



# The Parish of Christchurch

*The Priory Church of the Holy Trinity, Christchurch*  
*St George, Jumpers • St John at Purewell*

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for 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

Dear Friends,

And so we enter the month of August! In most years, August is for many people the month when holidays are taken – the schools are on their long summer vacation and many people travel away from home on holiday or to visit friends and family. This year promises to be a little different as we continue to take precautions to protect ourselves and others against the risks of infection with the Covid virus and foreign travel is restricted and some favourite holiday areas potentially become overcrowded. Many of us who are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the virus are likely to choose to stay at home.

Usually in our life together in church, August sees a bit of a winding-down as the choirs take a well-deserved break from their duties and concerts, groups and other events are reduced. This year, of course, our choirs have been out of action for many months already and most of our usual activities have been suspended, so there is not the same sense of a summer break.

Indeed, at the time of writing, we are preparing to resume more activities:

- We plan to resume the Sunday morning 8.00 am Holy Communion service according to the Book of Common Prayer from **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August**. Initially at least, this service will be held in the Lady Chapel in order to facilitate the necessary cleaning and so that we can hold the 10.00 am service in the nave.
- We also plan to resume the Thursday morning 11.00 am Holy Communion service according to the Book of Common Prayer from **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August**. Again, this service will be held in the Lady Chapel.
- A series of lunchtime recitals and concerts will begin on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August** at 12.30 pm. The first in this series will be an organ recital given by Simon Earl.

It remains to be seen what these late summer months will hold for us as a local community and as a nation: how many summer tourists will come to this area; will those who come keep themselves and others safe; will we, like parts of mainland Europe, have to revert to a more restricted pattern of life? We will have to wait and see. But in recent months we have experienced the truth of the fact that we live our lives not as

independent individuals, each doing just as they like and pursuing their own self-centred interests, but as a community, each of us dependent for our welfare on the actions of one another – my actions have an impact on my neighbour and vice-versa. This is, of course, a key part of Christian teaching – that we live our lives well when we live not selfishly for ourselves, but generously for others, in the pattern of Jesus who supremely lived and gave his life ‘for us’.

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At our 10.00 am Eucharist this Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> August), we welcome Rt. Rev’d Debbie Sellin, the Bishop of Southampton who will preside, preach and also confirm 7 candidates and welcome 1 further candidate into the Church of England. This promises to be a special and joyful occasion and we hope that you will be able to join us, either in person or online later in the day. Please do pray for the candidates as the day approaches and afterwards.

- Robert Crake
- Simeon Evans
- Nikita Folgate
- Sandra Folgate
- Rodger Hawkyard
- Louise Naylor
- Christopher Payne
- Vicky Semple-Khan (for reception into the Church of England)

A reminder: when attending a service (or other event) at church, please remember to bring with you a slip of paper with your name and contact details written on it, and deposit it in the box provided for the government’s ‘track and trace’ scheme. This is an important part of our attempts to stay safe and avoid a renewed lockdown. It helps a lot if you bring a completed slip with you, ready to drop into the box, as this reduces the congestion that can occur if everyone has to stop and write out their details as they enter. This needs to be done on every occasion that you visit, not just once.

A request: after each service (or other event) in the church, we have to clean thoroughly any areas that have been used before they may be used again. The vergers cannot do this job in addition to their existing tasks, so we need some volunteers to help with this. The necessary cleaning equipment and protective equipment will be supplied. With a good number of helpers, this need only take 5-10 minutes. If you are able to help in this way, please contact Roger Haxby via the Parish Office on 01202 485804 (option 3).

With my love and prayers for the week ahead,



Reverend Jonathan Evans