



HARWICH
TEAM MINISTRY

'At Home' Newsletter
week beginning 7th September 2020

During the next few weeks, it would be good if we could engage in some reflection on how we have been impacted in our faith and prayer life during these last months of lockdown and crisis, where we have seen growth in our own faith, and where we have struggled. Also to reflect on where we feel God is leading us as we emerge from lockdown and as we begin to discover the new ways and new things that God may be expecting of us. So on page 3 and 4 of this newsletter, you will find some thoughts and questions to help us in this time of review and moving forward. You may want to get together with one or two others either over the phone, or in someone's garden or over a cup of coffee to talk and pray together over these questions and it would be great if everyone could respond, so we can build up a picture of how God is speaking to us through this time.

Creationtide, or, the season of Creation, is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. It is a time to offer our thanksgiving back to God for all his goodness revealed in his creation as well as make a commitment to care for the earth. Our wellbeing, the wellbeing of all humanity, is interwoven with the wellbeing of the earth and all of us have to consider how we can live in a more just and sustainable way.

The world around us is full of beauty
We praise your name O God.
For the gift of life on earth
We praise your name O God.
Open our eyes to see your artistry
Your image in all that you have made.
Where our praise is short or silent
All creation sings out with joy.
Here we join creation's song
We praise your name O God.

Evening Prayer at St Nicholas' Church Sunday 20th September at 4pm during which we will briefly consider the annual report and agree DCC and PCC elections.

Evening Prayer at All Saints' Church Sunday 27th September at 4pm during which we will ratify the Parish Accounts and various elections to DCCs and PCC. No questions will be taken at either of the above meetings, please email Margaret any questions or comments in advance. Numbers are restricted to 30, so if you would like to attend, please let Vicki know ASAP.

Collect for 14th Sunday after Trinity

**Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We pray this week:

*for the safety and protection of all, in the light of the surge in coronavirus cases;
for the care of all creation and for our won part in living sustainably as good stewards;
for those struggling with sickness and disease and for those who care for them;
for the bereaved;
for all struggling with isolation or fear.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Sunday Services for September (all services at All Saints')

Please note that, although there will be two services every Sunday at these times, with Margaret soon to be on sick leave, and for the need to find clergy to cover, there may be last minute changes in the style of service.

6 th	9am and 10.30am	Holy Communion
13 th	9am and 10.30am	Holy Communion
20 th	9am and 10.30am	Morning Praise
4pm		Evening Prayer at St Nicholas' + short Annual Meeting
27 th	9am and 10.30am	Holy Communion
4pm		Evening Prayer at All Saints' + short APCM

There is no need to book for the 9am service but booking is still required for the 10.30. Please let Vicki know (Tel: 07427837782 or email: harwich.peninsular@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the list.

**The 10.30am service on Sundays will be livestreamed to the All Saints' Facebook page.
Evening Prayer @ home Tuesdays 5pm live on Facebook All Saints' page.**

**Wednesday s: 10am-10.30am Prayers at home
7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom**

On Saturday 26th September Lisselle will be ordained Priest in Colchester. Due to Covid-19 and restrictions on public worship, parishioners will not be able to attend but please pray for Lisselle over the next few weeks as she prepares for this special time. On Sunday 27th September, Lisselle will preside for the first time at Holy Communion.

What will our church look like as we emerge from lockdown?

Together, let's engage in some prayerful reflection around where and how we move forward as God's church here. These questions are designed to help you in this.

'Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No. They pour new wine into new wineskins and both are preserved.' Matthew 9 v17'

1 The lockdown and me. *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.* Col 4:2

How has the lockdown impacted on your walk with God?

What areas of your life has God been refining?

What habits have you begun that you want to continue?

2 The lockdown and our church *Come to me all you who are weary and I will give you rest. My yoke is easy and my burden is light.'* Matt 11: 28-30

What have you missed most about church?

Are there things you have felt relieved to stop doing, things you won't miss?

What difference has it made to you that worship and prayer are now offered online?

3 Exiting lockdown and beyond. *'Forget the former things. Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs u. Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isa 43: 18-19*

What activities have we as a church stopped during the crisis, that were already unfit for purpose, or had lost their way, and that we should let go off completely?

Are there things we have started during lockdown we should continue?

Are there new things God is calling us to start now?

What may be the enduring pastoral needs caused by lockdown – economic, emotional, spiritual, medical – that we will need to respond to?

Before lockdown our usual pattern of Sunday worship was four Sunday morning services: an 8am, two at 9.30am and one at 11am. This is now unsustainable and cannot continue. Setting aside any personal preferences you may have; how might we best serve the worshipping and missional needs of our communities?

4 Additional thoughts/ideas