

The Benefice & Team Ministry of Tettenhall Wood and Perton

The Parish of Tettenhall Wood

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Dear Friends,

I hope you're keeping well and in good spirits.

Last week's first services in church after lockdown seemed to go well, with encouraging attendance. For me, it's very important we sense the unity between those worshipping in church and those worshipping at home: through Christ, together we worship the one God, sharing in fellowship, whether in person or remotely.

So, I can welcome you again this Sunday, to Good Shepherd at 9.30am and to Christ Church at 11.00am, reminding everyone to keep to the rules outlined last week (and especially, if you want to chat, to do so outside and in small groups only). Equally, there is no pressure to come to church. The service is available on paper, online and by DVD as usual. Please engage in the way that is right for you.

Readings: Romans 8: 12-26 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Collect: *Creator God, you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Thank you to Jane Brough for providing the intercessions.

There is one big difference this week. At Christ Church this will be a service of Holy Communion. It has required great care to ensure Holy Communion can be received safely in the current environment. Across the Church of England, the common cup has been suspended, and Communion can only be offered in one kind (ie bread only). Communicants will stand one at a time before the altar (rather than along the altar rail), observing social distancing from each other, and following a one-way system back to their seats. So that you can see all that has been put in place, and decide whether it is right for you at this time, I attach a separate sheet detailing the precautions that are being taken.

At Good Shepherd, we need a little more time to have all the arrangements in place, so for this week the service remains Morning Prayer, but when we do have Communion the same guidelines will be followed. In the medium term, it is not necessarily to be expected that we return to having Holy Communion services in both churches every week.

One other matter: for obvious reasons we are not holding a children's holiday club this year. However, CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) are offering 'virtual ventures' for youngsters aged 8 to 18. Normally, ventures are residential held across the country, and offer a great combination of fun, faith and friendship. (I helped lead one in the Lake District for many years.) This year, like everything else, they've shifted to online, and you can find out about them at www.ventures.org.uk

With every blessing

Phil

The Parish of Tettenhall Wood
Christ Church, Tettenhall Wood & The Church of the Good Shepherd, Castlecroft
The Parish of Perton

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