

The Benefice & Team Ministry of Tettenhall Wood and Perton

The Parish of Tettenhall Wood

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04 July 2020

Dear Friends,

Last week we had the good news churches can reopen for public worship. However, the requirements and guidelines from government and the national church have only been released over the last few days, so there has been no opportunity to prepare our churches properly. There will be no services either at Good Shepherd or Christ Church this Sunday. The Wardens will be carrying out risk assessments over the weekend, and then will ensure everything is in place for a safe restart.

Our intention is that on Sunday 12 July there will be a service at both churches – 9.30 at Good Shepherd and 11.00 at Christ Church. On that first week, we will hold services of Morning Prayer very similar to those distributed for use at home over recent weeks. Once we have experienced conducting those simpler services safely, we will move on to services of Holy Communion in future weeks.

When we do restart, services will feel very different from what we are used to. Next week, I will give details of the changes and precautions we will be taking. For now, if you belong to a particularly vulnerable group, please think carefully before you make the decision to come. Please be reassured that current services for use at home will continue in all the formats we are currently using: paper, email, website, Facebook, YouTube and DVD. No one need miss out!

This brings us to this week's service. The sermon is by myself and intercessions by Richard Shreeve.

Readings: Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Collect: *Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Also in the mailing is a letter about ways to give to the church. I'm pleased to say payments can now be taken through the website, and, when we're back in church there will be a contactless card reader in each building. Thank you, once again, for all the support that you give, whether by traditional means or the new.

I've been asked to draw your attention to The One City Fund which jointly supports the various homeless charities in Wolverhampton. A crowdfunding initiative aims to raise £10,000 by 10 July. If you would like to pledge support, go to <https://www.spacehive.com/noplacelikehome>

As different organisations look to the future, it seems the thing to do is find an apposite quotation – whether it's Winston Churchill's 'You should never let a good crisis go to waste;' or Warren Buffet's 'Only when the tide goes out do you discover who's been swimming naked!' Rt Rev Philip North, Bishop of Burnley, is recognised for his prophetic voice. He writes in last week's Church Times: 'After the pandemic, some parishes ... will go to the wall, never to be seen again. Others will flourish, and will emerge stronger and larger. The reason for this will not be wealth, context, or tradition, but the quality and agility of the lay and ordained ministry that has been offered in the past few months. Churches that have gone to sleep will stay asleep. Those that have risen to the task will be ready for service and proclamation.' I pray we belong to the latter group.

With every blessing,

Phil

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