

Church News

Trinity Sunday - Sunday 30th May 2021

Services continue in Churches and we anticipate our **last 'Zoom at Noon'** this Sunday with a streamed BCP Communion from Greatham. We now have Wi-Fi access in Hawkley and Greatham and hopefully soon at Empshott and so it should be possible to Zoom at least one service each Sunday from one of our churches. This is requiring some technical leaps for us so please be patient as new skills are learnt. Streaming services means that those watching or listening at home cannot be identified – and of course means that so long as you have the link you can join in from anywhere in the Benefice – or the world for that matter if you manage to get away. **Only those who have the Zoom link can access the streamed services, which have a limit of 100 people, and are not available on either Facebook or YouTube.**

Please note that services in church will continue to be no longer than 35 minutes. The law requires that face masks be worn except by those with exemptions; that there is no communal singing indoors. Groups of six (or two households) can now attend together. To attend, please book a place using the details below.

More generally, the **limit for those attending funerals** depends upon the size of the building and Covid restrictions in place; up to 30 people (if the building can safely accommodate that number) can attend a **service of baptism** outside of normal Sunday services; and the **number for weddings** is also still 30 if the building can safely accommodate that number. Choirs of up to six can now sing in church so long as they are socially distanced from each other and the congregation. Communal singing is permitted outside in multiple groups of 30. The advice remains not to have a shared cup (chalice) for communion.

For services of **Holy Communion** – If you are coming to church, please bring a small piece of bread for communion and a small cup or glass into which we will pour wine as you arrive. If you are joining by Zoom, please have a small glass or cup of wine and a small piece of bread ready for the service. You may prefer just to observe.

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| 09.30 | Empshott | Holy Communion (BCP) led by Peter Sutton <i>To book a place contact David Tucker</i> David.Tucker@vssecurityproducts.com 01420 538242 |
| 10.15 | Hawkley | Holy Communion (CW) led by Peter Sutton & Elizabeth Hawkins <i>To book a place contact Neil Chrimes</i> thechrimes@btinternet.com 01730 827992 |
| 11.00 | Greatham | Holy Communion (CW) led by Peter Sutton, Marjorie Arnold & Paul Goddard <i>To book a place contact Kay Thorpe</i> kay.thorpe@hotmail.co.uk 01730 892314 |
| 12.00 | Zoom at Noon | Holy Communion (BCP) a streamed service of Holy Communion led by Peter Sutton and Marjorie Arnold from Greatham Church. <i>To attend please contact Peter Sutton</i> peter.sutton@portsmouth.anglican.org 01730 827459 |

Zoom link please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83896509744>

Our churches are all still open to visitors (Priors Dean by appointment). Ask Peter Sutton for details.

Services Next Sunday – 6th June

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| 09.30 | Empshott | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 10.15 | Hawkley | Holy Communion (CW) - Streamed |
| 11.00 | Greatham | Holy Communion (CW) |

Zoom Coffee Morning – Tuesday 10am to 11am – join at the time that suits you.

Try dropping in – it's open to anyone. You obviously have to drink your own coffee but, technology permitting, it is a chance to see and talk to others. Depending upon numbers present, we divide into breakout rooms for smaller groups.

Tuesday Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81032199878?pwd=aTVISXI3YnpXTct5VkNNTjZ5dTUyUT09>

Meeting ID: 810 3219 9878

Passcode: 566878

Roberts Centre

The Roberts Centre would now like to receive the following:

Food and Children's Summer clothes in good condition. They cannot take anything else until further notice.

Please leave donations in the porch of Hawkley Church.

Update from Tom & Verity Clare – CMS Links

Just a quick update from us to say thank you for your prayers and as a little testimonial of God's incredible provision. We're currently on day 9 of 10 in self-isolation. We're so thankful to Tom's parents for hosting us - cooking amazing meals, looking after the boys, helping with home-school and collecting various bits of furniture I've found on freecycle - and for putting up with all the noise and mess that we create! Everyone has been so settled and at peace here and we've had time and space to do all the admin related to our next steps and for Tom to carry on with some of the Diocesan jobs that needed completing.

We have been blown away by God's incredible answers to prayer and provision over these last three weeks:

- We now have a house to move in to at the end of this week, in a village near my parents - a rectory, currently unused.
- The local C of E school have been so kind in working hard to fit the two older boys into classes after half term, with space for Simeon in the upcoming reception class in September. In such an unsettling time we feel like a small, local school with a Christian ethos should be a safe and supportive place for the boys to be.
- I've been sourcing various bits of furniture online but we have also been contacted by the local church organist who is moving and needs to pass on a number of large items of furniture free of charge.

- Tom (having been on the verge of taking himself off the UK list of registered GPs whilst we were in Uganda) is able to go straight back to work as a GP and (due to the coronavirus pandemic), his next GP appraisal should be very straightforward.
- Tom has also been in touch with a family friend - a local Christian GP - who has confirmed there is high demand for GP Locums in the area at the moment and has offered to help put him in touch with some local surgeries.
- A lovely, American couple whom we were getting to know in Arua would like to stay in our house while they process their visas and look to stay in the area longer term.
- We're able to rent a car at incredibly low rates from a London-based organisation who rent out cars to returning missionaries short term. We thought they wouldn't have a big enough car at such short notice but due to the pandemic, people aren't travelling and we can use the car for as long as we need!

We are so thankful to God for his abundant provision over these last three weeks and for your prayers. He is such a faithful God.

A friend sent this verse in reply to our last email, with the feeling that God was carrying us. We have definitely felt this over these three weeks and once again are so thankful to you all for holding us up in prayer.

Isaiah 46:3-4

*"Listen to me, descendants of Jacob,
all you who remain in Israel.
I have cared for you since you were born.
Yes, I carried you before you were born.
⁴I will be your God throughout your lifetime—
until your hair is white with age.
I made you, and I will care for you.
I will carry you along and save you."*

I've often felt over this week that God must be having so much fun, coordinating all these little details and must have such a joyful smile on his face when we get the email or phone call to say the next thing has 'fallen into place'. We hope that you can be encouraged by this email and we give all the glory to our loving, faithful father in heaven.

Blessings,

Verity, Tom, Ezra, Eli, Simeon and Joel

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

Peter Sutton 01730 827459

peter.sutton@portsmouth.anglican.org

How to Donate....

Churches took a serious financial hit in 2020 and the situation obviously continues into this year as well. We are very grateful to everyone who supports us regularly or occasionally – thank you! Your generosity is enabling the churches to function albeit in very different ways.



Hawley, Priors Dean and Greatham Churches are members of the national Parish Giving Scheme which means that you can easily set up a way to give that suits you. Either visit the website <https://parishgivingscheme.org.uk> or telephone 0333 002 1260

To contribute to the life and ministry of Greatham, Hawley and Priors Dean Churches by the Parish Giving Scheme you just need to decide:

- *how much and how often you wish to give.*
- *if you wish to increase your donation by Gift Aid.*
- *if you want your donations to be increased each year in line with inflation.*

Via the Parish Giving Scheme website or by telephone (**0333 002 1260**) simply state the name of the Church you wish to support and their parish code:

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| • St Peter and St Paul Church, Hawley | Code Number: 290629087 |
| • Priors Dean Church | Code Number: 290629088 |
| • St John the Baptist, Greatham | Code Number: 290629086 |

PGS will ask for your contact details and bank details: sort code, account number and account name. For details of other ways to support any of our churches, for example by standing order or occasional donation please contact the treasurer:

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| Hawley | Robin Crittenden | randmccrittenden@waitrose.com | 01730 827969 |
| Priors Dean | D Green | green@priorsdean.com | 01730 827636 |
| Greatham | Steve Hedicker | shedicker58@gmail.com | 01420538310 |
| Empshott | Becky Smith | treasurerempshottpcc@gmail.com | 01730 827397 |

Thank you!



FLOWER FESTIVAL

“ALL NATURE IS A GARDEN”

Church of the Holy Rood, Empshott

Saturday, 26th June 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

Sunday, 27th June 10.30 am to 5.00 pm

Entry £5 (children free)

Stalls, including a plant stall Refreshments served all day

The festival will celebrate the idyllic rural setting of this charming, ancient church, its natural surroundings and the beauty of an English summer.

The theme is “**All Nature is a Garden**” and we aim to bring the countryside into the church with lavish use of native, seasonal flowers and foliage.

We will also pay tribute to Gilbert White of Selborne whose 300th birthday celebrations were postponed last year.

We have designed our festival to use only recyclable materials.

Flowers will be arranged in water or moss rather than floral foam.

Parking in nearby field, disabled parking available

email empshottfestival@gmail.com

Instagram [@empshottflowerfestival](https://www.instagram.com/empshottflowerfestival)