



POTTEN **END**
& NETTLEDEN CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second of our 'lockdown' issues of the Newsletter. Due to the on-going situation we are still unable to get this issue printed and distributed, so we hope that you will still get the same enjoyment from reading it.

During this unprecedented time we have continued to see the community really come together showing various acts of kindness to one another and offering help especially to those who are vulnerable in our Village. Our 'Live' streamed services have been extremely popular, even as far away as Zakynthos, a small island in the Ionian Sea in Greece. Once again we must publically thank Joe and his family for working so hard keeping our church 'at the heart of the Village'.

Our Village Shop - Cedars' and Rumbler's Farm continue to do a remarkable job in keeping the community supplied with essential food items and members of our community are working really hard on the 'Save the Plough' Campaign, which is gaining momentum.

In this issue we welcome back Swiss Roly a tasty Village recipe - this months offering being a delicious Vietnamese Salad. There is also the usual contributions from Book Review, Fred's Tips from the Potting Shed, Beekeeper's Diary, French Connections and various items of news regarding our services and what we are doing at Holy Trinity during this lockdown period and why and how we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival on Sunday 14th June.

Finally, thank you to our regular contributors, who have always made the deadline for submitting their articles. We really appreciate your support as well as you, our readers.

Who knows when we will be able to go back to a printed copy, but until then, please stay home, stay safe and protect the NHS.

A PRAYER FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

God, Creator, for your glory shining forth in sky and sea, in the changing light on the hills, in the flight of birds, in the plants of the field for the gift of life in all its fullness, we thank you.

Jesus, Redeemer, for blessing children, healing the sick, raising up the lowly suffering the brokenness of the world in your own body that we might have fullness of life, we thank you.

Holy Spirit, Comforter, for breathing new hope and strength into our lives breaking down barriers drawing human beings together in love resisting all that diminishes fullness of life, we thank you.

Holy Trinity, in all that we do and say and are, may we always choose life, for ourselves, and for our neighbours. **Amen.**





FROM Rev. JOE ROBERTS

Team Vicar of Holy Trinity, Potten End and Director of Schools' Ministry (Associate Priest) for St Peter's Berkhamsted.

The end's in sight! The sun is shining! Shops are re-opening! Restrictions are easing! Everything can soon go back to normal - we just need now to fling open the church doors! Well let's just hold on second...let's calm down and not get too ahead of ourselves. While it's true, there does seem to be a

beginning of a breathing out of the lockdown and isolation that we've all been stoically facing, we're not quite there yet (whatever there looks like). We still need to hold back, be patient, be responsible and sensible. I know that this mentality of being patient isn't that easy and that you might be getting frustrated in still having your active lifestyle being curtailed but if there is one thing that this pandemic has demonstrated is that we don't have to go back to the rushing around, instant expectation, rat race that our society has found itself in.

While this period has been busy for me, making sure everything is sorted before 'going live', making phone calls and collating home worship materials, because I'm not cycling up and down to Berkhamsted as often and as I'm not spending so much time on the move going from one meeting to the next, there has been a definite slow down that I am really valuing. It is a shame that I can't simply meet people face-to-face as much I would like and this has made funeral and pastoral contact really difficult, yet there is still a reduced pace of life that I wish will at least remain as we continue into the new normal.

This idea of waiting, being patient for the opportune moment and not getting too eager, is also echoed in the key festivals that the church has recently celebrated - that of the Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost. While both are full of action and movement; in the case of the Ascension, Jesus going upwards through the clouds to the home of heaven; and in the case of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit coming down upon the followers of Jesus in fire and wind, causing noise and excitement; both are bookended by periods of patience.

With the Ascension the disciples have been hiding together behind locked doors. The risen Jesus has appeared to them but rather than going out and proclaiming the good news of God, they are fearful of the repercussions. Their friend Jesus died on a cross, what would the Romans do to them? When Jesus does ascend from their view and the coming of the Spirit is promised, they are reminded by the angel's present to hold on and wait for God to respond before rushing into action. And this is what they do until the Spirit does land and for a while it is all joy, praise and partying. Yet this does subside and calm down. In fact, it seems to go rather quiet. Because rather than rushing out, the disciples take time to consolidate. To devote themselves to prayer and fellowship, in local homes and in the temple. It takes some time for them to get organised, prepared, and ready before the great missionary journeys begin and the rest, they say is history.

This ebb and flow of patience and action, of waiting and movement, is permeated throughout much of life. We just need to see the lay of land ahead and seriously discern which course of action needs to take place. The early church knew when to slow down and when to speed up. There were definite moments of inaction and frustration at things not happening as quick as they would like, and I would say that's equally true in the present. But the key takeaway from both the Ascension and Pentecost is that God is present ➡



FROM Rev. JOE ROBERTS cont'd

throughout all the varied patterns of human existence. God's Spirit dwells within us wherever and whenever we reside. In the quiet, in the noise. In the fear and in the peace. In the uncertainty and in the calm. As is said in the letter to the Hebrews (6.19): "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

So maybe it is all about to change (although I wouldn't hedge my bets that it's going to go beyond all recognition any time soon), let us stand back, hold fire and be patient. Let us remain safe, let us remain responsible, and let us wait for the Holy Spirit to move us into the action of compassion, love, and peace.

Every blessing, Joe.

EASTER LILIES

As you know it was not possible to display the lilies that were donated by many of you in memory of the loved ones we miss so much over the Easter period.

However I have emailed all of you who have donated £5 for a lily letting you know that as soon as we are back in church and holding services, we will have a glorious display of lilies in aid of the St Francis Hospice. If there is anyone who would like to add a name to the list which will be displayed next to the arrangement by the altar please put your name and the name of the person you would like to be remembered on a piece of paper and put it in an envelope with your donation and deliver it to the Vicarage.

All the money raised goes to the Hospice and they must be struggling at the moment with no fundraising activities and no shops open. Very many thanks to all those who have already sent donations. **Ann Charlton.**



BLUEBELL WALK

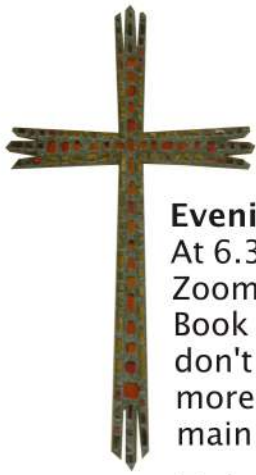
Sadly the Bluebell Walk did not take place on the 2nd May this year but carry it forward in your diaries until Saturday 24th April 2020. **The Charltons and Ansell.**

JOSÉ COOK

It is with great sadness that we, José's family, have to announce that Mum died on Thursday 30th April 2020 in Watford General Hospital of MRSA and Covid-19.

Unfortunately, because of the current coronavirus restrictions and social distancing, we were only able to hold a graveside funeral for her immediate family on 29th May 2020. Once the present situation is over, we intent to hold a memorial service to celebrate and give thanks for Mum's life and would love all her friends to attend. We aim to make a further announcement when the date of José's memorial service has been arranged.

Sue, Mary and families.



EVENING PRAYER - BCP

Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer

At 6.30pm, on the first and third Sundays of the month (7th and 21st June), via Zoom, we will be having an evening service using the traditional liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer. Via Zoom we can do something that our other services don't quite allow us, and that is to see each other in worship! This intimate and more personal gathering best befits a service that is more reflective than our main worship.

To join us, please find the login details on our weekly e-news. Sign up on the home page of our website (www.holytrinitypottenend.org.uk).

'PRAYER DURING THE DAY' SERVICE

As a part of our weekly corporate prayer and worship life, starting on 3rd June, Holy Trinity is introducing a new service on Wednesdays at 12noon, live streamed on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/holytrinitypottenend) - Prayer During the Day. This is a short simple service drawn from Common Worship (one of the worship resources of the Church of England) and forms a part of what is known as the 'daily office'.



PRAYER BOX

While the church is still closed for private and corporate prayer, there is now a prayer request box in the alcove next to the church door, for you to write your own personal prayer that Rev Joe will then confidentially pray upon at a special time once a week. If you would like your prayer request to be made public so we can all corporately pray upon it, please

explicitly state this. We will then do so at our new 'Prayer During The Day' service on Wednesdays at 12noon. Next to the box are some slips of paper, pens and hand sanitiser or you can write it at home and drop it in.

TRINITY SUNDAY HYMN CHOICES

Do you have a favourite hymn/hymns? If so then we'd love to know what they are for us to play them at our Patronal service on Sunday 14th June at 10.30am! While we sadly can't have the 'Songs of Praise' service that we would usually have on this day, it still can be a chance for us to come together in worship, thanks and praise, and what better way to do this than through music.



Now due to Facebook sometimes muting whole hymns, Andy Smith and Daniel King Smith have suggested that we compile and create medleys of various hymns and that they would specially arrange. Therefore, please can you contact (email or phone) Rev Joe by Friday 5th June with your top three hymns and they can put them all together. Tune in on the 14th and listen out for yours!



BOOK REVIEW

MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY by Winifred Watson

What books can we read in these unprecedented times? Certainly not an apocalyptic novel. And nothing that demands too much

concentration. Historical novels tend to have a plague in them, so that won't do. Help came for me in the form of this delightfully frothy, light-hearted fantasy, first published in 1938 and recently re-printed.

Miss Pettigrew, forty years old, timid, shabbily dressed and thin through lack of good food, is sent to Miss La Fosse's opulent apartment by an employment agency. Guinevere Pettigrew is a governess, and the agency has actually sent her to the wrong address, but Miss La Fosse is glamorous, kind and more than a little louche. Miss Pettigrew, a fan of the movies, sees that she has entered into an enchanted world rather like the one on the screen. A friendship develops. Miss Pettigrew, occupying a position between mother, best friend, and Mrs Doubtfire, offers her common-sense advice and helps her deal with her rather complicated love-life.

Miss Pettigrew is introduced to a new world. 'Do you know what that is?' asks Miss La Fosse. 'It looks very like a Beecham's Powder. Very good for nerves, stomach and rheumatism' says Miss Pettigrew. 'That's cocaine,' replies Miss La Fosse.' The cocaine (not used) is followed by Miss Pettigrew's first experience of alcoholic refreshment. Rather too much, in fact. Guinevere becomes ready for anything.



Fans of Cinderella stories will be delighted to know that there is a transformation scene, in which Miss Pettigrew has a facial, make up (what would her father, the curate, say?), and is bedecked in borrowed and beautiful clothes. She looks in the mirror. 'Another woman stood there. A woman of fashion, poised, sophisticated, finished, fastidiously elegant.' She attends a party and a nightclub. A nightclub! She has only seen them in films. As a matter of interest Winifred Watson had only seen them in films as well. No matter: this whole novel reads like a Fred Astaire film anyway. Miss Pettigrew even dances!

As you might imagine, there is a happy ending at the end of this entirely escapist novel. Great literature it isn't, but is certainly took my mind off the corona crisis. And the Preface, telling the story of how this novel, and its author, were rediscovered, is delightful.

PtChic

STAY HOME - STAY SAFE!



FRED'S TIPS FROM THE POTTING SHED

As we adjust to living with a pandemic, a spot of gardening can be a great antidote to anxiety. As the satirist Kurt Vonnegut said, "enjoy the little things in life because one day you'll look back and realise they were the big things."

Us gardeners have long been aware of the health benefits of our hobby, so it's gratifying that health experts are waking up to them too. Researchers have found that 3 hours gardening can have the same effect as an intense hour-long gym session - which is not an option now anyway. So as we approach the longest day of the year, 21st June, why not take advantage of the extra light? Just pop on your wellies and head out of the back door into your home gym.

Did you know?

Digging for half an hour burns 202 calories, the same as lifting weights.

Half an hour weeding can burn up to 150 calories.

Hedge trimming burns 400 calories an hour.

Top 5 jobs for June

1. Hoe borders regularly when it's dry and sunny
2. Mow lawns at least once a week
3. Plant out Summer bedding
4. Position Summer hanging baskets and containers outside
5. Remove side shoots on cordon tomatoes and tie plants to supports

Sowing and Planting

From early June, courgettes, marrows and pumpkins can be sown outdoors in a warm sheltered spot. Succession sowings of small quantities of salads and herbs (such as rocket, radish, beetroot and basil) every few weeks for continuous picking.

Cringey Dad joke

A man has tried to cheer up his neighbours by sharing dad joke posters on his front lawn. Lockdown day 19 read;

'I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon.....I'll let you know'

A PRAYER FOR PENTECOST

We light a candle, and enjoy the flickering light ,
the fragrance and warmth it creates.

But without the spark that ignites, there will be no
flame.

Without the wax, the source of power, the wick will
not burn.

Without the flame, there will be no fragrance, no
warmth, no light.

And so with us, Lord.

You are the catalyst that ignites us, and the fuel that sustains us.

You fill us with your fragrance as you enter our lives.

You empower us to carry your flame in our hearts,
to be the fragrance, warmth, and light of your love, in this dark world.

Amen





NEW BEEKEEPER'S DIARY

As I noted in my last month's notes COVID is of no interest or concern to my bees. In fact, with this beautiful sunny weather they have been busy expanding their colonies and gathering nectar, pollen, water and propolis. Propolis (bee glue) is from the buds of plants which they use to seal gaps and cracks in the hive. My best hive was bursting with bees and great slabs of capped brood (pupae) promising many more

bees on the way.

This indicated that the bees were likely to swarm as they would need more space to expand. Swarming is when the queen flies off with a good number (say 20,000) of bees looking for another home, leaving the remaining bees to rear a new queen. Swarming is thus the natural way of reproducing the species.

For beekeepers this presents a challenge. We want our bees to survive and increase but uncontrolled it means that we lose much of our workforce to collect and make honey. So much of our attention is devoted to preventing swarms. How we do this, I shall deal with at another time. This month I've been called to collect two swarms in Berkhamsted. (In Westfield and Ellesmere Roads). Both were accessible from the ground, no ladders or precarious perches involved and so both collections followed the same text book pattern:-

- i) Lay an old bedsheet beneath the swarm.
- ii) Present a skep or cardboard box beneath the swarm (hanging on a branch).
- iii) With a vigorous shake, knock the bundle of bees into the box and immediately turn it upside down on to the sheet, placing a small log under the box, enabling the flying bees to crawl in and join the queen and the bulk of bees inside the box.
- iv) Wait! Typically in 40 minutes to an hour the flying bees will be attracted to join their fellow swarmers in the box. Interestingly these are attracted to do so by bees at the box entrance sticking by abdomens in the air and fanning their wings to waft a pheromone they secrete from their Nasonov scent glands. It's a marvellous sight!
- v) Wrap the box with the sheet laid out earlier, securing it with a string and take off to be introduced to a new hive that you have prepared for them at the apiary.



When bees swarm they are typically unlikely to sting. Their tummies are full of honey and they are focused on finding a new home.



A person taking part in a bee bearding competition in China. Contestants use queen bees they have reared to attract other bees onto their bodies. The winner attracted 26.86kg of bees onto his body in 60 minutes.



VILLAGE RECIPE

DIANA'S VIETNAMESE SALAD

I ate this delicious salad after arriving in Melbourne back in January into a sizzling 42 degree heatwave. Our friend Diana (a former Frithsden resident) made it for my first lunch Down Under and we've made it at home ever since. This Asian-style salad is zingy and refreshing and a brilliant way to use up leftover cold

chicken or beef if you don't fancy the veggie version.

This recipe is for 2 main courses or 4 as a side salad

Ingredients:

Leftover cold chicken or cold roast beef, cut in bite sizes

(Or leave meat out for veggie version)

1/2 cucumber julienned (finely sliced like match sticks)

1 large carrot julienned

1/2 red onion very thinly sliced

100g bean sprouts

1 bag of green salad, leaves of your choice

(Optional) 25g of crushed peanuts to sprinkle on top

Dressing:

1 tbsp grated fresh ginger

1/2 red onion finely chopped

1 or 2 chilli to taste

2 cloves of garlic

1 tbsp palm sugar

2 tbsp of fish sauce

1 lime, juiced and zest

1 handful of chopped mint leaves

1 handful of chopped coriander leaves

1 tbsp coriander and mint stalks finely chopped

For the dressing, mix together ginger, coriander and mint stalks, finely chopped onion, chilli, garlic, palm sugar, fish sauce, chopped mint and coriander leaves and lime juice. If it is too spicy just add a tbsp of water, or if you prefer it sweeter, just add a bit more of the palm sugar. Cover and refrigerate until required.

In a large bowl combine julienned carrots, cucumber, bean sprouts, sliced red onion. Top with your choice of bite sized leftover chicken or roast beef, pour over and mix in the dressing. Sprinkle with chopped peanuts and serve. Bon Appetit

Wine pairing: a nice Sancerre or any good Sauvignon Blanc or a Riesling.

Bon Appetit - SwissRoly

STAY HOME - STAY SAFE!



FRENCH CONNECTION

RING A RING O' ROSES...

... A pocketful of posies, Atishoo, atishoo, We all fall down. If anyone asks me what I did during the Great Plague of 2020, the answer will be everything I always do, except for going to the bar of an evening, and additionally I wasted vast amounts of time watching and responding to the floodtide of "funnies". These

"funnies" seem to float like lost e-souls in the ether, just as the Big C floats in the air, and then attach themselves to WhatsApp messages and emails rather more benignly than does the Big C to humans. Like the old nursery rhyme above, many try to make light of a troubling situation. (Does anyone sing nursery rhymes these days?)

Until now, I thought that the rhyme originated during the 14th century bubonic plague, invented by children as a means of coming to terms with an incomprehensible horror. I looked it up to make sure, only to find that the theory is now disputed by folklorists for various reasons, none of which answer the question of how that first verse originated, because, let's face it, the words are odd. Some nursery rhymes tell a story, or point to a moral, but not this one. I still think the plague theory has merits and, if so, it is a good example of our capacity to use humour to cope with adversity.

This is what the endless funnies in their ether-world do, though there is a dark side. Technology has moved on from the classic film of Nazis goose-stepping to *The Lambeth Waltz*, which took hours of editing. Today, the visual sophistication of many funnies demonstrates our capacity to fake reality quickly, to the point where it is impossible to know truth from fiction. Twenty-two years ago, I was in a then state-of-the-art digital studio. I watched the editor cut and paste images with incredulity. Faked them, effectively. I have been sceptical about some TV news footage ever since.

Confinement has also offered an interesting reminder of the power of the French state on the ground, a.k.a. the Prefecture. According to the Prefect, it has led to a 30% rise in alcohol fuelled violence, so a fortnight ago he banned the sale of strong alcohol, from Martini upwards. Overnight. He did not specify the number of cases on which the 30% was based, so the actual rise might have been anything from one upwards. However, it appears that the crimes of a minority, for which penalties exist, now justify restriction of the freedom of the majority. A worrying precedent, I venture. Under pressure, he rescinded the order last week.

Notwithstanding, I don't underestimate the difficulties faced by any government. 10 days ago, I went to pay my respects from afar at a bleak, family-only funeral. A dozen figures, like some giant black beetle, slowly followed the hearse down to the door for a mass with no organ. Only three others joined me. Normally, there would have been a hundred or more in and outside the church. One, an elderly countryman, came over and shook my hand, leaning forward to talk to me two feet from my face. Old habits...

There have been lighter moments too. Three thieves in the Gironde were arrested following a robbery at a vineyard. All had duly completed their attestations, the pieces of paper stating purpose, that we are obliged to carry when we go out. (Presumably, they did not put "to rob a vineyard".) One robber left his at the scene of the crime. Monsieur Plod bagged the lot. Whoops. A must for this year's Darwin Awards I think.

This week, liberation beckons as France prepares to lift confinement by region. We are green, so we live in hope. **Vagabond**



STAYING CONNECTED WITH HOLY TRINITY

There are various ways that we are trying to keep people secured together in worship, prayer and support during this unprecedented time of isolation, uncertainty and worry.

Together in worship:

Every Sunday - join live on our Facebook page at 11am (10.30am from 14th June) or watch the service pre-recorded on our website. The order of service can be downloaded from our website or through our e-news.

1st and 3rd Sundays - 6.30pm Evening Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer via Zoom. Login details found on in our weekly e-news.

Every Wednesday - 12noon Prayer During the Day live streamed on our Facebook page.

Monday & Friday - 8am Morning Prayer live streamed on our Facebook page.

Tuesday & Thursday - 5.30am Evening Prayer live streamed on our Facebook page.

Collective Worship at 10am Wednesdays - live streamed on our Facebook page then put on our website.

'Offline' worship resources and support are available from Rev Joe.

Together in prayer:

Prayer resources and support can be obtained from Rev Joe.

Visit our website for various resources to aid you in you and your family in their prayer life.

Visit www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer to undertake your own Daily Prayer.

Together in support:

Exploring the Word - Tuesday's 10-10.40am on Zoom. Join us for a casual get together to reflect upon the readings from the previous Sunday. Visit our Facebook page for more information as to how to access this.

E-news weekly email - sign up on our website or contact Rev Joe.

Keep praying for each other. Reach out to one another by all safe means possible.

Contact Rev Joe if you are lonely, would like a chat or a time of prayer. Let us not be alone.

www.holytrinitypottenend.org.uk vicar@[holytrinitypottenend.org.uk](mailto:vicar@holytrinitypottenend.org.uk) / 01442 865 217

Facebook - www.facebook.com/holytrinitypottenend or search Holy Trinity, Potten End on Google. You do not need an account to view our content. Press the 'not now' button.

DENS FOODBANK COLLECTION BOX

Outside the village shop is a box for items to be donated for the DENS Foodbank. DENS is run in partnership with The Trussell Trust and provides emergency food parcels to anyone who is struggling in the community, not just those who are homeless. Currently when many are struggling financially their work is vitally important.



On the box is a list of items of greater need that the charity is currently asking for. DENS ask that items are unopened and within their best before date. Holy Trinity will regularly empty and deliver the items and ask that if you have a large donation, please drop it off at the Vicarage.

To support DENS financially visit www.dens.org.uk and read about all the various things that they do for those who are facing homelessness, poverty and social exclusion.



THE TRINITY

In the church's year, Trinity Sunday is the day when we stand back from the extraordinary sequence of events that we've been celebrating for the previous five months - Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost-and when we rub the sleep from our eyes and discover what the word 'god' might actually mean. These events function as a sequence of well-aimed hammer-blows which knock at the clay jars of the gods we want, the gods who reinforce our own pride or prejudice, until they fall away and reveal instead a very different god, a dangerous god, a subversive god, a god who comes to us

like a blind beggar with wounds in his hands, a god who comes to us in wind and fire, in bread and wine, in flesh and blood: a god who says to us, 'You did not choose me; I chose you.'

You see, the doctrine of the Trinity, properly understood, is as much a way of saying 'we don't know' as of saying 'we do know.' To say that the true God is Three and One is to recognize that if there is a God then of course we shouldn't expect him to fit neatly into our little categories. If he did, he wouldn't be God at all, merely a god, a god we might perhaps have wanted. The Trinity is not something that the clever theologian comes up with as a result of hours spent in the theological laboratory, after which he or she can return to announce that they've got God worked out now, the analysis is complete, and here is God neatly laid out on a slab. The only time they laid God out on a slab he rose again three days afterwards.

On the contrary: the doctrine of the Trinity is, if you like, a signpost pointing ahead into the dark, saying: 'Trust me; follow me; my love will keep you safe.' Or, perhaps better, the doctrine of the Trinity is a signpost pointing into a light which gets brighter and brighter until we are dazzled and blinded, but which says: 'Come, and I will make you children of light.' The doctrine of the Trinity affirms the rightness, the propriety, of speaking intelligently that the true God must always transcend our grasp of him, even our most intelligent grasp of him."

(Tom Wright, in For All God's Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church)

CHANGE OF SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

In a nutshell, from Sunday 14th June (Trinity Sunday) our main Sunday worship will begin at 10.30am. This will be the start time even when we are able to gather back in church for services.

It became clear to me that when we were together in church on Sundays, people either had to leave before the end of the service or weren't able to stay after because the service had finished very close to lunch time. So after chatting to some of you, getting your views and putting out suggestions of what can be done to potentially address this, the earlier time of 10.30am seemed to be a potential solution.

If we are serious about being an inclusive, social and connected worshipping community then having that extra time especially at the end of services is vitally important. Starting at 11am and ending around 12.15pm doesn't seem to allow us to do this. That earlier 30 minutes will hopefully allow more people time to stay for refreshments and fellowship.

Now I of course accept that we're not yet back in church and it might be that post-service refreshments are one of the last things to be introduced when we do return. However, I felt that by 'bedding in' the new service time before we are back, we would already be familiar with it when we do. And what better time to start this (in many ways reintroducing it because Holy Trinity used to have Sunday worship at 10.30am) than on our own Patronal Festival on the 14th June! **Rev Joe.**





PATRONAL FESTIVAL

We celebrate our Patronal Festival each year on Trinity Sunday but do we really know why? We have a special service and usually some sort of fellowship after it, but when did this start and what is the history behind the celebration.

The vast majority of the approximately 16,500 churches in the Church of England are dedicated to one or more people. Most are dedicated to a single 'patron saint', such as Saint Peter like the church in Berkhamsted, or one of the persons of God, as we are Holy Trinity.

All churches are dedicated to God, but certainly by the 4th Century it was common practice to dedicate a Christian place of worship to one or more patron saints. An early example of this was in 386 when Saint Ambrose dedicated Milan Cathedral to Gervasius and Protasius whose graves he found nearby. Once the Church was established in England it became practice to dedicate a new church's patron saint during the act of consecration by the Diocesan Bishop, and in fact, Mass could not be held in a building until the consecration act had taken place. There is much evidence of the dedication of churches prior to 800, with most being dedicated to Saint Peter and Saint Mary. During consecration the building would usually be named in honour of a "holy martyr", but sometimes instead a "confessor", "matron", or "virgin", but nonetheless many churches remained undedicated up until the 13th Century. In 1229 the Bishop of Worcester, William of Blois, mandated that all churches in his diocese display the date of dedication and name of patron saint alongside the altar, and many medieval churches would also have a painted image of their patron nearby. Churches would also celebrate the feast day of their patron or patrons in what is now known as the 'Patronal Festival', with local parishioners taking a holiday or naming children after their patron. The Protestant Reformation of the 16th century swept away centuries of church tradition; the whitewashing of sacred images led to a backlash against saints associated with the church. Whilst not prohibiting them, the Book of Common Prayer contained no text for a Dedication Service, and with new church builds becoming fewer, the practice became less well known. By the 18th Century many churches had even forgotten their dedication entirely.

It was the Victorian era, the first great English church-building era for centuries, that finally revived the interest in patron saints. By this stage many had rediscovered their original dedication, whereas others changed the dedication to a new patron saint for any number of reasons. Others gave their dedication a more prosaic twist, giving rise to the many churches now known as "St Michael and All Angels", "All Hallows", or "The Blessed Virgin Mary". By the 20th Century, the dedication's continued usage was once again assured, with common usage referring to "St Peter's" as opposed to "Berkhamsted Parish Church". In many cases these are names that have been used at that site for well over a thousand years, and in others they are simply 18th Century mistakes or creations of the Victorian age. There was no single set of rules that governed the choice of patron saint for a church, but analysis of existing and historical dedications shows a number of patterns that demonstrate how patrons were often chosen. The most popular saints in terms of numbers of dedications demonstrate the influence of Rome on the history of English Christianity, as well as being major characters in Biblical studies, with the most popular being St Mary, St Peter, St Michael, St Andrew, and St Paul. One of the clearest reasons for the choice of many dedications was that the church was founded on or near the site of a saint's activity and a number of churches seem to have selected their patron according to the feast day on which the church was dedicated. Though these are often hard to discern, they include several churches dedicated to the Ascension or the Assumption. In the Church of England, St Mary has the most churches dedicated to her at 2368 and we are one of 600 Holy Trinity churches. We may be biased but ours is one of the most beautiful!



CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

Due to our Newsletter printers temporarily closing and the fact that magazine door-to-door delivering is not a responsible course of action at present, this electronic Newsletter will almost certainly not be 'distributed' as far and wide as our usual 800 print-run. As such there are no adverts included in this format, and for those

who do advertise, we are moving the date the adverts run from forward until our Newsletter goes back to 'normal'. The same is being applied to those organisations who hire the Church Room - we are allowing them to rearrange or not charge them. Therefore, the church is not getting vital revenue for as long as this goes on.

While some of our operational costs have decreased, mainly through not using the church building (although this is not as substantial as you might imagine - including no reduction in a proportion of Joe's stipend) it is still costing around £1,200 a week. On the flipside our income has also significantly decreased, mainly through not using the church building, Church Room and Newsletter.

While we don't want this to be a plea about giving money, as with many charities at this time, who are getting no government aid (and please be aware that the church does not receive anything from the state anyway), this is a cause for concern for us and we are currently in discussion about having to use our reserved funds to sustain our cash flow.

We hugely thank all those who have donated towards the ongoing work and mission of Holy Trinity, and those who have continued to give by Standing Order or the Parish Giving Scheme. If you would like to set up a standing order for a regular amount or leave a legacy in your will towards the church, then please email treasurer@holytrinitypottenend.org.uk for more information. If you would like to make a one off donation, then please send/deliver a cheque to Rev Joe at the Vicarage, or visit our GivingMachine page www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/holy-trinity-church-pcc to donate online or find out how when you shop online at over 2000 retailers you can support Holy Trinity.

Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to help further and support not just Holy Trinity but also other charities and volunteer organisations at this difficult time. *"Let each one give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9.7).

BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE

If you'd like to follow along with us and perhaps can't make our services to hear them, please find below the bible readings for our worship in June. Due to the nature of our online worship we usually only have one reading (the one in italics). If you don't possess a bible but have access to the internet, please visit www.biblegateway.com to access many different versions to suit your reading style. At Holy Trinity, for our public worship, we use the New International Version (NIV).



7th June Exodus 19.2-8a
Matthew 9.35-10.8

28th June Jeremiah 28.5-9
Matthew 10.40-end

14th June Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end
Trinity Sunday Matthew 28.16-20

21st June Jeremiah 20.7-13
Matthew 10.24-39