

The Parish of Christchurch



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

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Sunday 16th May 2021

Dear Friends

On 25th April, Canon Charles in his Pastoral Letter wrote about the importance of the welcome that each one of us can offer to visitors to our Churches. I commend that letter to you once again this week and remind you that it can be found on the home page of our website under the blue button heading of pastoral letters. This week I would like to expand upon that theme, the Ministry of Welcome, with a personal invitation to each and every one of you who receive these weekly letters. We send out approximately 450 letters each week, either by post or on email. Hopefully everyone who is already a part of our Church family receives these letters, staff, volunteers, Worshipers and many who attend concerts or other events within one of the three Churches in our Parish. Both Charles and I are fully aware that we have two distinct camps at the moment, those who have already returned to Services and feel happy with the safety measures that we have put in place, and those who are not ready to return yet. As we have both said on many occasions, there is no hurry and each one of us must return when we feel that the time and circumstances are right for us to return.

On Monday the Country will enter the next stage of the easing of lockdown restrictions. As part of this 30 people will be able to meet together outside. Also on Monday our Priory café and shop will open once again between 10am and 4:30pm and visitors will be permitted to look around the Priory as well as being able to enter for private prayer as they can do now. Starting one week later on Monday 24th May, and for a two week period, Charles, our Churchwardens, Tracy and Colin, the staff and I would like to invite each and every one of you to join us for either morning coffee or afternoon tea in a marquee that will be erected on the Priory House lawn. This will give us a chance to meet one another outside, to share our news with friends and to offer each other the love, care and support that will always be central in any worthwhile ministry of welcome. It will also give us the opportunity to update you on future plans and upcoming events.

So this is how we hope it will work.

Between Monday 24th May and Saturday 6th June, (apart from Sunday 30th May) we would like to invite you to join us **on one occasion** for either:

Morning coffee and cake between 10.30am and 12.00pm

Or

Afternoon tea and cake between 2.30pm and 4pm.

There will be a maximum of 25 places at each sitting in the marquee. This will allow 5 of us from the staff and ministry team to be present as well.

If the weather is fine we can take the sides of the marquee to allow even more fresh air to flow through.

There is no charge for attending, it is free! There will be an opportunity to leave a donation towards the costs involved but this is completely optional. If we receive more money than is needed to cover such costs, the excess will be donated to Christchurch Food Bank Plus.

So please do come and join us, come with friends from Church, arrange the best day and time that suits you all or come on your own or with a family member or neighbour. I promise you that a warm welcome will await you all. To book your place, please either email Maureen Whiles our Parish Secretary: parishoffice@christchurchpriory.org or phone her between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday on 01202 485804 (option 3). If you are coming with others or part of a group, you can give Maureen all the names on the one email or phone call. It will have to be arranged on a first come or first booked basis, so please consider a second time and day in case your first choice is already full. And please remember that this invitation is to ALL of you, whatever your connection to the life and ministry of our wonderful parish. We look forward to seeing you in person and to welcoming you with our Christian love.

With my love and Prayers,

Richard.

Annual Meetings in the Priory Church

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners (the meeting that elects the Churchwardens) will take place in the Priory at **11.30am, on Sunday 23rd May** as an extension of the 10.00am Eucharist. NB the Annual Meeting of Parishioners may only be attended by residents of the Parish of Christchurch and those who are on the parish Electoral Roll. This will be followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting; this may only be attended by those who are on the Electoral Roll; i.e. regular worshippers not on the Electoral Roll may not attend.

To participate in the annual meeting online, please email pccsecretary@christchurchpriory.org; anyone wishing to participate by telephone, please call the PCC Secretary on 01202 480789.

Only those present in the Priory at the time of the meeting will be able to vote in any elections.

Nomination forms for election as Churchwardens or to the PCC may be picked up from the Priory Vestry or by email from Sue Haxby, pccsecretary@christchurchpriory.org telephone 01202 480789. NB All nomination forms must be proposed and seconded by 2 members of our Electoral Roll; nomination forms for Churchwardens may also be signed by residents in the Parish of Christchurch

The Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2020 has been published. A printed copy is available at the back of the Priory and St George's. An electronic copy is available by contacting the PCC Secretary. We do **not** recommend electronic copies being printed at home.