

# The Parish of Christchurch



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

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Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

Dear Friends

I wonder if there are times that like me you think about what those who have lived in the generations before us might think about the advances that human beings have made here on earth. Those who died just some 30 years ago would be perhaps astonished to see the place that all forms of mobile technology now are common place across the entire world. Going back still further, the use of computers, the ease in which people can travel by road, rail and air might be a surprise, and still further the ways that people can communicate with other people using the now very dated, home telephone.

Most of the advances that we have made are generally considered both good and positive and assist our lives here on earth. I dare say that many of you, again like me, become frustrated at times, and even that we are being left behind by the world, as these changes come at such a pace that it is hard to fully embrace them all together with the positive impact that they very well might have upon our own lives. Yes, I know that I am a dinosaur!

Then there is also the opportunity for each one of us to consider what further changes might come about in the next 50 or so years. We might even allow ourselves to travel in the “Dr Who, Tardis” to imagine just what life will really be like in the lifetime of those who will follow us in life on earth.

Change is inevitable, there is nothing that we can do to stop it, it has always been a feature of life and it always will be. It is simply a feature of human life. We as a parish have embraced the need and similarly the opportunity to make the changes that have been required for us to continue in the provision of ministry, mission and Worship during the pandemic and we are very grateful to those of you who have been kind enough to thank us for what we have been attempting to achieve. But we are also very aware that a good number of our faithful friends within the parish, and those who live outside of Christchurch but who in normal times are “regulars”, do not possess the necessary technical equipment to join in with our Services and parish meetings, or to follow details concerning other aspects of parish life on the website and other social media platforms. We are as I say, very aware and I so hope that these weekly pastoral letters and other contacts that you have with one another on the telephone make you feel that you are still very much part of the one flock in this place and loved and protected by the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray for you every day and I am sure that you do the same for us within your daily prayers.

So in this week's letter I want to stress again what joins us, what binds us together and what will ensure that in the not too distant future I hope, will bring us all back together, face to face as it were. This single truth has never been subject to any form of change and has been the central fact that Christians of all generations have celebrated for the last 2000 years, and it is simply this, that God loves each and every one of us and was prepared to reveal this truth to us by sending His only Son, Jesus into the world, and to die for each one of us on that cross at Calvary. St John in his first pastoral Letter puts it in this way. “God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.” They are words spoken at the beginning of the Common Worship Marriage Service and set the scene for the entire Service which brings

the couple together as one. They are equally valid, perhaps even more so, when we consider what holds and binds us together as the “One” faithful and united people of God.

Whatever your own personal circumstances and wherever you are on your own “risk assessment” concerning the right time to return to face to face Worship at The Priory or at St George’s, I both hope and pray that you would feel that to be the truth and that you are loved by God and by your fellow disciples here in our Church family and community today. When the time is right, come and experience that this truth is a reality as well.

We are looking at ways that we can experience each other’s company and fellowship safely together both inside our Church buildings and also outside in the fresh air. More details will follow at a later date. For now may our prayer for each other be that each one of us will feel afresh that true peace of God which passes all human understanding and will keep our hearts and minds, our words and our actions, all in the knowledge and love of God and of His Risen Son, Jess Christ our Lord.

With my love and my prayers. Richard.

All of the below are of course subject to Government and Church regulations at the time.

Visiting the Priory Church (apart from for Services and Private Prayer) will resume on May 17<sup>th</sup>. This is also the date that the café and shop will re-open.

It is hoped that our full Priory choirs will resume singing in our Services on the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

The Thursday Organ Recitals will resume on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June in their usual form at 12.30pm for 45 minutes. The series will run through until 29<sup>th</sup> July.

The Priory Summer Fete is taking place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

And already taking place:

Morning Prayer on Zoom Monday to Saturday at 8.30am. Please see the parish website for further details if you would like to join us.

Evening Prayer in the Great Quire, Monday to Saturday at 5pm.

Wednesday and Thursday Services of Holy Communion at 11.00am in the Priory and at 10.00am on Thursdays at St George’s.

Sunday Services at the Priory:

8.00am Holy Communion. (BCP)

10.00am Eucharist with a small choir singing the hymns and an anthem.

6.30pm Said Evensong. (BCP)

Sunday Service at St George’s.

9.30am. Eucharist with one member of the choir singing the hymns.

## **THE REVISED COPY OF THE PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL**

The draft copy of the Revised Ecclesiastical Parish of Christchurch’s Electoral Roll has been revised and, is now available for viewing in the Cloister Way, for the next fourteen days.

This will enable those members of the church who wish to check their names do actually appear on the Roll. The final copy of the Roll will be presented to the APCM. Please NB I cannot make any additions only corrections at this time. However, after the APCM I can start taking additions for the 2022 electoral Roll. Robert J Phillipson Parish Electoral roll Officer.

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