



www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk 'Welcome to Tardebigge Church, St Bartholomew's' Flower arrangement by Sheelagh, July 2020

Tardebigge and Bentley Parish Magazine



June & July 2020

online edition



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Church Services

The clergy team are now in a position to offer church services with effect from Sunday 2nd August 2020:

- **10.30am Family Worship at St. Bartholomew's, Tardebigge**
- **10.30am Holy Communion at St. Stephen's, Redditch town centre**

For social distancing purposes, numbers are limited. Therefore please book your place for each forthcoming Sunday via

<https://www.holytrinityredditch.org.uk/services/>

A retiring collection will be made at the services.

If possible, please bring your donation/gift in an envelope specifying which church your donation is for.

Any unspecified donations will be distributed equally between St. Bartholomew's, Tardebigge; St. Philip's, Webheath; St. Leonard's, Beoley and St. Stephen's, Redditch town centre.

Thank you

The online services from Redditch Holy Trinity team ministry (our churches are part of this team) are accessible on the following YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsh_dWJnm8n82G2NwBzrdcw

- **Morning and Evening Prayer** said services Monday to Saturday
- **Sunday Service** from 10.30am
- **Tardebigge's Café Church 'Byte Size'** Sunday at 9.30am via Zoom (<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8025844896> - PASSWORD 388617)

A recorded version of Café Church is uploaded to the following YouTube channel (or search 'Café Church Tardebigge').

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCepafX9IQwOsG8ZC60NghGA>

(Cafe Church is a 'fresh expression' of church).

Most online services within the Diocese of Worcester can be accessed here:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/online-church-services-across-the-diocese.php>

June & July



From Richard, the Team Rector



As we begin to emerge from the lockdown, how afraid are we of the future?

Maybe we feel like a tortoise, gradually pushing its head forward out of its shell, ready to retract at the slightest hint of danger.



Jesus understands that we may be naturally cautious, even fearful, of the challenge of living in troubled times. This is why he says to those who trust in Him, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32) In fact, the Bible says “do not be afraid” in various contexts, 365 times! So, every day God will want to say to us, ‘do not be afraid; put your trust in my Son’.

Trust is something that we may not find easy to do. There is in many of us a cynicism borne of disillusionment because of betrayed or misplaced trust. Some of us feel insecure in ourselves and do not want to trust others or have heard stories that persuade us not to trust. Some negative stories about, or experience of, people who call themselves Christians, or of the institutional church may have contributed to our mistrust of God. Jesus’s love, which is accessed by putting our trust in Him, casts out fear; He is our rock, our refuge, our ever-present help in times of trouble. He is our light, our guide, our hope, our salvation, if we want Him to be.

Trust can be undermined by having something forced upon us; it can also be undermined when we trust in something that lets us down. Jesus will never force Himself upon anyone and will never let anyone down. He will not, however, necessarily do what we want or be everything we would like Him to be, for Jesus is our servant, but we are not His mistresses and masters. Jesus’ nature and character are unchanging (see Hebrews 13:8), and while this makes Him ultimately trustworthy, it means that we cannot bend Him to be something that He is not.

This brings us to why some of us try to avoid Jesus by saying “I believe in God in my own way”. The best way to believe in God is God’s way and, like it or not, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). To discover God, who He is, and how to relate to Him today, we will want to put our trust in Jesus

and ask Him to lead us in our faith. If we believe in God on our own, we have no idea whether we are right or wrong, deceived, naïve or off track. It is so tempting to make God be the way we want Him to be.

Some of us would prefer a God that does not interfere with our lives but is there if we are in a crisis. This is less of a God who is Lord and Saviour and more of a lifebelt that sits passively on the very edge of our lives, an object of human creation. Yet if we are to have eternal life this is the very God we will need to trust in when our body breathes its last, for at that point our future is completely beyond our control. On the other hand, if we have fully trusted in God through Jesus, we need have no fear of death, for we know that the best is yet to come.

Richard

Useful Contacts:

Team Rector: Rev. Richard Clark 07970 823462

Church Wardens: Jane Hall 07980 358252

Acting Treasurer: Chris Milton 07825 749767

St. Mary's: Sarah Carless 07789 174099

Pastoral Care: Gail Teague 01527 541991

www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk

**"You can never learn that Christ is all you need
until Christ is all you have"**

Corrie ten Boom

From the Vicarage, Webheath

Noon, 23rd June 2020



It's a beautiful sunny week in Redditch, but wherever we are this week, my prayer is that we can all enjoy every day as a gift from God, part of his gracious provision for us. In connection with this I have recorded a series of pastoral talks on Grace and Truth, looking at how we apply these twin concepts to ourselves and our lives as Christians. You can find it on YouTube if you follow this link: <https://youtu.be/-cQI0JKUwQ0>

The Lord bless you and deepen your understanding as you listen.

The gradual easing of the lockdown can be somewhat disorientating, as we have been taking extensive measures to defend ourselves from infection, only to be told to relax that gradually in a manner that may not always seem safe, consistent or make perfect sense. This is totally understandable; it is so hard to make a “one size fits all” rule at the best of times, and we have never come this way before. We will want to ask the Lord to give us a balanced view, that is, to walk in His truth, avoiding the ditches of frustration and fear.

Part of our challenge is to be light on our feet, that is, to be able to continually adjust to whatever the new reality is, without making a song and dance about it. We are not moving from a total lockdown straight to a new normal, but travelling towards that goal in a gradual manner, so that the ground may feel less solid under our feet until matters finally resolve themselves.

As I have warned throughout the crisis, it remains important to avoid speculation and to stick to whatever the current instructions are. Informed guesses or expressed opinions are not facts; we will want to be careful not to be drawn in to believing something that may be true in the future but may not. What we do know is that the general direction of the government is to ease the lockdown restrictions, in a manner not dissimilar to some European countries such as France, Spain and Italy who were ahead of the curve in terms of infection rates and then the decline of cases of Covid-19. We thank God that we are in a situation where the number of those infected and the number of deaths really is in decline, and we will want to pray that people will be sensible to keep to safe ways of being as outlined by the government so that we do not have a “second spike”. The Church of England is being especially cautious in the recommencing of worship in church buildings as none of us want to be a possible source of a local hotspot for the disease.

While we finalise preparations for the opening of church buildings for private prayer, we are also aware that regulations are being made ready for the resumption of church services at some point next month, although this will not be a full resumption of the way things were before the advent of the virus. In fact, we will never go back to the way things were before the virus. For example, Holy Trinity Redditch will not be abandoning all their online services, and I expect I will continue to post talks on Facebook and YouTube.

On this latter point, if you are not used to reading the letters of the New Testament, a helpful introductory series of talks intended to encourage us all to get into this part of the Bible has been posted on the Café Church Tardebigge Facebook page and YouTube channel.

“Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is near” (Isaiah 55:6). Today is a day of opportunity to grow in the knowledge of God and rejoice in all that He is, and all that He gives us.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Saviour and Lord,



Richard

Verse for the Month

**Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.**

**Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.**

**Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.**

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.**

Isaiah 55 6: 8

Celestial Corner

Now we are passed the summer solstice the days are getting shorter, the nights longer and soon we shall be able to see the night sky without having to stay up until nearly midnight!

Looking South at 11pm at this time of year we are looking towards Sagittarius and the centre of our galaxy. The rest of the sky due South is taken up mainly by Ophiuchus (The serpent bearer), Serpens (the serpent) and Hercules. Serpens is interesting in that it is basically in two parts. Serpens Caput, the serpent's head, lies between Bootes and Ophiuchus (as shown on the map), but Serpens Cauda, it's tail, is on the other side, between Ophiuchus, Scutum and Aquila.

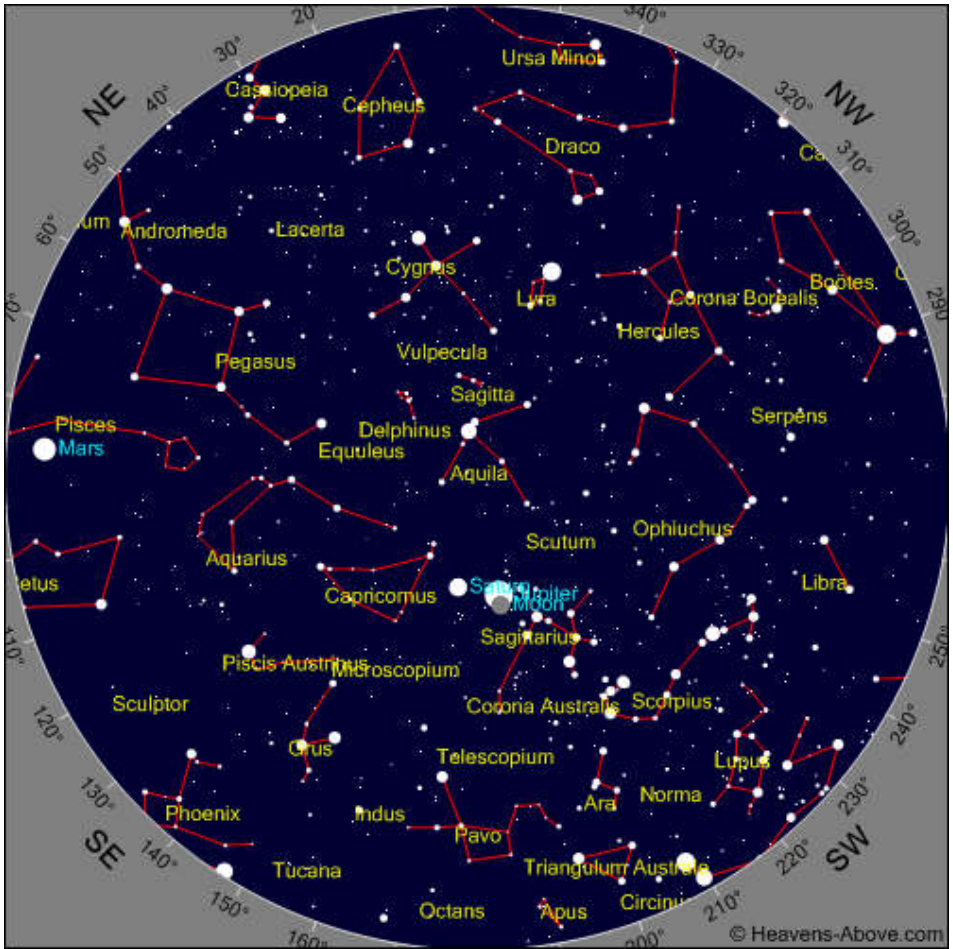
Scutum (the shield) is not a very prominent constellation although it does contain two Messier objects. M11 is an open cluster on the edge of naked eye visibility at mag 5 and is also known as "The Wild Duck cluster". The other is M26, but this is much fainter at mag 8 and is just about visible with 10x50 binoculars with a clear sky. Like almost all Messier objects, it is knowing where to look, which is where a book like Norton's Star Atlas comes in handy!

The Milky Way runs from Auriga and Perseus in the North, through Cassiopeia and Cepheus, down through Cygnus, Vulpecula (the fox), Sagitta (the arrow), Aquila and Scutum into Sagittarius. From Cygnus down, the region is littered with Messier objects that can be seen with 10x50 bins. Starting at the tail of Cygnus, not far from Deneb, is M39. Then as we move down we come to M29 and M27, The "Dumbbell" Nebula, (because it has two lobes like a dumbbell), M71 and our friend M11, The "Wild Duck". Carry on down, there are M26, and M16, which includes the "Eagle" nebula. We are now down into Sagittarius with M17; The "Omega" nebula, M18, M23, M25, M21, M20 (The "Trifid" nebula), M8; (the "Lagoon" nebula), M28 and M22. M24 is a detached bit of the Milky Way which includes an open cluster NGC 6603. I don't know why modern astronomers didn't just call the open cluster M24 and leave it at that! Of the above M20 and M71 are the hardest to spot as they are both mag 8.

Vulpecula contains a pretty little object known as Collinder 399, or Brocchi's cluster, a group of ten stars in the shape of an upturned coat hanger! Sagitta is only a small constellation, but is one of those that does suggest it's name, as does Delphinus (the dolphin) which does suggest the head of a dolphin.

As far as the planets go, three are evening objects at the moment. Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Jupiter and Saturn are fairly close together, Jupiter being the brightest with Saturn to the left and much fainter. Mars rises about midnight at the beginning of July, but by August is much better placed, as can be seen from the map. Venus and Mercury are both morning objects, which means you would have to get up early to see them!

I have supplied the map for August 1st, half way through the two months period covered by this article.



R.B.

May Anagrams: Answers - Men in the New Testament

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Andrew | 6. Michael | 11. John the Baptist |
| 2. Cornelius | 7. Zechariah | 12. Pontius Pilate |
| 3. Bartholomew | 8. Thaddaeus | 13. Simeon |
| 4. Simon Peter | 9. Judas Iscariot | 14. Alexander |
| 5. Matthew | 10. Gabriel | |



**St. Mary's Church, Lower Bentley
is OPEN**

for private prayer
at the following times:

Wednesdays
11.00am – 1.00pm



www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



www.tardebigechurch.org.uk

St. Mary's Church; a place of calm amidst the current turmoil.....

"The doors and windows were wide open and the only sounds floating in on the breeze were those of birds and haymaking. In the church the sense of peace was palpable and utterly calming. No need for written prayers here - they came easily from the heart and included those from the Prayer Book learnt long ago. Praying to God in God's house was never more comforting".

29th July 2020



**St. Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge
is OPEN**

for private prayer at the following times:

Thursdays

9.00am – 12 noon

Sundays

12 noon – 6.00pm



www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Carless (07789 174099)
Email sarah@doff.org.uk

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for those affected by sexual abuse

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- Guide you to find further help, for example, if you feel you need professional counselling
- Inform you about how to raise concerns about the abuse, if you choose to do so
- Maintain confidentiality except, of course, where this is restricted by the requirements of the law

I will listen - you will be heard

What is meant by 'confidentiality'?

- Confidentiality and secrecy do not mean the same thing
- Confidentiality is of the highest importance but it cannot be absolute in every circumstance
- Some agreed factual information that the meeting has occurred will be recorded and held securely and confidentially
- Any revelation that raises the concern of the listener, that the person being listened to has abused or is a potential abuser, must be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser in line with national policy and our legal obligations

Listening Service

For further information on our Listening Service please
contact Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Hilary Higton
T: 07495 060869 E: hhigton@cofe-worcester.org.uk
www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

Complaints: [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/diocesancompendium/
safeguarding/complaints-whistleblowers/](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/diocesancompendium/safeguarding/complaints-whistleblowers/)



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Donate online to support our
work today



Please Scan and Donate
Thank You!!

CSW Testimony

<https://www.csw.org.uk/about.htm>

The coronavirus pandemic, and resulting weeks of lockdown, has had an impact on every aspect of life. And, while we are all in the same storm, we are not in the same boat. Though our circumstances and concerns may differ, we are all encouraged by Jesus to do the same thing: keep our eyes fixed on him rather than the storm.

Six years ago on 23 June, Meriam was charged with apostasy (leaving Islam) and sentenced to death. She was given three days to recant her faith in Jesus, but she refused. She was imprisoned with her son, Martin, and gave birth to her beautiful daughter, Maya, while in prison.

In a conversation with Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), Meriam Ibrahim shares her experience.

“I was charged with adultery and apostasy for marrying a Christian man. I grew up with my mother, who was a Christian, but my father was a Muslim. So, in the eyes of sharia law, I was supposed to be a Muslim. My marriage was seen as a wrongdoing; even though I was married in the church, under sharia law my marriage was invalid. That’s why I was given 100 lashes for adultery and sentenced to death for apostasy. I went to hospital for the medical exam before being taken to the prison and they found out I was pregnant! I wasn’t planning to have a child at that time, but it was gift from God. If I hadn’t been pregnant, I would have been executed the next day, but because I was pregnant, I was given two days to recant my faith.

The guard said to me: “Why don’t you just say whatever the judge needs you to say, and then you can just go?” There were so many people, including Christians, who told me to say whatever I needed to so that I could be released. But I knew that if I did that, my children would be taken from me because the courts didn’t recognise our marriage. They would have been taken and brought up as Muslims. I couldn’t do that. I wanted them to have the legacy of faith in Jesus.”

What was going through your mind at that time?

“The picture of Jesus on the cross. I thought to myself, it just can’t be as man wants it to be. I knew that God had something for me, and so I prayed: “If this is your will, let it be done in my life.” God chose me to go through this. It’s written we will face persecution and judgment from men, but, in the end, it’s all in God’s hands.”

Your son Martin was only 18 months old at the time – how did he cope with the ordeal? And how did you cope?

It was really tough because I was worried for his safety. I couldn’t even sleep at night: I had to stay awake all night to watch over Martin. I knew God was doing that, but I had to do it too.

Most people in the prison didn't like me. Many of them threatened me; they threatened to jump on my stomach to kill the baby.

I didn't teach Martin to talk while we were in prison, because I didn't want him to learn the words that were being spoken in there. He was two when I was released but he couldn't talk. As a mother I felt bad about that."

What have you learned about going through challenging times that might help others now?

"We all go through challenging times – not necessarily going to prison, but we all face challenges and trials; sickness or we lose family members. Going to prison was terrible – I hadn't even committed a crime! But I said to myself: "God put me here for a reason", and every day I found I learned something new. You don't know what you will go through in this life, but you need to pay attention and focus on what God has for you; the purpose from your suffering. I know God and I get to stand for that. So I knew that I if have to die in this moment, I will know that I left something for my children. They will know that we have faith, we have Jesus and we want that prize, and we have a freedom."

How did it feel being declared innocent and released from prison?

I had a feeling it would happen, but I was so shocked!

"They didn't tell me exactly that I was being released, but, when I left the cell, I had a feeling that I wasn't going back. God promised me and I was so grateful for that. I wasn't concerned what I would face tomorrow. It's been a terrible experience but joyful at the same time, because I felt God's presence in every moment of my life."

"I'm grateful ... for every opportunity I have to speak up for those people and to be an advocate for others. I witnessed too many injustices to be able to stay silent. When our leaders go to places like the United Nations and paint a picture of what is happening in Sudan, saying our country is good, its about politics. So when I or other survivors go there and share our stories and experiences, it shows the truth of what is really happening in my country. And that shows people exactly what needs to be done.

So pray for me to continue the work God has put in my path, and for safety for me and my children. I'm not afraid, but I know that the evil exists, so pray for me.

CSW is a human rights organisation specialising in freedom of religion or belief. The organisation works on over 20 countries across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. St Bartholomew's had received a CSW speaker in the recent past, while St Philip's has supported Open Doors, a closely related organisation also supporting the suffering church worldwide. With thanks also to Christian Woman magazine.

The Parish of Tardebigge St. Bartholomew with St. Mary is alive and active

Although our church buildings have been closed due to the current COVID-19 situation, we are very much open, and are now able to hold some services in church. The Church is here to support you pastorally and spiritually and we hope you are able to access the online services provided by the Redditch Holy Trinity team ministry, which we are part of.

You will appreciate we've been unable to take collections at weddings, baptisms and at our regular services in church due to the Coronavirus situation. However, we still have substantial financial commitments in respect of the maintenance of our buildings, as well as general running costs, mission and ministry.

If you don't currently give by standing order, please pray about your giving at this time. If you feel you would like to make a donation by internet banking the details are as follows:

Account no: 70799599 Sort Code 40-38-07

**“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not
reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”**
2 Corinthians 9: 7

Annual Magazine subscriptions

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(Account no: 70799599 Sort Code 40-38-07)

For enquiries contact Jane Hall

*Thank you for supporting
St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's Churches*

Magazine items

Please send your articles and items to our central email address:

contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk Thank you.



School Holidays

**“School’s out for Summer”
Hear the children cheer
Whilst for many grandparents countrywide
It’s a busy time of year,
The holidays are very long
As every parent knows
So off to spend their days with Grandma
Many a schoolchild goes.**

**Old fashioned things come to the fore,
An afternoon spent baking,
A game of rounders in the field,
Memories in the making,
An hour or two of fishing
Catching minnows in a jar,
Inexpensive childhood pleasures
With no need to travel far.**

**No time for boredom to set in
With cousins all around,
Card games when the rains come down
Always amusements to be found,
Childhood days are fleeting
But when memories they become
They’ll recall those holidays, will the children,
When Grandma helped out Mum.**

L M Wadlow

News from School



Letter from the Governing Body to parents and carers at Tardebigge CE VA First School

As we approach the end of term, we would like to share our thanks with you all for your understanding and support over the past year, but particularly since school life as we know it paused in March.

We know it has been a challenging time for everyone trying to juggle so many different things over recent months. We are grateful to those who have managed to provide home schooling to their children during this time. Please don't worry if you feel it hasn't gone as well as it might; lots of planning is going into the curriculum provision from September and the children will be given every opportunity to catch up on missed schooling when they return.

As a Voluntary Aided School, the Governing Body of Tardebigge School is responsible for the safety of children and staff and anyone who visits school and we take that responsibility extremely seriously. A great deal of work has taken place and continues to take place behind the scenes within school to ensure that everything we do fully meets the current Government guidelines for schools in relation to COVID-19 and that all activity is thoroughly risk assessed to ensure that we provide as safe an environment for children and staff as possible. The size and shape of our school has meant that we have only been able to safely accommodate key worker children and half of the children the Government wanted us to have in school this





term from Reception and Year 1 classes and we appreciate the understanding and tolerance from Reception and Year 1 families in relation to that.

The detailed planning will continue over the summer to ensure school is ready for the return of all children in September and if any changes are required to the plans for September; these will be shared with you in advance.

This hasn't been the summer term that any of us wanted with many key events in school calendars up and down the country being missed but that has unfortunately been necessary as part of the national response to the ongoing pandemic. We would like to extend our very best wishes to our Year 4 children and families as they leave Tardebigge and move to middle schools. We know this has been a particularly difficult term for children moving schools who, due to the current Government guidelines, have not been able to have the end of term celebrations they would normally have. As soon as it is safe to do so and Government guidelines allow, an event for our Year 4 children will be arranged and we hope they will see this as a good opportunity to meet back up with their all Tardebigge friends.

Thank you once again to you all for your continued support and engagement during this difficult time and we look forward to welcoming children back in September.

We wish you all a peaceful, restful, healthy and happy summer break.

Contact details:

Telephone: 01527 872886

Email: office@tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Website: www.tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Julie Cutler

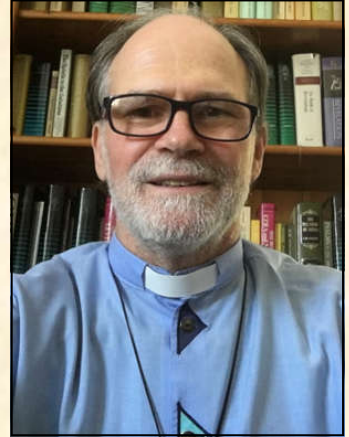


From the Vicarage, Webheath

4.30pm, 30th July 2020

It is so good to be able to talk about going back into our church buildings again. We have opportunity for private prayer in one of our buildings every way of the week at some point, and from Sunday 2nd August we are conducting a couple of Sunday services inside a church building.

The Church of England instructions about the conduct of these services are quite strict, but understandably so. While we give grateful thanks to God for the low level of infection in this area, we are seeing spikes in too many places across the country as a whole, while the weekly number of positive tests is not declining in the way that we were all hoping. Things are a great deal better than they were, for which we thank God, but we still will want to be cautious; which is why the Church of England have issued extensive guidelines for us to follow.



The clergy are not finding things easy or straightforward as we are seek to adapt to guidance, which seems to change just as we have finalised plans under the previous guidance! We also feel the frustration felt by all our congregations that we are not able to meet together and be in the community on church premises in the way we were able to at the start of March. We share many of those frustrations; but the best thing to do in the circumstances, is to make the best of the circumstances.

One aspect of the instructions is to keep to two metre distancing in assessing the capacity of the church building. Two metres which is just over six and a half feet, is a surprisingly long way. When we first looked at this some of us presumed that we would be okay if we used every other row of seating; reality, however, was quite different, and we had to think in terms of missing out two rows of seat for every one that we sat in. And then the aisles are quite narrow, so keeping a two-metre gap across the building from one bubble to the next helped to cut the church capacity further. This left us with two church buildings with a significant capacity, St Stephen's and St Bartholomew's, and so it was a natural choice to hold the first Sunday services in those buildings, not for people who normally worship in those buildings but equally for everyone in the team ministry. If the services are over-subscribed then we will probably hold more services.

It is important, therefore, that for the present we are all prepared to be flexible. There is a Holy Communion service at St Stephen's every week, so the Sacrament is being made available again, although the congregation can only receive the bread and not the wine. Meanwhile, we have taken out the Family Service that we were broadcasting online as we have family-friendly ministry available at Tardebigge every week at 10.30am. The material used will be new to Family Services in the team; services will last less than 40 minutes, and Holy Communion will be available as part of the service on the third Sunday in the month.

Services will feel quite different, with no singing and comparatively few people allowed in our larger church buildings. We will want to use a sanitisation station on the way in and wear a face covering during the service. We cannot offer refreshments, and social conversations are better held outside. Full details of the guidance we are seeking to comply with are on the Covid-19 section of the Church of England website.

The current situation is a temporary expedient and I hope that everyone will bear with us. There is nothing about the situation since the middle of March that any of us planned or wanted, but we are seeking to make the best of things. Above all, we very much hope that everyone will continue to find a way to connect with and worship God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, despite the restrictions. God has not been taken by surprise and will be looking to support and grow us in our faith as we put our trust in Him.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Saviour and Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for churches

READ THE LATEST INFORMATION FOR CHURCHES:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>



Adopt a Shop Initiative in Upton-upon-Severn

The new minister of the Baptist Church in the small riverside town of Upton-upon-Severn, Revd Amy Wearing, began an exciting new initiative just before Christmas. Amy asked the whole of her congregation to each adopt a shop, pub, business or restaurant.

The idea for adopt a shop came from the church following the Faith on the Front Line series devised by the LICC (The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity). The purpose was to encourage the congregation to think about how they bring their faith into the work they do and their concern for the prosperity of the town in which they live. Each member of the regular Sunday congregation were given two names of local businesses drawn from a hat. They were then encouraged to send a Christmas card and make a personal contact with the business.

At the same time Amy began a partnership with Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW) and a few members of her congregation signed up for the training course 'An Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy', led by Revd Dick Johnson.

After Christmas, the congregation were encouraged to stay in contact and to befriend the shopkeepers/café owners and develop a knowledge about the business. Some have sent further cards or have been in contact again during the lockdown period. A few businesses have asked for prayers on a Sunday.

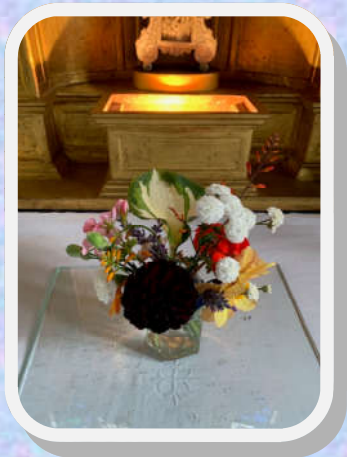
Just before the re-opening of non-essential shops Amy and her husband visited the shops in the town centre, taking them welcome back chocolates, which had been donated, and a welcome back card. A few shops have been open throughout the lockdown, of course. Amy offered to pray with the shopkeepers. She reported that her visits were very well received.

Looking forward, the hope is to continue to encourage a chaplaincy team to visit the shops and other businesses and to spend time in prayer for the town and its economy. The training with FWW, which had to be postponed due to flooding and lockdown will be completed in July.

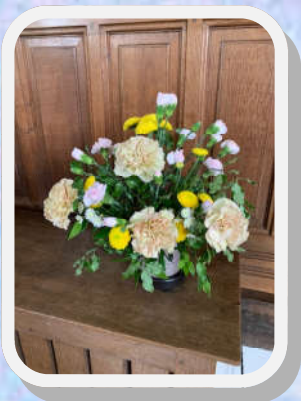
<https://www.faithatwork.org.uk/>

07946 655450

Re-opening St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's Churches



**The Risk Assessment at St. Mary's
(measuring the 2 metre social distance)**



Church Legacy

A lasting gift to Tardebigge Parish



'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.'

1 Corinthians 13: 13



'Where your treasure is, there your heart
will be also. Luke 12: 34

A lasting gift to St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's

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- Legacies which can be used for the general purposes of Tardebigge Parish.
- Legacies specifically for mission and children's work.

N.B. If legacies are restricted, the money cannot be used for anything other than that specified.



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If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about setting up a legacy for Tardebigge, please contact one of the Church Wardens.

Alternatively you can contact the National Legacy Officer,
at the Church of England on 08445 870875

The UK Blessing

At this unique time in the UK over 65 churches have come together online to sing a blessing over our land. Standing together as one, our desire is that this song will fill you with hope and encourage you.



Birthdays in June

Adrian Quinney

Birthdays in July

Doreen Underhill

Megan Davies

Allison Davies

Rosemary Troth



Birthdays in August

Robert Barnett

Rosalind Chambers

David Taylor

Thelma Skelly

Marcus Milton

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and Toddlers



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www.stphilipswebheath.org.uk

Contact Rev. Richard Clark (07970 823462) email: trhtredditch@gmail.com



'Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.' Matthew 13: v 32

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at St. Philip's Church, Webheath

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Enjoy the 'rhythms of grace' From the Archdeacon of Dudley

The Archdeacon of Dudley reminds us of the importance of slowing down over August, to be still, be present and be restored and enjoy the 'rhythms of grace'.

We are all impacted by the rhythms of the academic year, even if it's only that the cost of holidays rockets up outside of term time. Normally this week there would have been a sense of slowing down, less traffic, people drawing breath, the school holidays have at last begun. But this year is far from normal and most children haven't been in school for a whole term.

The punctuation points that have underpinned our lives have disappeared and many are exhausted from the relentless, unremitting sameness of lockdown life even though restrictions are gradually lifting.

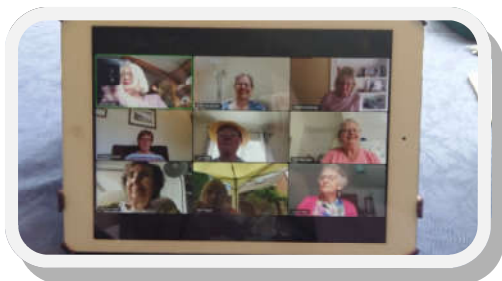
A weekly and yearly rhythm of life with punctuation points is good for our souls. Sabbath rest has been built into the life of God's people from the beginning. Many church communities set aside August as a meeting free month, time to chill, refresh and renew, space to recover for everything gearing up again in the autumn. The danger for us all, in this unpunctuated year, is that we have no rhythmic rests, no change of pace and arrive in September in an exhausted heap.

Jesus taught his followers about taking time to be restored. In the Message translation a verse in Matthew 11 reads: "I'll show you how to take a real rest, walk with me and work with me, watch how I do it, learn the unforced rhythms of grace". What a beautiful phrase.

"Rhythms of grace" are perhaps needed in our lives now more than ever. Can I encourage you to punctuate your year with some real rest in August so that we're all ready to engage in the new normal in a healthy state of body, mind and spirit. Whatever works best to restore your soul, pause and make space to do it in these next few weeks. Turn off the computer for a few days, have a Zoom free week, be still, be present, be restored and enjoy the rhythms of grace on offer.

Nikki Groarke

Bentley Pauncefoot WI



Despite the difficulties of lockdown, the ladies of Bentley WI have been able to stay in touch. Contact has been maintained via emails, newsletters and our buddy system. We have even “Zoomed”. As Bentley’s traditional May Lunch had to be cancelled, it was replaced by a virtual tea party. All members who wished, had a cup of tea and some cake at 3.00 pm

on June 16 and took pictures of themselves. A large number also chatted, admittedly chaotically, for nearly an hour on Zoom.

Again, continuity has been maintained for our Book Club although meetings in members’ homes have not been possible since February. Instead, every month each lady has scored the book under consideration out of 10 and then written a critique which has been circulated to each member. The criteria used for scoring include, plot, characterization, use of description and readability. Members take it in turns to choose books which reflect our diverse tastes. It is always much more interesting when we disagree profoundly re the merits of a particular novel. For instance, my selection, “Rules of Civility” by Amor Towles attracted scores of 1 and 9 and everything in between except 4 (and what was wrong with 4?). It was a shame we could not meet on that occasion as it would have generated very lively discussion.

As we know many people have been passing time by reading we would like to share our other choices for 2020:-

- Philippa Gregory- “The Last Tudor”
- Deborah Levy-“The Cost of Living”
- Meg Wolitzer-“The Interestings”
- Cynthia Swanson-“The Bookseller”
- Susan Lewis- “One Minute Later”
- Patricia Highsmith-“The Talented Mr Ripley”
- HG Wells “The History of Mr Polly”
- John Boyne-“A Ladder to the Sky”
- Khaled Hosseini-A Thousand Splendid Suns”
- Raynor Wynn- “The Salt Path”
- Kate Atkinson-“Transcription”

As you can see, we do have varied tastes!

Lynne Reading
(01527 559 207).

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June/July Anagrams: Bigger Birds

All the answers are either heavyweights or have an unusually long wingspan



- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. True luv | 6. Wasn't emu (2 words) | 11. Get nan |
| 2. Glean eel god (2 words) | 7. Eco pack | 12. In place |
| 3. Rho energy (2 words) | 8. Main golf | 13. Try uke |
| 4. Oar blasts | 9. Blade gale (2 words) | 14. Absurd target (2 words) |
| 5. Hit orcs | 10. Spy ore | |



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<http://sigbi.org/bromsgrove-and-redditch/>

Bromsgrove and Redditch Soroptimists held a Poetry and Pimms Event on a Saturday in June. Twenty nine Soroptimists from Local Clubs, Regional Clubs and as far afield as Aberdeen and friends, Zoomed in at 11-o'clock in the morning to read and hear Favourite Poems relating to the Summer, the Lockdown situation or anything else of interest. We heard poems about Covid experiences mostly funny, poems by Pam Ayers about exploding wardrobes and teeth. We heard old favourites by Walter De La Mare and Robert Louis Stevenson. We heard the well known Adlestrop and the less well known Refugees which was cleverly written and provoked much thought. A very poignant poem called New friends, Old friends and particularly enjoyed were the poems about growing old and especially growing old disgracefully! And there were many more. There was also a Raffle for a Letter Box floral collection, delivered to the lucky winner. This raised £150.00 for the Soroptimist International Project, Empowering Girls in Nepal, so thank you to everyone who attended, and yes there were a number of people enjoying a glass of Pimms!

At the beginning of July we had a talk from Lee McKenzie of the Charity The Sandycroft Centre, Redditch. We all met on Zoom and heard about the holistic help given to Women through the Sandycroft Centre. They offer a range of services to support Women and run a programme of courses and activities designed as a first step learning, including confidence building. These include creative crafts and IT skills. They deliver projects that aim to Empower and Enable the service users to further their Education and raise their aspirations through a mix of courses and development programmes. This was to be our local Charity for 2020-21



Then in the middle of July, we held a Zoom "Show and Tell" Event to raise money for The Sandycroft Centre, Redditch.

**Show and Tell
via Zoom**

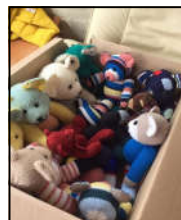


Again on a Saturday Morning seventeen Soroptimists and friends from far and wide met virtually to hear everyone's interesting stories. We saw unusual objects and found out what they were for. We saw favourite items and heard the stories behind them. We found out about a homemade remedy to repel mice. We heard about a pet bear one of our Soroptimists fathers had had when he worked out in Iran. But the most heartwarming story was about how one participant had found out and tracked down a group of relatives she did not know she had, who lived in New Zealand. It was a series of amazing coincidences and last minute discoveries. This was all because she found an old photo with "Cousin Kate" written on the back of it. A great morning was had by all and along with some previous donations this managed to raise £150.00 for The Sandycroft Centre. Again a big thank you to everyone who supported us.



The Centre had recently been holding many of their interviews in their gardens which had become a bit run down and unkempt due to Lockdown. "Men in Sheds" are doing the ground work to improve things but they were in need of plants to go in to cheer it all up. SI Bromsgrove and Redditch sourced a large quantity of Perennials as a very kind donation from Rob and Diane Cole of Meadow Farm Nurseries. These have been planted and have greatly improved the outside area.

Fifty three more teddies have been knitted to go into Buddy Bags. These go to children who have suffered traumatic situations such as fleeing with a parent from Domestic Abuse. And more Twiddlemuffs have been received for distribution to Care Homes and individuals who are living with Alzheimer's.



A presentation was delivered via Zoom to the U3A Redditch about Soroptimism entitled "Ask me why I am a Soroptimist. From Kenya to Nepal via Bromsgrove and Redditch". Twenty-three U3A members heard about the work of Bromsgrove and Redditch Soroptimists, Locally, Nationally and Internationally either raising Money or raising Awareness. They heard of other fun and friendship activities while watching a colourful slide show.

We have a "Picnic in the Park" planned for the middle of August where we will be able to meet in person, have a good chat and catch up and generally compliment one another as to how much tidier our hair looks than it did at our Zoom meetings!

Anyone wanting further information about what we do please either email sibrsoroptimist@gmail.com or phone/text Liz on 07759 212108

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