

Welcome to our Nineteenth 'Together News'.

Whilst out walking Clarrie this week, I had a very welcome experience. It was a beautiful morning and walking past a house I noticed someone sat in their garden enjoying breakfast. I called her name and we had a good chat at her garden gate as we caught up with each-others news. We hadn't seen each other since lock-down and it wasn't too long before we were talking about some of the challenges we had both faced during the past difficult few months. As our conversation drew to a close, it seemed quite natural for me to ask, 'Can I pray with you before Clarrie and I carry on with our walk?' It was a very special moment, I hope for both of us, as we expressed our thankfulness for God's presence with us through difficult times, for strength to help in challenging moments and for those with whom we share faith and who encourage us when we meet. This seemed especially praiseworthy as 'meeting together' is not something that we have all been able to do for some time now.

However, we are about to make another step in the direction of 'normality' on Sunday August 9th as we begin gathering together for Worship at St Michael's, Christ Church and All Saints. As we do so, we are all aware that it will not be the same as we must be guided by Government and Church of England Guidelines ensuring that we meet safely. We will not be able to sing, but we can listen to music. Numbers will be restricted according to the space available to us in each parish Church as we have to keep the 2m rule. Preparing places of Worship will also be quite a task with necessary measures taken to give people confidence as they return, some nervously, to their much-loved place of Worship. We are aware that some will not be ready emotionally or physically able to return to a place of Worship, so we must be especially mindful to support these folk and not leave them feeling that they don't belong.

So, on Sunday 9th August, I will be leading congregational Worship in all three Benefice Churches. St Michael's, Lyndhurst at 9.30; Christ Church, Emery Down at 11am and All Saints', Minstead at 6pm. From Sunday 16th August we will re-establish the pattern of Sunday morning services we followed prior to entering lockdown, sadly, without Mickey's House and Funday Sunday for the immediate future. Obviously, I cannot lead three services on a Sunday morning, and we will only be able to sustain Worship in each parish Church every Sunday if we can arrange for others to share in leading them. It is my hope that we can confirm details of Sunday Services in next week's Together News. If you feel that you can help lead Services in your Parish Church **PLEASE LET ME KNOW.**

PLEASE NOTE that as space in all three parish Churches will be limited due to safe and social distancing, it will be necessary to **PRE-BOOK** your attendance either via the Benefice Website or by making a phone call so that your name(s) can be added to the permitted number of attendees. Kate will outline how 'booking' works and we will make a flyer available outlining the processes of booking a seat/pew! This is all part of the 'new normal' and is likely to be part of our shared life together for the foreseeable future.

In Psalm 122 v1, the Psalmist sings 'I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord, for there our friends and kindred dwell'. I pray that the joy of being able to meet together will be greater than the chore of having to book and that the blessing of being able to Worship together will outweigh the burden of having to follow guidance!

As I walked away from our impromptu moment of prayer, I was reminded of how isolated many folk still are, and some of these will not be able to join us when we do Worship together on Sundays. So, my encouragement to us all is to be especially mindful of those who are 'sad' and not 'glad' when they heard that the Church was gathering again for Worship – because they can't be there. Stay in touch and take every opportunity to keep their faith alive and hope strong – even if it does mean praying over the garden gate!

Moving forward with you with thankful hearts,

David, Ann and Clarrie

Revd. David, The Vicarage, 5 Forest Gardens, Lyndhurst SO43 7AF
07468 527820 / potterton.david@newforestparishes.com

Keeping Faith Alive and Hope Strong

Parish Church Opening Times for Private Prayer

All of our Churches are now open. Please see the table below for details of opening times. Until the 9th August, when we plan to re-start Services in Church, these times and days remain unchanged. Upon restarting Services, we will review the times and days of Private Prayer at each Church.

St Michael's, Lyndhurst	Wednesday & Sunday	8am – 10am
Christ Church, Emery Down	Tuesday & Saturday	10am – 6pm
All Saints', Minstead	Sunday	9am – 11am

This Week's Services, ONLINE (Recorded and LIVE)

All **LIVE** services are accessed via **Facebook**. Where files are not too large, these will also be uploaded afterwards and be available via our website and **YouTube**.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/benefice.newforest/>

YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOOjetLI_NZ7M3Kpy1tH8w/featured?view_as=subscriber

Website - <https://www.newforestparishes.com/Worship>

Sunday 26th July 2020	<u>10:30am</u>	Together Worship	Pre-recorded, view on Facebook/YouTube. Links above.
Thursday (Every week)	<u>9.30am</u>	STILL Online Prayer Meeting	https://www.zoom.us/join ID: 774 5029 4172 PW: still
Thursday	<u>8.30pm</u>	Relax and Reflect Music from Taizé	LIVESTREAM via Facebook
Sunday 2nd August 2020	<u>10.30am</u>	Together Worship	Pre-recorded, view on Facebook/YouTube.

Church Services are back



JOIN US FROM
SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST
BOOKING ESSENTIAL. VISIT
WWW.NEWFORESTPARISHES.COM
OR CALL KATE ON 07776 221663

New Forest
Parishes 

THE BENEFICE OFFICE, ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH,
LYNDHURST SO43 7BD. OPEN WEEKDAYS 9.30-11.30 - 02380 283175

SPOTLIGHT ON PAUL & ANGELA TREND



What have you done for St Michael's over the years? - Both Paul and I have always tried to play a full part, helping and supporting church activities, services, social, fund raising and maintenance.

When I was teaching at St Michael's School there were many links with the church. We produced plays and displays. This led to helping with Sunday School and starting a group we called Searchers which included older children, some of whom were choir members. We provided displays and presentations for Mothering Sunday, summer and Christmas services. We met in our own homes and also organised activities including theatre visits and picnics at the beach or in the forest.

My interest in the church history began when I was studying the Victorians for an OU degree. I was hooked. The 1990s saw the centenary of the death of several of the important artists with work in the church so there were exhibitions and commemorations. I provided written information and displays, gave talks on the church history, the artists and local events and updated the guide book. We were involved with activities raising money for the restoration of the Leighton Fresco.

Already a bellringer, Paul joined St Michael's in the mid-1970s and was elected Tower Captain almost immediately. Over time he has taken on other formal roles as Envelope Secretary and Church Warden and was heavily involved in the earlier stages of the Restoration and Renewal Project. Currently Paul and I are completing a new illustrated book on our beautiful stained glass windows.

What made you want to help? - We were both brought up in Christian families which were always heavily involved in community activities, so it was automatic and enjoyable. When our children were involved we wanted to support.

What do you enjoy most about it? - Being part of, and of use to the communities of church and village. In particular, ringing bells is part of Paul's witness to God's presence in Lyndhurst. I enjoy helping probably because of my teaching background supporting and sharing ideas while working with other people provides a sense of achieving something worthwhile for the village.

What do you do when you're not helping out at church? - When I retired the one thing I was worried about was being bored! I started a Reading Group and joined an Art Class. I was asked to join the Parish Council and led the group that wrote the original local plan which led to the Alice Adventure, Arthur Phillip and Cemetery Research. Paul and I have produced a Lyndhurst Walk leaflet and booklets on the church, Arthur Phillip and Alice in Wonderland. A Lyndhurst in WW2 leaflet and exhibition will be available shortly. I do the research and text while Paul uses his presentation skills to produce an attractive document. I am also on the committee for Lyndhurst Welfare Charity.

I'm interested in History and wanted to be a Winchester Cathedral Guide but decided it was too far and joined Lymington Town Tours as a guide and speaker. I give illustrated talks on subjects on local history and interesting people. Sara Hall and I initiated a local history group, How We Used to Live, which has monthly meetings at Emery Down. We research and have done exhibitions locally and at Hampshire Record Office. I'm a member of the U3A French and Reading Groups. I belong to the National Association of Fine Arts Society, The New Forest Art Society and WOW (Women on Wednesdays).

Paul and I are members of Lyndhurst Twinning Group which meets every year. We have family in France too and visit annually. We both enjoy walking. Paul is currently a trustee for Emery Down Almshouses (Boulbee Cottages), president of the local Probus group and a committee member of a regional Retired Civil Engineers Group. His bell ringing takes him around to other churches. Paul is also researching his interesting family history. I enjoy gardening even though it's a battle with the slugs.

Is there anything you have enjoyed during Lockdown? - Paul was reminded of Sydney Carter writing in praise of George Fox (founding father of Quakerism): 'There's a light that is shining in the heart of a man.' The lockdown seems to have ignited many lights in many hearts – a joy to see.

We've appreciated living in the peace and quiet of the New Forest going for long walks and observing the changes from spring to summer. We've seen the arrival of the first foals, heard the first calls of the cuckoos and the trees burst into leaf.

I also enjoyed the time without outside commitments to tidy the house and garden and focus without interruption on the Lyndhurst in WW2 project which I was researching for the Parish Council.

What one thing would you like to see happen, in light of the changes from Lockdown? - We would like to see a focus on church activities to involve more people, especially younger families. Perhaps a 'Friends of St Michael's' to involve a wider range of people who may only attend church on special occasions or in times of need? It would be great if George Fox's light stayed on in peoples' hearts so that the church is there for the whole community, seven days a week.

Your Opportunities to Serve

There are many opportunities to support the Benefice and we are currently looking for volunteers to support;

- **Compline**, recording from the comfort of their own home.
- **Readings for Sundays**, reading Lessons and Intersessions for Sunday Services.
- **Opening of our Churches**, for Private Prayer and supporting Services once they open.

Please contact Kate Donohoe if you're able to help

communications@newforestparishes.com

Your Gifts are Keeping Faith Alive and Hope Strong in the Benefice and beyond!

Weekly Offering - If you are not giving regularly it would be a great help to the PCC if you were able to do so. Please speak to your PCC Treasurer or David. If you have access to the internet, you can also donate to your Parish Church via our website www.newforestparishes.com click on 'Donate'.

Easy Fundraising - Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and register to donate without costing you anything! Simply find your 'cause', searching by name and then carry on with your shop.

Text to Donate - St Michael's - text the words **STMICHAELS to 70085 for a one off donation of £5.00. All Saint's** - text the words **AllSaints to the number 70085 for a one-off donation of £5.00.** If you wish to donate more or less than £5 to either, substitute 5 with any amount between 1 and 20. **Christ Church** - text the words **XChurch 3 to the number 70085 for an instant donation of £3.00** and a monthly, reoccurring payment will be made of £3 to Christ Church. If you wish to donate more or less than £3, substitute 3 with any amount between 1 and 20. You can cancel the reoccurring payments at any time.

NEW Parish Giving Scheme Telephone Service

Available weekdays from 9am to 5pm. Calls will take less than 15 minutes and you will receive written confirmation afterwards to confirm the details. At anytime you can call the service to make amendments to your direct debit. Call: 0333 002 1271

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are now permitted in our parish Churches but with restrictions. Suzanne has been in regular contact with wedding couples, most of whom have rescheduled their ceremonies for either later this year or into 2021.

VJ Day Commemoration Saturday 15th August, 11am at Christ Church. This will be a Benefice Service in the Churchyard. More details to follow.

Useful Information

SAY IT - PRAY IT!!

If you are concerned, anxious or troubled in anyway, you can text your prayer to our 'Say it Pray it' number and we will pray for you immediately. No conversation or call back, just a simple text for you to share matters for prayer! Why not give it a go this week?

WANTED: PRAY-ERS.

We need a team of 'pray-ers' across the Benefice who will carry the prayer phone for a week (Sunday – Sat). Their (your) ministry will be to simply 'pray the prayers' that are sent via text to the phone, either the moment they are received or as soon possible. **You do need to be living where you have a good mobile phone signal!** Let David know if you would like to share in this ministry. It just might be the thing that God is calling you to do and what a blessing you will be and receive!

**SAY it
PRAY it**
Text 07591 958856

New Forest Parishes

'SAY'
what you'd like us to
'PRAY'
That's just what we'll do!

This is a **TEXT ONLY** service.
Conversation is not possible on this number. If you would like to chat with someone, please call **07468 527820**

Thank you for providing your contact details - We now have quite a comprehensive database which is a great help, especially for circulating Together News! If you or if you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list for the latest Newsletters, please email their details to Suzanne at benefice@newforestparishes.com.

Lay Pastors - If you know any member of the Benefice who would welcome a phone call and a chat, please let Peggy and Peter Nicholls know on **023 8028 2378**.

Do you need any help at the moment, whilst in isolation - FOR HELP, CALL **02380 284 426**.

Daily Hope - FREE PHONE Line of hymns, reflections and prayers - **0800 804 8044**

The Good Grief Trust - Coronavirus Bereavement Advice

COVID-19 NATIONAL NHS BEREAVEMENT HELPLINE - 8am - 8pm 0800 2600 400

A new Bereavement Helpline has been introduced by the NHS to support bereaved families during the Coronavirus outbreak. The new helpline is not a counselling service but will be available to offer support, guidance and advice on dealing with grief and loss.

The helpline will be staffed by NHS Blood and Transplant registered nurses who are highly skilled and experienced in working with bereaved people.