



Chet Valley Churches

Weekly News 7 March—Lent 3

Welcome to the Chet Valley Churches. Just now we are making connections with one another by phone and online, and we can also share updates via the Weekly News. Please let the News have any good news stories/items of encouragement that we can share. All our services can now be found on the churches' website at www.chetvalleychurches.org

Readings for today

Exodus 20.1-17
1 Corinthians 1.18-25
John 2.13-22

Psalm 19



Prayer for today

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dates for your diary

Due to lockdown the decision has been taken to suspend public worship in the Chet Valley Churches. However, that doesn't mean that there is no church!

- Each Sunday there is a service online, so we can join in worship even if we can't meet together. (See inside for details) If you are not able to get online, a paper copy of the service can be delivered to you. Phone/email David Owen to arrange—contact details on back page.
- During the summer lockdown we were encouraged to light a candle each evening and to pray for those who are affected by the Coronavirus in whatever way. Let us do so again, and particularly to pray for our community (wherever we are). Let's pray for people who are ill, those who are fearful, those who care for others, and also those who are struggling financially. Let's also pray for the successful roll-out of the vaccine.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Prayers Please...

Please pray for people and situations in the locality and beyond...

Especially let's pray for people we know who are fearful about Covid-19 or who are ill. Let's also pray for health carers, those who have to issue guidelines and those who organise their implementation. On a wider scale let's pray for research scientists who continually work to develop vaccines to combat so many diseases.

Use the Prayer Shower

We have a 'prayer shower' for urgent prayer requests. Contact Ros Hoffmann email roshoffmann2011@gmail.com tel 01508 548200. Also contact Ros if you would like to pray for urgent needs as part of the shower.

Time for Prayer

On Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 8.30pm we usually meet at St John's Chapel in Loddon for 'Time for Prayer and Space for Reflection', led by Jill Haylock. During the time when we cannot meet together, could you take time to light a candle and pray at home? If you wish, you can let Jill know (01508 520248)

Morning Prayer, but not in Church

Clergy are continuing with Morning Prayer at 9am at home. You may like to join in. Use your own copy of Common Worship or the old prayer book, or you can find the service at <https://tinyurl.com/MornPray>. Scroll down and click on Morning and Evening Prayer.

News and Events

Services Online this Week

David Owen is leading our online service this week, with Belinda Barwick giving the reflection. There'll be a trailer on our YouTube channel so do take a look. You can catch up with hymns and songs and recent services by going to our YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/chetvalleychurchesyoutube>

Services in Church Buildings

David Owen has been consulting with the PCCs and clergy across our churches as to when it will be right to re-start services in church. Inevitably, it is easier to stop something than to discern the process of re-starting it, but David's decision is:-

- To re-open All Saints and Holy Trinity for Sunday worship on Palm Sunday (March 28th)
- To resume regular Sunday worship in Loddon (HT), Chedgrave, Hardley and Sisland from Easter Day onwards. Activities planned for the Benefice in Holy Week can also take place.

All this is provided there are no further restrictions put in place. David says "It is not until 29 March that 6 people or 2 households will generally be allowed to meet, and only from then will the 'stay at home' injunction end. The Church of England's Guidance strongly advises a slow and careful approach. The Archdeacons of the Diocese have also reminded us that no congregational singing at all is allowed, either indoors or out. I'm aware that there are those who would like see an immediate return and those who want to wait longer because they still need to shield. For the time being we will therefore also continue with online worship."

40 Words

It's still possible to sign up to the '40 Words for 40 Days' email where Susanna Gunner briefly explores a single word each day through Lent, offering one or two ideas to mull over. Sign up at the Diocese of Norwich website: www.dioceseofnorwich.org/resource/40-words-for-40-days/

Lent Appeal and Lent Lunches

Lent Lunch is usually on Wednesdays, so why not make a donation to the Bishop's Lent Appeal in thanks for your lunch each Wednesday of Lent? We are joining in with the Archbishop's appeal to help some of the poorest countries who, like us, have been affected by Covid, but who are struggling to cope. You can drop in cash or a cheque payable to the Church in Loddon to Val Counter (Avocet, Norwich Road) who is co-ordinating donations. Or you can go to the JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/campaign/norwichlent2021

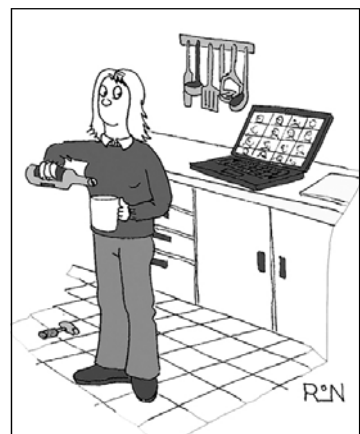
Easter Cards—Buy from Nina or in Holy Trinity

This year it has only been possible to set up a card stand in Holy Trinity, but since the church is open from about 10am to 4.30pm (often later) you might want to drop in and buy a few cards there. It would be good to send Easter greetings this year to friends or family, given that we've all got people we have missed seeing. If you'd like Easter cards and can't get to Holy Trinity, you can phone Nina on 01508 522992 or email theroamingfenlander@gmail.com

Things to Note

Remember Annual Meetings??

After Easter it will be the season of Annual Meetings, which must take place this year, either in person or if that's not possible, by Zoom. Everyone is very grateful to those who agreed to serve as Churchwardens, PCC members and officers over the past year, and we are also mindful that committee members will be needed for the year ahead. So if you're not a PCC member, could you be one? If you are on a PCC, will you continue? We will also need Churchwardens—people committed to regular worship in their church. In particular we need Churchwardens in Loddon. If you're interested, don't read the Churchwardens' Handbook, ask someone else who's doing the job already! It's really quite a flexible role.



Smile of the Week

Spotted in the Church Times:

“After virtual church comes virtual coffee...”

Information

Licensed Clergy

Rev. David Owen 01508 522993
david.chetvalley@gmail.com (Not Thur)

Rev. Ros. Hoffmann 01508 548200
roshoffmann2011@gmail.com (Not Mon)

Rev. Alison Ball 01508 528126
ball880am@btinternet.com (Not Fri)

Rev. Jill Haylock 01508 520248
jillhaylock@aol.com (Not Mon)

Rev. Louise Morrissey 01502 717797
delilah.morrissey@googlemail.com (Methodist)

Church Office

The Church Office is just inside the door at St John's Chapel, Loddon. To contact the office email ohetvalley@btconnect.com. The office is currently not staffed, but email is regularly checked and post is collected on a weekly basis.

Prayer Shower

For situations that need urgent prayer, or to pray for others, contact Ros Hoffmann: 01508 548200, roshoffmann2011@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Send items for the Weekly News to news.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com (preferred) or phone to 01508 522993, by Wednesday evening if possible. Please include your name and phone number or email address.

Newsletter By Email?

Would you like to receive your Weekly News by email, making sure you get the news even if you can't be in church on Sunday? If so, send an email to news.chetvalleychurches@gmail.com

Website, including events diary

(www.chetvalleychurches.org)
To submit information for the website, email david.chetvalley@gmail.com

Food Bank Contributions

To donate items to the Norwich Food Bank when the churches are closed, put them in the collecting box at the Co-op in Loddon.

Service and readings next week—14 March Mothering Sunday

The service is available on our website and a link will be sent automatically to those who usually receive the Weekly News by email. Services are available to download from our website, www.chetvalleychurches.org

You might take time to look at next week's readings:

Exodus 2.1-10, Colossians 3.12-17, John 19.25b-27, *Psalm 127.1-4*

Tailpiece We are in Fair Trade Fortnight. How aware are we of injustices both overseas and in Britain and do we sometimes benefit from other people's poverty? How do we choose what to buy?
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