

The Parish of Christchurch

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



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Sunday 9th August 2020

Dear Friends

Together with over 100 of you, last Sunday morning I attended the Parish Eucharist at 10.00am during which Bishop Debbie, the Bishop of Southampton confirmed eight members of our Church family. This was the first Confirmation Service that we have held for several years and I hope that you like me, found it to be a truly uplifting Service, one full of hope and promise for the future, not only for the candidates and their families, but also for us all as we look to the future and recognise afresh the abundance of God's love for us as we together, seek to do His will and grow in Christian discipleship. Please continue to hold those who were confirmed last Sunday in your prayers as they continue in their own journey in the faith. I would also like to add my personal thanks, and I am sure those of the candidates themselves, to Canon Charles and Fr Jonathan for all of the planning and preparation that went into this Service, and which ensured that despite the restrictions placed upon us at this time, we were able to hold it in a safe and relaxed atmosphere, and that all who wanted to be present were both welcomed and accommodated.

We all need to experience the true feelings of hope in our lives. We also all need to feel uplifted in our faith. Sometimes perhaps we struggle to achieve these feelings, and often the catalyst for such hope comes from the most unexpected of sources. So it was for me on Thursday evening, and I am sure many eyebrows will be raised when I tell you that this feeling of renewed hope came from attending a full two hour meeting of the PCC on Zoom! The meeting was very well attended, there were many items to discuss and decisions to be made and everyone had a full opportunity to express their opinions and concerns. Yet the real joy came from the highly positive atmosphere that was present throughout that meeting and the genuine feeling of joy from working and acting as the one people of God in this parish, for the Kingdom and for the benefit of all in our local community or parish.

On my desk in my office at the Priory I have the words of this prayer in a picture frame. **“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference.”** The words are attributed to the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. In light of my words in the previous paragraph, may I be bold enough to make a slight alteration to Niebuhr's words and one that I hope might be good for us all to reflect upon during the coming week. The change is simply to replace the two occasions where the letter “I” appears and in their place to insert the word “Us”. When we act together, when we put aside all of our own personal agendas, when we look for and recognise what is in the common good and when we are truly willing to use our strength collectively, then we can and we always do achieve far more than trying to go it alone. When we are truly together as one force we can achieve great things in the name of Christ, we can change and adapt and we can make a positive difference in the lives of others, and we can also restore hope in a world where despair seems so often to reign. And all of that is worth both recognising publicly and celebrating joyfully.

Face Coverings.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that from Saturday 8th of August it is mandatory to wear face coverings in places of public Worship. This applies to us all. Those leading different parts of our Services will remove these face coverings when they are speaking. There are certain medical exemptions to this new law and I would encourage you to view the relevant pages on the government website if you think you might fall in to one of these categories. We will point out the new legislation to those attending Services but we will NOT ask those not wearing face coverings for their reasons for not doing so.

Services at Christchurch Priory.

The Parochial Church Council has agreed that the Sunday Parish Eucharist will continue to take place in the Priory at 10.00am for the time being. The Service will continue to be recorded and uploaded onto the website later the same day.

From today, the Sunday 8.00am BCP said Service of Holy Communion will resume.

We have also reintroduced the 11.00am Thursday Holy Communion Service in the Lady Chapel. (BCP)

The Wednesday 11.00am Eucharist in the Priory (without hymns but with organ music) will continue each week.

You are very welcome to join us for Evening Prayer in the Great Quire every evening (including Sundays) at 5pm.

Morning Prayer (Monday to Saturday) remains available on Zoom at 8.30am. (See website for details.)

Services at St George's and St John's.

Whilst the government advice concerning 2 metre social distancing remains, it will not be possible to hold Services at **St John's**. This will remain the case until such restrictions are completely lifted.

It is our intention to resume the Sunday 9.30am Service at **St George's** on 27th September. We are not in a position to resume this from an earlier date due to clergy availability. Further details concerning this will follow in due course. In the meantime, you are very welcome to join us at The Priory for the Parish Eucharist at 10.00am on Sundays.

The Parish Website..

We have taken the decision to end the **"Pause for Prayer and a Prelude"** which has been available from the website daily. The last one of these will be on Friday 14th August.

The **Daily Reflections** (Monday to Saturday) will continue in their current form for the time being.

Organ Recitals.

In line with the current legislation, the organ recitals planned and previously advertised to take place on Saturdays throughout the summer have also sadly been cancelled.

With my love, prayers and very best wishes to you all.

Richard.

Reverend Richard Partridge