



Sunday 3rd October – 18th Sunday after Trinity

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

Life is certainly getting busier in the parish now, with many families coming forward for baptism for their children, and events such as the monthly Coffee and Cake mornings and the Oasis Prayer group meetings now in our regular calendar. We have had outdoor All Age worship on Sunday afternoons at Littlewick, and a Sunday of informal family worship and a BBQ at Hurley.

Following on from that, we have two brand new initiatives on offer which might be especially attractive for children and families – the Children's Sunday Club at Littlewick which meets for the first time this Sunday, and will be monthly thereafter; and a new initiative called 'Minecraft Church' – if that means nothing to you, read on below !! Depending on the response, we might find ourselves setting up a Minecraft Church group in the Parish.

We would also love to re-start the Pebbles group for Mums and carers and their pre-school children, which before the pandemic ran at Hurley – but we are short of a core team of two or three people (ideally young Mums) to help us get it off the ground. If you might be able to help us with that, and be part of it, do let me know.

As a Christian community we seek both to lift our prayers 'upwards' to God to connect with Him; and to stretch out our arms sideways to connect with each other, that we may find love, joy and hope in being a caring community together. So do come and join us – whether that's in Church for traditional worship, or for Children's Sunday Club and Minecraft Church; or in more informal and social ways for Coffee and Cake, the prayer group, or occasional social events. This wonderful mix is what being a Christian community is about, and we rejoice at being able to do these things once again!!

Services this Sunday are as follows:

9.15am	Littlewick Green	Family Eucharist and Children's Sunday Club
10.30am	Hurley	God in Quiet
5pm	Stubbings	Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

The eagerly-awaited new **Children's Sunday Club** starts this week at **Littlewick Green**, at the same time as the 9.15 Family Eucharist in church. Children will be welcome to join the Club, leaving Mum's and Dad's an opportunity to join us in Church. There has been huge interest in this, but there is still space for more – if you want your child to attend, or you want further info, do speak to Richard Moores (822282).

We have our monthly **Choral Evensong** at Stubbings at 5pm – a peaceful and uplifting way to end the weekend and prepare ourselves emotionally and spiritually for the week ahead.

Another new venture. Are you into the popular computer game Minecraft? If not, your children almost certainly will be !! On **Sunday 10th October at 4pm** Revd Kevin Colyer from Bray church will be coming to Littlewick church to introduce us to **Minecraft Church**. He will lead us in using Minecraft to 'be Church together' through the medium of this computer software. You don't need ANY previous knowledge of Minecraft, computer games, or any technology or 'gaming' ability – this is equally exciting for all generations. If you do have a laptop with access to Minecraft, bring it along and see your contributions appear as if by magic 'on the big screen'! Puzzled? Intrigued? Excited? Then do come, and you can always bring a friend.

Services for Next Sunday 10th October:

8am	Stubbings	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Hurley	Eucharist with hymns (modern language CW)
4pm	Littlewick Green	All Age worship – Minecraft Church

The Oasis Prayer Group meets in the Priory Room, Hurley on Tuesday 5th October at 2.30pm. This is the first "in person" meeting of the Oasis group since before lockdown, and they will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from now on. Any who would like to join this time of quiet and prayer are welcome. This is a wonderful part of our church life, meeting together for fellowship, prayer and bringing before God the parish and those who have asked for our prayers. More details from Pat Iles or myself.

There is the monthly **Coffee and Cake in the Soltau Centre this Wednesday 6th October** at 10.30am. Do join us for a relaxed time of informal chat and meeting up. If you haven't joined us before, do come and maybe meet some new friends - the coffee and cake mornings are well supported by folk from all around the parish.

There will be a **thanksgiving service for Janet Houston** on Thursday 28th October at 2.30pm in Stubbings Church. All are welcome, but if you intend coming could you please let the Parish Office know (820077, office@burchettsgreenparish.org) .

QUENCH, our local Christian bookshop, has been hit hard by the pandemic and is considering the future of its shops, including the one in Maidenhead. Do please pray for them – they are an excellent resource, and they are a Christian presence and witness simply by being on the High Street and testifying to the Christian community in our town. They are a registered charity, and they have a network of supporters who support them financially in order to maintain that witness and Christian service, so you may like to consider making a donation towards their work.

And, of course, do please **support QUENCH** when purchasing cards, gifts, Christian books and music. They have an excellent range of greetings cards and gifts for all occasions.

Did you know you can purchase '**Meaningful Chocolate Advent Calendars**' combining the message of Advent with the joy of chocolate ? These are in stock at **QUENCH** now, along with **chocolate orange christingles** !! Buy now, whilst stocks last.

Vacancy News. The post of Vicar for the Burchetts Green Parish has been readvertised, and I am delighted to report there have been a good number of applications. Our parish representatives, along with representatives of the Bishop and the Diocese, will be short-listing next week and then

conducting interviews the following week. We pray for the selection panel, and for the applicants, that God's will may be done and the right person appointed.



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

Parish Office. The Parish Office is open for visitors and phone calls three mornings a week – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 12 noon. On other days, emails will be attended to on a daily basis. **I can be contacted** on revjohnnainslie@gmail.com and 01628 629827 (do leave a message on the confidential answering machine if I don't answer).



For our Prayers:

For our Church and parish, and especially for the Selection Panel as they meet this week to short-list applicants for the post of Vicar.

With thanksgiving for the Oasis prayer group – the help they gave to so many through their electronic Oasis Prayer Sheets faithfully produced through lockdown, and for their ongoing ministry of prayer as they return to meeting in person.

For the future of Quench Christian bookshops.

For our children and young people; for those beginning a new academic year at University, especially those leaving home for the first time; and for the Children's Sunday Club at Littlewick Green.

For our local care homes, including Cherry Gardens where residents and staff will be taken Holy Communion this week.

For those worried by the prospect of rising bills for fuel, food and other necessities of life; for the homeless; for Maidenhead Foodshare, those who depend upon it and those who support it financially and with gifts of food and other goods. For those coming out of furlough.

For areas of the world in particular need for food, health care and education, and for the UN and aid agencies who seek to provide resources to help.

For those in our local community in any kind of need, sickness, or anxiety, and those who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time. For the recently departed and their families and loved ones.

Merciful Father,

you know our needs before we ask,
and are always seeking to give us your strength, guidance and comfort.
Give those in need the assurance of your loving presence
and inspire us to be agents of your love, grace and healing in the world.
Amen.

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