

Parishes of Greatham, Empshott and Hawkley with Priors Dean

Church News

Sunday 12th July 2020

11.00am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Greatham

Numbers are restricted to approximately 26 so please telephone or email the vicar if you would like to attend. Masks or visors are not required but encouraged. For communion, please bring a small piece of bread and a small cup or glass which will be charged with a small amount of wine and water as you arrive.

Prayers at Home



Pray at Home using any combination of audio, video or just the hard copy order of service. Perhaps begin by lighting a candle, a reminder that we are together in Spirit if not in person. The Order of Service is attached.

Readings for today: Psalm 119: 105-102; Matthew 13:1 – 9, 18-23



For an audio version of the whole service, click:

<http://www.hawkley.org/ZOOM0173%20Audio%2012th%20July.MP3>



For the video reflection, click:



<https://share.vidyard.com/watch/1pW4bTvuij3bgDDsTN8Fnw?>



For these and previous reflections:

<http://www.hawkley.org/church.html>

Other options on radio, TV and online

- 8.10 BBC Radio 4 – Sunday Worship – Sowing in a time of uncertainty. A service from South Wales Baptist College.
- 9.00 Bishop Christopher leads a Eucharist from his home – www.portsmouth.anglican.org
- 1.15 BBC 1 Songs of Praise – Aled Jones counts down to find the UK's favourite hymn.



The Book of Common Prayer

Live streaming of services using the Book of Common Prayer. For more details of many BCP live streamed services visit the Prayer Book Society website www.pbs.org.uk

Sunday Services – Commencing from Sunday 12th July – Please read this carefully

Before you read this with the abundance of rules and procedures, please remember that Church remains a place of welcome where we gather as communities to worship to pray and to enjoy our shared faith. Things will be different but let's use this as a time to learn more about what it means to be Christian in a time of crisis. If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact the Vicar or Church Wardens. The following is our starting point and hopefully it will change as we learn by experience.

The Risks

Whether or not shielding, those over 70 are at the greatest risk, especially in confined spaces, and we need to remember that our age profile puts a majority of participants in higher risk categories. We **MUST** and **WILL** take every possible care. For the first month at least it is the Vicar's responsibility to be at all services. Whilst responsibility for attending church belongs to the attendee, the extremely vulnerable are advised to delay their return. All are welcome but no one should feel they must or ought to come.

Benefice Services

From today, 12th July, we have one service each week in the benefice and for the first four weeks that service will be Holy Communion. The dates of the first four services in the benefice are:

12 th	July	11.00am	Greatham	Holy Communion (CW)
19 th	July	8.45am	Priors Dean	Holy Communion (BCP)
26 th	July	10.30am	Hawkley	Holy Communion (CW)
5 th	Aug	9.30am	Empshott	Holy Communion (BCP)

We hope to continue to make video reflections to send out in advance via email, WhatsApp and FaceBook etc which will contain a hymn, a reading, a reflection and prayers. We will continue to deliver a hard copy of Church News and the order of service to those who are housebound or not internet users.

The risk assessment will determine how many people can be accommodated (varying a little for household groups) on any Sunday so it will be necessary to:

Book a place by telephoning or emailing the vicar in the week preceding the service. Those who normally attend that Church will have priority until noon on Friday and others from across the benefice or elsewhere from noon on Friday. If we find that the people wishing to attend service exceeds the number determined by the risk assessment we will consider repeating the service that same day in the same church so long as there is time in between services to clean the church.

We have not had **Holy Communion** for three months and it is important that worship in each Church begins with this service. However, we are not permitted to have a common cup (chalice) and the priest will need to exercise extreme care in distributing the bread or wafers. In order that communion can be received in both kinds, if you are coming please:

- Bring a small piece of bread from home for your own consumption
- Bring a small cup or glass into which a small amount of wine will be poured as you enter the building. It is important that you bring this if you want to receive communion. The type and size of the cup really doesn't matter – just remember it is only for a sip of wine – but you might like to bring something that has personal value – a baptism cup for example. It is important that only you carry or touch it.

You will keep these with you in your place and be invited (without needing to move from your pew) to raise bread and wine at the appropriate moment in the prayer of consecration and then consume. Taking of course your cup or glass home with you.

Church Wardens or stewards will ensure that there is **social distancing** (2m given our high-risk context of age profile and enclosed buildings) and will manage the entry and exiting of the building with hand sanitiser for everyone's use. Any **service materials** will be provided on paper - or bring your own service book if you have one. We are not permitted to use books from church or to sing hymns. No collection will be taken – please think about using some form of direct transfer – though there will be a bowl in church (which will be handled by only one person and quarantined before being processed). The toilets at Hawkley and Greatham will not be open and sorry – no refreshments afterwards!

Masks or face coverings are optional at the moment, although strongly encouraged, and if you feel safer wearing one please do. The vicar will wear a visor. No one should feel any embarrassment.

We will keep an account of those attending each service for track and trace purposes for 21 days.

Some people coming to church will treat COVID 19 precautions lightly and will be confident with others. Some will be leaving their home for the first time, and feel extremely nervous, uncertain and low in confidence. We need to make sure that everyone feels safe in church by ensuring that people know what to do. We need to be extra sensitive, careful, and welcoming. Everybody's personal space must be respected.

Please do not hesitate to give your feedback as the weeks progress. These first four weeks are a trial and if all is well, we will aim to build up the number of services in each Church.



Daily Hope offers prayers, music and reflections as well as full services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. A free phone line from the Church of England which has been set up particularly with those unable to see online services in mind. Call 0800 804 8044.

Resources for Children

The Diocese is producing worksheets and activities for children each week:

<https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/coronavirus/children-young-people/>



Church Finances – How to Donate

[A very big thank you to those who have responded to the details about how to donate to our churches in this difficult time.](#)

Please remember that if your financial situation has changed then do not hesitate to pause or change your pattern of giving. To all who contribute in any way, either in one off or in regular giving – thank you!



Do have a look at **Parish Giving Scheme** as an option if you can. Currently Greatham and Hawkley are part of the scheme and Empshott and Priors Dean will be soon. The Coronavirus crisis is putting huge pressures on every aspect of life – not least our own finances. Many people give generously and sacrificially to our churches which enable us to offer ministry and service to community. If you would like to donate by cheque, direct bank transfer or to read more about the Parish Giving Scheme please go to:

<http://www.hawkley.org/Donating%20information.pdf>

Where does the money go and what's happening in the Diocese and Deanery? The Diocesan Secretary gave details recently of how seriously the lockdown is affecting finances. Using the current cash flow projections as a guide, the potential diocesan deficits for this year range from £2.0M - £2.6M. Each church contributes a 'parish share' which covers the cost of clergy posts. Every church also needs then to cover costs of their various buildings.

The annual parish share for churches in our benefice are: Greatham £12,369, Empshott £9,627 and Hawkley with Priors Dean £24,901. The Diocese is taking a number of actions which include: furloughing half of the diocesan office staff, changing working practices with Zoom etc, suspending cost of living rises and putting a pause on recruitment to lay and ordained posts.

The diocese is reviewing plans and Petersfield Deanery is already ahead of most other deaneries by looking at the deanery plan and reviewing how our plans might be achieved if there are changes in the clergy allocation.

These are challenging times for the church, as for everyone else, but there is good news as well. The average weekly gift through the Parish Giving Scheme in the Diocese has increased in this time from £19.82 (including Gift Aid) to £20.29 (including Gift Aid) per week so such generosity is cause for celebration.

In the Benefice Empshott and Hawkley with Priors Dean are able to continue paying their full parish share for the time being but Greatham PCC has decided to the moment to pay only half.

News from Hawkley's Church Mission Society Partners, Tom and Verity Clare, writing from Uganda:

We feel like we're only just beginning to gain some understanding of the culture here; Milly has been a great help in this and in addition to helping out with cooking and cleaning has become our unofficial language teacher as well. We're learning of a huge deal of brokenness and even though we've still only got to know a handful of people locally, there seems to be a common theme of family breakdown and addiction. As part of Tom's work, he's been involved in a programme to sensitise the community to the huge problem of gender-based violence. 75% of adults have experienced some form of violence in childhood. His work to address the underlying causes will be a huge challenge.

We've settled into a new routine with Tom working full time for the last month and we manage to get some home schooling done each morning while Joel and Simeon play around us or they follow Noble, our watchman, around the garden while he tries to work.

We're thankful that the boys are generally more settled and we're enjoying getting to know people in the local community. We're also thankful for some other expat families who we've been able to join in with for a small, weekly home church. We've always prayed that God would break our hearts for the people here and fill us with love and compassion. We're thankful for daily opportunities to interact with different people but are conscious we need to be wise in our interactions. Life is generally more tiring here - trying to learn and understand a new language and not offend people by saying the wrong thing!

We're so thankful that 'God's grace is sufficient for us, for his power is made perfect in weakness.' 2 Corinthians 12:9.

Things to pray for:

- Continued energy, love and grace in our interactions with the people God brings into our lives each day
- For us to keep God at the centre of our family as we live out life together in full view of Milly and Noble, both of whom come from reasonably complicated family homes
- For protection for health centre staff in the diocese as coronavirus continues to be a major risk near the border and with some limited local transmission
- For protection for all local people at risk of gender-based violence and for wisdom for us as we look to implement solutions addressing the practical problems whilst pointing firmly to Jesus.

Village Support during the Covid-19 pandemic

Greatham - for more information, help or support please phone:

North Greatham	Sara Osman 07904 935428; Trish Driver 07894 709548
Longmoor Road	Adam Cheesman 07470 442447; Tim Butler 07952 546494
Petersfield Road & Church Lane	Jane Bighton 07771 655140; Joel Barricklow; Uta Demontis 07931 451291
	Mark Rodbert 07762 722344
B3006 and Le Court	Tammie Wisnia 07941 133007; Greg Wisnia 07786 930275;
	Sam Walsh 07970 290731

Hawkley and Empshott Area - for more information, help or support please phone:

David Caukill	01730 827227	Isy Large	01630 827652
Liz Buckle	01730 827941	Maggie Johnson	01730 827222

Hampshire Helpline

Vulnerable residents in need of urgent support can contact the Hampshire Helpline on **0333 370 4000** – open seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm. Staff have responded to more than 5,000 calls since the launch of HantsHelp4Vulnerable. Over 1,300 residents were given information or signposted to further advice and support; while more than 3,000 were referred to Local Response Centres. Over 1,000 with more complex needs were referred to our Adults' Health and Care Welfare team. Much positive feedback from residents has been received.

If you have any concerns and would like to talk, please contact:

Peter Sutton 01730 827459 peter.sutton@portsmouth.anglican.org

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