

The Parish of Tidenham

Weekly Parish Briefing 2

29 March 2020

Here is the second of our weekly Parish briefings. This is a little briefer than the first one!

Challenging Times Continue...

Church buildings are now closed not only to public worship but also for private prayer. Weddings and baptisms are postponed and funerals can only happen with immediate family present. The suspension of many aspects of Parish life alongside the suspension of many aspects of our daily lives is a real challenge to us all. I was speaking with a lady from another part of the country who works for a funeral directors and she was in tears having had to phone families to tell them that the 'goodbye service' they wanted for their loved one was not able to happen. Most of us will also have seen how stressed and wrung out health workers are both here and abroad. In the week I read that 14% of those who have died in Spain from Covid-19 are health workers.

This is hard stuff.

Yet at the same time the heart-warming stories of public service and community spirit continue. We hear of God being at work. Indeed there are all kinds of stories emerging of people getting on their knees in the middle of the suffering... and finding God. I quoted CS Lewis in my first online video last week "suffering is God's megaphone to the world." I guess we shouldn't be surprised at finding God in suffering, after all He's been there to the lowest depths of our human experience. The God we have come to know in the person of Jesus Christ is 'the crucified God,' (Maltman) who knows the depths of suffering intimately. He is also the one who brings life and hope and resurrection. "I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord." If you have any good news stories to share at this time then please email them in or post them on the Parish Facebook site.

The Lord bless you and keep you
David & the Parish of Tidenham Church Family

Church Buildings

Our three Churches are now shut and should not be accessed by anyone, even if you are a key holder. All three Churches have a rota of being checked for security reasons. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parish News Update

Sadly, all our public worship gatherings and events will now need to stop for the foreseeable future but importantly, our life together as a church family isn't going to stop and we will now begin to focus time and resources on what it means to be a Christian community while we cannot gather together for public worship.

Focus points at this time...

1. Pastoral Care

A task for one and all to care for one another and stay connected and supported.

2. Life Groups Online

See in the Links below for information about the Life Groups meeting online. These gatherings online provide a space to talk life and faith and support one another.

3. ALL Praying Together

You are invited to join in a daily rhythm of prayer: 9am Morning Prayer; 5pm Evening Prayer; 9pm Night Prayer/compline. Even if you only ever dip in and out you know it's there. Also the Eucharist will be celebrated in the area every week. Hopefully this 'common prayer' will bind us and hold us together. If you have prayer requests do email them in to tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com

4. Weekly Parish Briefing

This briefing document will be an important connection point. Please do read it and pass it on. Paper copies can be posted if necessary.

5. Live/recorded services

We are hoping to livestream and/or record services to go out online. Do look out for the links to this! See below for info on Sunday's service.

6. Church Building(s)

Sadly these are all closed for the time being.

Self-Isolating

If you find yourself in the position of having to self-isolate, please let us know by emailing tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com or tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com. You can also use these emails to let us know of anyone else in the church family who may be self-isolating.

Volunteering to Contact others

If you are able to volunteer, to phone and connect with people, please email Clare. tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com, also, if you can provide any personal help or assistance to enable people to use online tools please let Clare know.

Tidenham Parish Council are arranging help around the Parish and if you have any enquiries for those needing shopping etc details are on the Parish Council website which also gives links to official sites and other information that may be useful.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help in the Parish, we will be in contact if the need arises, many of our Parishioners have family, friends or neighbours providing help and support. We appreciate your kindness thank you.

Church Family

The task of contacting everyone in the church to see if they are okay is not one which the staff team has the capacity to do. We are encouraging YOU to keep in touch with one another and support one another through this time where possible. Who might you be able to phone this week? Remember, if anyone from the church rings you it is the CHURCH ringing you. If you know someone is particularly struggling do give a member of the Team a call to let them know and then we will get in touch.

A small group from the church is attempting to phone members of the church family who may live on their own and / or fall into the Government's vulnerable category, though not everyone has given us their contact details.

We are doing this to check if they need help with collecting food or prescriptions. If you do receive a phone call and do not need help please just let us know.

Even if you don't receive a phone call from 'The church', but you do need help, please email or telephone Clare and we will attempt to match you with one of the volunteers.'

Prayer

There are some fabulous prayer resources online if you wish to use them. The local church is gathering for daily prayer online at 9am Monday to Friday. See the links below.

If you have requests for prayer feel free to email tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com or phone a member of the team with your requests. Please make it known whether your prayer request is PRIVATE or okay to send out to the public.

The Eucharist

The Eucharist is, sadly, no longer a public act of worship although there are services taking place in private and online. Not receiving Holy Communion is a serious loss for the people we serve, and we must acknowledge this. There will be Communion services livestreaming on here in the Parish or elsewhere online. If you wish to join in one can make what is called 'spiritual communion'. If you would like the details just email Clare and she will email them out to you.

Stay safe online

Some people will sadly try to exploit periods of heightened sensitivity and uncertainty. As ever, please don't disclose any personal or financial information such as passcodes or PINs. Also be aware of the sad online realities and possibilities of grooming. Stay safe and enjoy the important online connections.

Funerals

Funerals can only happen at the Crematorium or at the graveside. Only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) - that is, spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way. This is very distressing. We as a Parish will willingly offer a memorial service or service of thanksgiving at a later date with family and friends gathered together if this is something a family would like to do.

Weddings and Baptisms

Emergency baptisms can take place in hospital or at home, though subject to strict hygienic precautions and physical distancing as far as possible.

There can be no weddings in church buildings until further notice. Please contact Vicar David for details DTRevd@aol.com or go online to the C of E news for more details.

Financial Giving

Like many others the Parish faces financial uncertainty. Without the weekly services and offerings the Parish faces a deficit of approx £1,000 per month. Please can I ask you to consider your financial offerings to the church in the Parish at this time. If you are able to give online then the Parish of Tidenham bank details are Sort code: 309189 Account number: 00304754. Standing Order forms are available from Ewen Hamilton, Parish Treasurer email; ewen.hamilton@outlook.com. Please contact Ewen or Clare for any assistance.

Shopping

St Briavels shop, The Pantry, can provide home deliveries, online orders or collection at store. Email Diana/John at Stbriavelspantry@hotmail.com. The Brockweir & Hewelsfield Village Shop can do home deliveries to the surrounding villages. Phone Tel: 689995

Hanley Farm Shop and Tutshill Butchers are among other local shops, other than supermarkets, that have good stock and produce available.

Tidenham PCC (Parochial Church Council)

Our PCC will be meeting online on Monday 30th March at 7.30pm and its membership and officers will more or less remain the same until an AGM can be held later this year or even early next year. Colin Lee is retiring from PCC. Thank you Colin for all that you are and all you have contributed to the Parish over the years!

Parish AGM

The Tidenham Parish AGM will take place sometime before 31 October 2020.

Scarecrow Trail

Unsurprisingly, Tutshill Scarecrow Trail has been postponed until later in the year.

The Scarecrow Team appreciate how much effort participants put into their creations and considered an online version, but decided this doesn't really do it justice. It is very much a community event and will be shared in the community when the time is right and safe to do so.

Clocks go Forward

Remember that the clocks will be going forward an hour in the early hours of this Sunday morning.

Links; Online and by phone

Children's Worship

Jane Penny is producing resources for children for worship in the home. If you are not already receiving this and would like them please contact Jane cfmtidenham@btinternet.com or 07856 679387

Life Group meetings

Opportunities to meet online with other Christians

Wednesday 10.30am

(Using Zoom) Easy to download and use. Revd David Treharne is hosting conversation about life and faith. Email David DTRevd@aol.com if you would like to join in and he'll send you a link.

Wednesday 8pm

Fiona Gardiner is hosting a group. Email Fiona Fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com if you would like to join in and she'll send you a link.

Wednesday 8pm

Revd Janice Hamilton is hosting a group. Just 40 mins of reflection/discussion on Bible passage, prayer and maybe worship. Email Janice janice-hamilton@outlook.com if you would like to join in and she'll send you a link.

Thursday 1.30pm

Jane Penny is hosting a group. Email Jane cfmtidenham@btinternet.com if you would like to join in and she'll send you a link.

Daily Prayer

Monday to Friday at 9am

Please use the following links to join in. The meeting room will be open at 8.45am to get used to the system.

Weekly

[https://zoom.us/meeting/vJYvcO6grTwt539QrkG2Ma4N4w9CZkFWWA/ics?icsToken=98tyKuiqrDwtEteSt1_9a7AqOdrqbM_2liQd85JPlzi3LiEHTFfhh8F4OZRIJ_mB](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/j/122778377)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/122778377>

Tidenham Parish Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

If you would like to join this group you'd be very welcome. On Facebook click to join and someone will hopefully let you in!

Watch for updates and news and feel free to post news and comments on this group page to stay connected. Vicar David is hoping to livestream a service on Sunday at 10.30am (see below).

Cytun Churches Together Facebook Page

Register on the Chepstow Churches Together Facebook site for links and information.

Chepstow's Virtual Café Online

Every Saturday at 2pm

Go to the Cytun - Chepstow Churches Together Facebook page and click on the Zoom link,

Live Streaming Sunday Service

We hope the Sunday service will be live on YouTube and can be found on Facebook. There may be a test on Saturday to see if it works. If all is well services, messages and music will be posted on this website for people to access at any time. Celebrating the Eucharist for Passion Sunday at 10.30am with Revd David Treharne, Vicar, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

There are lots of services being livestreamed online so you can still gather for worship.

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#na>

Tidenham Parish Contacts

Revd David Treharne - 01291 760034 - dtrevd@aol.com

Urgent only on Fridays

Revd Janice Hamilton - 01291 626158 - janice-hamilton@outlook.com

Urgent only on Fridays

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

Urgent only on Mondays/Tuesdays

Jane Penny – 01594 563803 - cfmtidenham@btinternet.com

Urgent only on Mondays

Ethan Richards (Youth Co-ordinator) 07933 249210 – tidenhamyouth@gmail.com

Clare Presley (Admin) – 01291 627478 – tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com

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

Weekly Briefing notices to Clare Presley - tidenhamadmin@btinternet.com by 6pm Wednesday

Prayer requests

tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com by 12noon Wednesday for the following Sunday

Prayers & Bible Readings for this Sunday

The Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Passion Sunday and the beginning of Passiontide

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

At this time...

Loving God, Bless us all, particularly now. Particularly when we are comforting others. Particularly when we are offering hope. Particularly when people are isolated. Particularly when we feel overwhelmed ourselves. Particularly when we are afraid. Help us to remember that you are right here, now, in the midst of us, calling us by name. Amen.

Bible Readings for Passion Sunday (Lent 5)

Ezekiel 37:1-14 & John 11:1-45

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+37%3A1-14%2CJohn+11%3A1-45&version=NRSVA>

A Reflection, Talk, or Sermon for the Sunday

This week Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer, our Associate Priest, offers us a word.

Prayer requests from the Church and Community

Every week we will email out prayer requests that we have received. Please feel free to email tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com or phone a member of the team with your requests, and please make it known whether your prayer request is PRIVATE or okay to send out to the public.

Tidenham Parish Prayers for Sunday 29 March

Public Prayers

Thanksgiving

For local shops, especially Life Style Express in Tutshill
For the continued good community spirit
For 500,000+ volunteers to the NHS appeal
For the wonderful warm weather we have had this week
For God's creation displaying His glory
For the technology that enables us to meet together virtually
For Good News stories, for children who are putting rainbows in their windows
For fun and laughter. For the happy noises of children playing in their gardens
For a quieter environment: hearing the birds singing

Intercession

Unseen/unheralded workers at this time e.g. cleaners, refuse collectors, shop workers, funeral directors and grave diggers and many more.

Those in prison and those who run the prisons.

The homeless and refugees

Family who live abroad

Those who are starving, and always have to struggle for food

For a resolution to the virus. For all those working on treatments.

For those who are struggling with loneliness and feel 'disconnected' at this time

For good health for those who are ill

For protection for frontline workers

For families who do not have gardens and are stuck inside nearly all day

For schools and teachers, for children who are still at school and for those learning at home

For parents balancing working at home with care & education of children

For all businesses and the self-employed; the financial challenges

A 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.

FMG, Tidenham Parish, March 2020