



Sunday 5th September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

Dear Friends, welcome to this week's Newsletter for all our friends and neighbours of Burchetts Green Parish.



THIS SUNDAY – MONKS BARN, HURLEY - Hurley Family Service and BBQ. We hope to be outside on the grass, but we have the indoor space in case of poor weather. The family service will be accessible and great for children and families, followed by children's games and activities to go with the BBQ. **The service is at 10.30 and the BBQ will be fired up by 11.30** – bring your own sausages, burgers and drumsticks.

Services this Sunday are as follows:

9.15 am	Littlewick Green	CW Family Eucharist with hymns
10.30am	Monks Barn Hurley	Family Service, followed by BBQ

The Sunday Readings are available below / attached.

Services next Sunday, 12th September will be:

10.30am	Hurley	CW Eucharist with hymns
4pm	Littlewick Green	All Age Service (outside, weather permitting)

Note there will NOT be an 8am service at Stubbings next week.

Our reading this week [the readings are attached / below] from the prophet Isaiah, written long before Jesus walked this earth but looking forward to his coming, begins with great words of hope: "Say to those who are of a fearful heart 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God...He will come and

save you.” Whenever we feel that life is getting beyond us; whenever we feel fear for ‘what might be’ – or indeed know that we will have to go through something traumatic; then these words are for us. Knowing that the God who created all things in Heaven and Earth and towards whom all things are moving is there alongside us, can make all the difference. The more we live day by day in the knowledge and love of God, and in relationship with him in our quiet time, the more easily we will hear his voice speaking to us when we need to hear it most. But, whether we hear his voice or not, he is there.

Two images for you. The first is the well known ‘Footprints in the sand’; if you don’t know this, try googling it. A person reflects on their life and sees two sets of footprints in the sand, and understands that all through life God has been alongside them. But they notice at times there is only one set of footprints, and they ask ‘God, where were you then, when I needed you most?’ The reply: I was with you, indeed I was carrying you.

The second is the image of life as a journey in a boat across the sea, from launching out at our birth to the port of our destination at the end of this earthly life. Along the way, we pass through storm force winds and crashing waves that seem ready to engulf us. Does God always calm the sea for us? Apparently not – but he does give us the strength to weather whatever storms life throws at us. And we need to remember we’re not a lonely boat lost in an empty sea – but part of a mighty flotilla; sometimes we need help from the boats around us to get through, and sometimes we are called to give help to others on their voyage. We are all called by God, together; it’s not a journey we were meant to make alone.

Parish Office. I am delighted that Sue Wilkins, who many of you will know, starts work as our **Parish Administrator** on Monday 6th September. From Monday, the Parish Office will be open to visit three mornings a week – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 12 noon. On other days, emails will be attended to on a daily basis.

Holiday. I am taking a break from Parish duties from Monday next week, but will be back in harness on Monday 13th September. If during that time you need the services of a Priest, please email the Parish Office on office@burchettsgreenparish.org or phone Sue Wilkins during office hours on 01628 820077.

Vacancy. As you will probably recall, the Parish is in what is known as ‘Vacancy’, awaiting the appointment of a new Vicar. No appointment was made following the first round of interviews in June. The post has just been re-advertised, with interviews scheduled for October.

PCC Secretary. A reminder that we are still looking for someone to be our Secretary for the PCC (Parochial Church Council). The PCC meets about six times a year in the evening, and the Secretary takes notes, drafts the minutes and sends out the Agenda. If this is something you feel you might be able to do to support your local Church, then do let me know.



Our churches are open for private prayer this week:

St John’s Littlewick Green – open every day 11am – 4pm
St Mary the Virgin Hurley – open every day 8am – 5pm
St James-the-Less Stubbings – open Monday – Friday



For our Prayers:

For our Church and parish, and especially for the selection and appointment of a new Vicar.

For our Churchwarden's, who will be sworn in for their new term of office at a service on Tuesday at St Lukes church in Maidenhead. We give thanks for all they are doing to maintain and develop our church life across the parish, and for their pastoral care for our communities.

For Sue as she begins work as our Parish Administrator.

For Amy and Nick, whose Marriage Blessing took place at Hurley this Friday after a long wait due to Covid. May the God of all love and grace bestow upon them every blessing throughout their married life together.

For Sienna Watkins, to be baptised at Littlewick Green on Sunday, and for her parents and godparents.

For the people and new Government of Afghanistan, and for all who live in places of turmoil, fear or warfare. For those who have fled Afghanistan, that they would find a welcome and protection, and be helped to join new communities and make new lives for themselves. For migrants living in UK refugee and asylum accommodation and those who seek to help them.

For the people of New Jersey and New York City affected by flooding from storm Ida.

For Maidenhead Foodshare, and for those who work or volunteer there. We give thanks for this wonderful initiative and for all who support it financially or with donations of goods. We pray for those who are reliant on the help they receive.

For the Government decision on maintaining the £20 Universal Credit top-up. For the development of a fair, effective, adequate and sustainable method of funding social care.

For those in our parish in any kind of sickness, anxiety or need. For the homeless and the hungry, and for those at home who are reliant on carers for their daily needs. For our GP practices, hospitals and medical and nursing staff.

For the recently departed and for their families and friends, remembering especially Jean Jones and Maurice Hart whose funerals takes place this week.

Almighty God,
be with all those in any kind of need, sorrow, sickness or anxiety.
Bless and guide those who care for them;
and be their strength and constant companion in all their difficulties.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I can be contacted on revjohnainslie@gmail.com and 01628 629827 (do leave a message on the confidential answering machine if I don't answer).

Service arrangements from Sunday 25th July:

Our Sunday services will now run as follows:

- You will be asked to sanitise your hands on entry to and exit from the church building
- We will maintain social distancing within the church, including using only alternate pews
- We ask that you wear a face covering when moving about the church and especially when coming forward to receive communion – but not whilst you are in your pew
- There will be a welcome return to singing hymns in church
- Communion will be given in one kind only, as has been our custom throughout the pandemic

These arrangements offer the benefits of not needing to wear a face covering throughout the service, and of joining in with singing hymns; balanced with hand sanitising, the preservation of social distancing and the reception of communion in one kind.



If you are unable to join us in Church for whatever reason, there are many livestream and recorded services available online, including from Marlow at <https://4u-team.org/digitalchurch> and I continue to recommend the daily and Sunday services from Canterbury Cathedral at <https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/worship/online-worship/>

Keep safe, be gentle on yourself, and remember that with God by your side you need never be alone.

With love and prayers,

Fr John Ainslie