



*"where the river flows everything will live"*

## **THE PARISH OF TIDENHAM (& St Briavels and Hewelsfield & Brockweir)** **WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2020**

### **Trinity...**

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday, when we remember and celebrate the mystery of the One God revealed as Trinity... Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three persons, One God. This Christian Trinitarian belief has caused a lot of headaches for people over the years. Perhaps trying to 'work it out' in your head has given you a headache too? Whilst it is of course important for us to use our God given minds in matters of faith it is even more important to get to a place where we realise God as Trinity is not a mathematical formula to be worked out but rather a remarkable relationship (and mystery) to be experienced and enjoyed. St Bernard says, "How can plurality consist with unity, or unity with plurality? To examine the fact closely is rashness, to believe it is piety, to know it is life, and life eternal." To have an inner knowing and experience of the Trinitarian God is awesome!



So don't get too hung up on trying to work out God. As one of my favourite saints, St John Chrysostom, says, "A comprehended God is no God." Instead, take that which God has revealed to us, namely His Son Jesus Christ. Look at Him and get a really good glimpse of God! And be open to God the Holy Spirit who makes God the Father and God the Son present in us. You may ask, "What does that jargon statement mean David?" Most people know intimately what it is to be influenced or possessed by anger or impatience, fear, lust or greed and know you can either yield to, or resist these things. When you come across pure love and peace be open to them and let them possess you. You might just be experiencing God and knowing life!

### **A Word of Caution**

Changing the subject, a reminder to be extra vigilant online during these days. There are a lot of scams about. Email is a vital form of communication but just be aware that not every email is necessarily from the person you think it's from. Be cautious about clicking links and opening attachments, check something out if you're not sure it's legitimate and please don't give personal and financial details out to anyone unless you're 100% sure about it.

### **Last Sunday (Pentecost)**

Those of you who watched the YouTube videos last week of Love Divine, the Lord's Prayer in different languages, and the Pentecost service and reflection with music, will I am sure have been impressed and hopefully moved. A big thank you to all who contributed, and an especially big thank you to Alex White who knit together 50 or so voices and instruments to produce the beautiful version of Love Divine. How wonderful it was to see so many of the church family on screen, and what a fantastic reminder that together we are the church.

If you haven't seen it and you have access to Youtube or some kind of device then search for it and watch it. I would also encourage you share the material with others. I know of a number of people who have passed Love Divine on to friends, family or colleagues and it has really touched them. It's an easy and lovely opportunity to share something of one's faith and say "these are some of the people I worship with in church." Where the river flows everything will live! May we live life together in the flow of God's love. God bless

Revd David Treharne

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

## Up Coming Services

### PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS for Trinity Sunday (7 June)

There will be a Trinity Service **on Sunday 7 June** on the Parish YouTube channel... 'Tidenham Parish Online Church.' Material will also appear on the Parish website (follow the 'News' tab) & Parish Facebook page.



You are then 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: **2 Corinthians 13:11-end & Matthew 28:16-20**

#### **The Collect for this Trinity Sunday:**

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen!

### 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 7 June**

#### Thanksgiving

For all the key workers who serve their communities, especially those involved in food production, processing, packing and delivery.

For the arrival of Caroline and Adam's twins, a boy and a girl.

For the safe arrival of two new 'toddler babies', Elora and Thea.

For the continued community support.

For all those who volunteer.

For the gift of the Holy Spirit, for his fruit in our lives.

#### Intercession

Locally:

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

For all who are mourning at this time, that God would be their source of comfort and strength.

For our local schools, for the children/staff, as some return to school. For all who are learning at home.

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

For all those who work in the NHS/hospitals.

Nationally:

As the lockdown eases in England, for everyone to act sensibly with consideration for others.

For those who are fearful.

For our Government and leaders, for wisdom as they make decisions.

## **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.

**Children & Families** - Jane Penny is producing worship resources suitable for families and children which will be available via email. 'Splash Families are invited to gather via Zoom at 3pm each Sunday. Please contact Jane for the link.'

**Church Family Photos** - Please email a picture of yourself, your family so we can compile a family 'photo album' so we can see each other even though we cannot gather. Email or telephone to Jane Penny.

**Christian Vision for Men** is an organisation that helps men to be gripped and excited by Jesus. It helps make the Christian faith accessible to men. For more information check out their web site at [CVM.org.uk](http://CVM.org.uk). If you would like to find out more about this please contact James Parsons on 07970 489362 or [james.darsie@gmail.com](mailto:james.darsie@gmail.com). Join James, and others, for a live streamed CVM event on Sunday evening at 8pm (James will send you a link) followed by a Zoom chat.



### **TV BBC 1: This Sunday 7 June 2020**

**10:45** Sunday Worship The Rev Canon Leigh Richardson leads a service for Trinity Sunday from St Davids Cathedral in Pembrokeshire. Filmed before the closure of all church buildings.

**11:15** Sunday Morning Stories – Rev Kate Botley finds out how football has drawn fans of all backgrounds together, and how a community of churchgoers who have taken to the streets to unite a diverse housing estate.

**13:15** Songs of Praise Aled Jones revisits people who find spiritual inspiration in the great outdoors, including the Yorkshire Dales, Cumbria and Perthshire.

**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.



**New mental health service** – Qwell, a new online digital platform, provides anyone in Gloucestershire aged 18 years and above to access self care resources, information, peer support and access to trained counsellors. It is open to anyone experiencing issues with their emotional well-being, such as stress or anxiety and there is no need to be referred. This compliments a range of existing mental health services supporting those in the county.



**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.

**Good News** – Adam and Caroline Sutherland's twin babies have arrived... a boy and a girl.



## **Message from Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert (on 2 June 2020)**

In these days of Pentecost, we continue to pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we go on discerning what it means for us to be the Church across the places of this diocese and beyond. It has been good hearing stories of what some worshipping communities are learning, in terms of what people are hoping to hold onto, and what people wish to let go of, as we gradually return to a different future. We do encourage every worshipping community to be putting processes in place to explore what you are learning, and we invite you to share those ideas with us so that people can learn from one another. Please send examples of your learning processes to [Katherine Clamp](#).

We are also aware of the wide range of views and emotions that are around as our country begins to live these early and tentative days of emerging from lockdown. This process will undoubtedly be more complex than going into lockdown, and of course there are many concerns and questions around the use of our church buildings.

We are grateful that the Church of England is being well represented in discussions with government, and you may also know that there is a Church of England Recovery Group, chaired by the Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally.

This group will continue to provide resources to help worshipping communities plan for the different phases of government restrictions being eased. A number of these papers are already on the [Coronavirus guidance documents section of the Church of England website](#) relating to such things as access for contractors, keeping buildings clean and parish risk assessments.

In the next few days the Recovery Group will publish papers to help us begin our forward planning regarding worship inside our church buildings including individual private prayer by the public, conducting small weddings, funerals and baptisms, as well as liturgical resources for 'Marking Our Communities'. There will also be a paper to aid planning for pastoral visiting.

Please note that these will be planning papers and as yet we do not have a timescale for when these different aspects of our mission and ministry will be able to take place.

A resource entitled 'Responding to Human Need by Loving Service' will also be placed on the national website and it is important that people keep up to date with documents as they are placed there.

Whilst we want to continue to bear witness to the truth that being the Church, the body of Christ, is not primarily about buildings we also want to acknowledge the deep frustration and the unhealthy messages that are being conveyed by government in a move to open non-essential retail, including car showrooms, whilst being asked to keep our places of prayer and worship closed. Our economy is important but only within the big picture of the well-being of all. Paying attention to spiritual well-being is vital for the true flourishing of people and place. We are also committed to keeping people as safe as possible.

The Bishop of London, has issued a statement today which reads: "We all want to see places of worship open as soon as is safe and practical and we have been very actively planning to that end, drawing up detailed advice to help parishes prepare.

"While I welcome the Secretary of State's declaration of intent to see them begin to reopen, at least initially for individual prayer, I would encourage ministers now to set a date so that we all know where we stand.

"Working closely with the Government's Places of Worship Task Force, we are committed to finding a safe way of opening up our buildings as soon as possible, wherever proper physical distancing can be maintained.

"We believe it could help bring healing and strength to many who are hurting amid this traumatic time, with our churches acting in so many places at the centre of community life, which is now beginning to resume."

Please know that people's questions and concerns are being clearly heard and we are committed to navigating this well together, being sensitive to people's very different circumstances and contexts across the diocese.

Let us continue to pray for one another, and the people and places of this diocese.

Amid all the instructions we are receiving at the moment, our gospel reading on Sunday will remind us of that instruction of Jesus to 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...' And that instruction came with a promise 'Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age' (Matthew 28:19-20).

May we hold onto this as we walk the path ahead.  
This comes as ever with our thanks and prayers



**+Rachel +Robert**

### **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/UcKriOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

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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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)