United and Scotland player Lou Macari has been adapted with Covid-safe 'pods'. The Macari Centre, originally opened in 2016 on Regent Road in Hanley in Stoke-on-Trent. However, in May last year, the government deemed all dormitory-style accommodation no longer safe due to coronavirus guidelines. 40 people had been using the centre, which was providing them with a hot meal and access to advice to help them find more sustainable housing, when the pandemic first struck.



Determined to not let the residents end up back on the streets, the former midfielder worked with the city council to move the shelter to a nearby warehouse. Using glamping-style pods, Macari was able to provide a safe space for people from the virus. Each pod is kitted out with new beds, heaters, TVs and there are numbers on each door to give the residents proof of address - to help with employment.



Macari said he had to move quickly to find a new space and then found the warehouse which was the same size as a football pitch to help those who are homeless.

Inside each pod is a person, given a helping hand in the hardest of times - from the man who wants everyone to be at the top of their game.

I don't know what Lou Macari's religious beliefs are, but this is Kingdom stuff and just shows that there are some amazing people out there doing amazing things.

Thanks to ITV News and Lou Macari for giving us this hopeful positive news!

God bless

David

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

Lent Continues... do join in if you can



Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm - Zoom Lent Course.

40 Days of Renewal - Noticing God in Everyday Things.

Here is the Zoom link for you to join the 7.30pm Lent gathering

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84395865106?pwd=TOlxYjdYajNBbmRicDBwaXI5N2Zrdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 9586 5106 Passcode: 314970

Lent Pilgrimage at Home daily booklet

Although we are still detached from one another we are all invited to journey together this Lent. As well as the Lent course on Wednesday evenings we have a daily devotional. Hard copies are available in the porches of the 5 churches (Tidenham, Tutshill, Chase, St Briavels and Hewelsfield) or you can find the daily devotion on the Parish Facebook page or you can go to Instagram @tidenhamparishlent which has additional posts giving the background to some Lenten practices'.

Services in Parish of Tidenham

In light of the ongoing lockdown restrictions, both in England and Wales due to ongoing COVID cases and the more readily transmitted new variant, the decision has been made, with full support of the Diocese, to suspend gatherings for public worship in the parish of Tidenham and move Sunday services 'online' until at least the end of February. We will keep this under review, taking note of government announcements, and hope to resume our physical meetings again soon.

The church buildings will no longer be open for private prayer during the new national lockdown. Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

The Second Sunday of Lent

This Sunday will be Morning Worship. We will continue to provide an online act of worship from 9am each Sunday morning on our YouTube Channel 'Tidenham Parish Online Church'

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

Zoom Coffee 11.30am-12.15pm on Sunday Mornings during Lockdown.

As well as a chance to see one another and catch up, we have a chance to share life. What has made you smile in the week, and what might you want/need prayer for in the coming week? Feel free to join us.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82631968802?pwd=N3hyak5IL3hnRXIVV3NtelVtVG0zZz09>

Meeting ID: 826 3196 8802, Passcode: 497225

The Bible readings: Genesis 17:1-7 & 15-16 and Mark 8:31-end

The Collect: Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer: Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Morning Prayer on zoom.

We will resume our online provision of morning prayer with CYTUN, Churches Together in Chepstow, Monday to Thursday online at 9.00am <https://zoom.us/j/122778377> All are welcome to join in.

Wednesdays: 9:15am prayer for YCFM.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78170531212?pwd=cVcrZEJmSDdKWFJyelBtencvSVIYQT09>

Meeting ID: 781 7053 1212 Passcode: 2vKKGp

Mid-Week Communion: A service of Holy Communion will be live streamed on the Tidenham Parish Facebook Group at 12 noon on Wednesday.



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

- Sunday 7.30pm – Life Group for men! Online - James Parsons at James.darsie@gmail.com
- Tuesday 1pm - Life Group Online - Julia Parsons juliaparsons727@gmail.com
- Wednesday, 7.30pm Life Group online (**not during Lent**) fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
- Wednesday 8pm – Life Group Online (**not during Lent**) janice-hamilton@outlook.com
- Thursday 1pm - Life Group Online – Jane Penny cfmtidenham@btinternet.com

Parish News and Information

“Living life together in the flow of God’s love.”

Coronavirus Reopening Roadmap - Comments from the Bishop of London 22 February 2021

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England’s Coronavirus Recovery Group, has responded following the Prime Minister’s statement to Parliament.

She said: I am grateful to the Prime Minister for sharing these proposals to ease the current restrictions in a way which gives us all some clarity and enables people to begin to plan. We will study the details and, working with Government Departments, refine our own advice for local churches in the weeks ahead. We all look forward to being able to meet in larger groups again later this year and today’s announcement will be especially encouraging for couples planning weddings, among others.

When the first lockdown was introduced last year, we were – as we are now – in the midst of Lent, a time of preparation and self-reflection for Christians as we look forward with hope to Easter and its promise of new life in Jesus Christ.

This has been an incredibly testing time for the whole world – most of all the loved ones of those who have died. The financial cost of the pandemic has been enormous, and we will never truly know the cost of separation and loneliness on individuals and society. But we have also seen remarkable signs of hope. The rapid development and distribution of vaccines has been a phenomenal achievement and I want to thank everyone involved in the process.

The way in which people have reached out to others has been inspirational. Our churches have loved and served their neighbours perhaps like never before and found ways to meet and worship God together we would not have imagined just a year ago. As we look ahead to the prospect of easing of restrictions we know it is still a long road. Yet Easter reminds us we always have hope. Church of England advice will be updated in accordance to the guidance at each stage.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/coronavirus-reopening-roadmap-comment-bishop-london>

Fairtrade Fortnight is from Monday 22 Feb to Sunday 7 March. It’s an opportunity to find out more about the difference Fairtrade makes. The theme this year is ‘Climate,’ ‘Fairtrade and You’ and ‘Choose the World You Want.’ As Christians we are encouraged to care for one another and the beautiful world God has given us. We can all make changes to help choose the world we want by buying Fairtrade produce and enabling producers to feed their families and invest in their land and farm sustainably. Give Fairtrade a try, there are over 6,000 Fairtrade products from coffee and tea to flowers and gold, so when you shop look for the Fairtrade mark.



For more information speak to Julia, Tanya or Marilyn, or visit the website

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources-library/current-campaigns/fairtrade-and-the-climate-crisis/> or <https://fairtradewales.com/get-involved/fairtrade-fortnight-2021>

PCC Minutes for 2020 - If you would like an electronic copy of the approved PCC minutes for 2020, please email the PCC Secretary, Iain Gardiner – i.a.gardiner007@btinternet.com Thank you.

Desert Island Hymns - If you were only able to take one hymn/song with you on a desert island which one would it be? We will be looking to include the hymns in our worship going forward, please let Clare or David know or post your favourites on our Parish Facebook page.



A favourite hymn of Dianne is 'Take my life & Let it be' and 'Hark My Soul it is the Lord.'

Sad announcement - Revd Brian Green who served this parish as Vicar during the 1990s and whom many of you will remember with great fondness, died on Friday 12 February after a long period of ill health. You can join the video funeral service by following this link:

<https://www.obitus.com/> User name: Heto 2744 Password: 155741

The service will open 5 minutes before 10 am, on Friday 26 February. (You are advised to use discretion if you see things from the earlier service) A video recording of the service will be available 3 days after and online up to 28 days afterwards.

'The Bulletin' from the Diocese of Gloucester - keeping you up to date with news from the Diocese, please follow this link <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2021/bulletin-16-2-21/>

Daily Hope - Is a free national telephone line which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone 0800 804 8044.

Financial Support

If you would like to make a gift to the Church and also consider ongoing regular financial giving into 2021. Bank details are Tidenham Parochial Church, Sort Code 30-91-89 & Account number 00304754. Standing order and Gift Aid forms are available to download from the website. PCC wishes to thank all who have continued to give generously this year.



TIDENHAM PARISH ONLINE LINKS AND CONTACTS

Parish Website: This has information, documents and links to other sites.

<https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>

Facebook Page – for communicating news & info to the wider community. Please 'follow' or 'like'.

<https://facebook.com/tidenhamparishchurch>

Facebook Group - all welcome to join this private group 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>

St Briavels & Hewelsfield website: www.stbandhchurches.org.uk

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)
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