

The Parish of Christchurch

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



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Sunday 30th August 2020

Dear Friends

It has often been said that some people at least attend Services at Christchurch Priory because they want to remain “anonymous.” The argument suggests that people can attend such acts of Worship and then slip out straight away afterwards without anyone else really getting to know them, and equally, before they can be approached and asked to join a Church Committee, the coffee rota or even to have a think about standing to be the next Churchwarden!

Well perhaps that is true for a small number of our regular Worshippers, but I believe that the great majority, after an initial period of exploration, choose to become more actively involved in the wider life of our wonderful parish and feel their faith strengthened by so doing. Last night I made a list of the number of such opportunities that currently exist and the total exceeded 30, far too many to list in this letter. If you would like a full list and who you might contact for further details as to how you might be involved with one of them, please do let me know.

We all have different skills, abilities and interests and when we use these gifts for the wider benefit of the community, the Church and the Parish we become more effective in living out the true mission of the Church. When we see how the early Church began to operate perhaps we also get an image of this more clearly. The important point surely lies in the fact that each person recognised that they were one part of something far greater than that of their own individual role. That remains exactly the same for us today, we are not self-entities called to operate in total isolation from each other, but rather to come together as the one people of God in his love and service. I hope that even though there is always room for improvement, you like me feel we are doing a pretty good job under this heading as a parish.

Sometime before the end of October we will hold the postponed Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM.) I am sure that Canon Charles will provide us all with more details of this in a future pastoral letter. At that meeting we will look at just such achievements that have come from working together. At that meeting we will also receive the updated Electoral Roll. Later in this letter I include the official text that we are required to circulate on this topic from Robert Phillipson. When I look at this wording the legal significance quite rightly stands out. Today though I want us to think about the pastoral significance of being on the electoral roll of the parish. As I have already suggested, we currently have in excess of 30 different groupings within the parish. Each has an individual list of those associated with that area of Church life. Perhaps the greatest frustration from an administrative point of view we have had to deal with during the Covid 19 restrictions has been attempting to create a master list, incorporating all of those 30 or so groupings, and thus ensuring as many people as is possible receive these weekly letters and other areas of true and genuine pastoral care.

At this point I would like to personally thank both Sue and Roger Haxby for all the work they have undertaken with regards to this task. Sue has produced the master list and has been responsible for the publishing of these letters and Roger has ensured that everything we have done complies fully with the

Data Protection Regulations. And so to my point. In an ideal world, all of these names, all of your names, would appear on the electoral roll, and in reality, many are not on the current roll. It would be wonderful if we could all take this opportunity to rectify this. Not only will this give a more accurate picture of just how many people are truly involved within parish life and how we come together to achieve great things in God's loving service, but it will likewise ensure that we can more effectively attempt to ensure that the pastoral care we want to provide to each and everyone one of us, can be more complete and that nobody is overlooked. After all, surely nobody associated with our parish should feel "anonymous" or forgotten when they need the love and care of the Church, perhaps in their hour of most need. So here is the legal notice:

Notice is hereby given that the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christchurch Electoral Roll is being **REVISED**. Any person whose name is **NOT ALREADY** on the Electoral Roll needs to fill out a form, or if you have changed your address since this time last year, or if you know of anybody whose name is on the Roll but who has either died, or have moved during the year. When filled out please return the form to me either via the Priory Vestry or directly by the 19th September 2020 at the latest. Fr Charles and Clergy Team use the Electoral Roll as a means of identifying and communicating with members of the congregation, therefore, it essential that the Roll is kept up to date. The second form called "supplementary electoral roll" is there to provide some additional information to help the Clergy to identify you more easily. In line with the Diocese, you are being asked to provide telephone numbers and an email address (if you have one). This extra information will make it much easier for the Clergy Team to make contact if the need should arise. Failure to have your name on the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christchurch Electoral Roll will mean you will not be able to vote at, or attend the Parish AGM, stand for a member of the PCC, Deanery Synod or Churchwarden.

Robert Phillipson, Parish of Christchurch Electoral Roll Officer.

Robert adds, "If any one wishes to talk to me direct, with any Electoral Roll queries, they can call me on 01202 483316 and leave a message and I will get back to them."

EVENING PRAYER.

Please note that Evening Prayer this coming Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1st, 2nd and 3rd September will be held in the Great Quire at 4.30pm and NOT at 5pm.

CHORAL SINGING AT THE PARISH SUNDAY EUCHARIST

The latest guidelines from the government and the Church of England give permission for a small choir to sing during acts of Worship. This is subject to social distancing being both possible and fully observed. Last Sunday our Director of Music Simon Earl formed a 6 strong adult choir to sing at the parish Eucharist and there will be choral singing at the 10.00 Service today. Given the current guidelines it will clearly not be possible for the full Priory choirs to return in September but Simon will be arranging for a few members of our choir to sing at the Sunday Service from early in September.

CHRISTCHURCH FOODBANK

Phil Aspinall has come up with an ideal way for all of us who have benefited from the Chancellor's generous offer of 50% off meals eaten out throughout August. He says, "Perhaps you are concerned that such a scheme subsidises those who can well afford to eat out - or, indeed, to eat at all. If so, here is an idea: if you can afford it, why not donate the 50% you save to Christchurch Food Bank to help out those who need it?"

With my love and Prayers. Richard.

Reverend Richard Partridge