

Dear All

Welcome to Keeping In Touch (KIT)17. If you have been out for a meal or a drink in the last week we hope it was a happy experience.

The PCC met this week to discuss the arrangements needed to offer services again.

A draft risk assessment has been done but there are still a few issues to iron out with the diocese. In addition to that we have of course to consider how any clergy rota will be filled.

Attached to KIT today is a small survey which we would ask you to consider completing. This is just to gauge the intentions of members of the congregation regarding timescale in returning to a 'live' service on a Sunday, to help with our planning. This survey is simply for planning purposes and of course does not hold anyone to a definite decision.

Can we ask you to please return these by Monday 27th July. We know that some of you are not as familiar with the use of IT as others so you can do this in one of the following ways:

- Complete the form and send it as an attachment to treasurerstmaryschidham@gmail.com
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- Print the form and post it to 21 Deeside Avenue, Fishbourne, Chichester PO19 3QF
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- Type your answers into an email and send to treasurerstmaryschidham@gmail.com
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- Call 01243 537216, leave your name and number and someone will call you back

We are still able to offer **limited opening of St Mary's for individual private prayer**. We are opening twice a week:

Saturday 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am – 1200



This week is named the **Fifth Sunday after Trinity** and is also **Sea Sunday**.

Every year, churches around the world celebrate **Sea Sunday**, remembering seafarers in prayer, giving thanks for the crucial work they do and supporting them by donating to various sailors' charities to support their work. Attached you will find a piece written by Colin Ottewell, our Lay Reader, containing a story from his time working for the **Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen**, a British charitable organisation founded and run on Christian principles.

The **Sailors' Society**, an international Christian charity, have made a short video about how the pandemic has affected the key workers of the sea, the seafarers, which you can view here:

<https://www.sailors-society.org/sea-sunday-2020>

In 1817, George Charles 'Bosun' Smith called a meeting at the City of London Tavern in Bishopsgate. The meeting led to the charity's formation in March 1818. An estimated 45,000 seafarers were visiting the port of London annually and the Society moored a former sloop of war on the River Thames, the *Mars*, renaming it the *Ark*, and repurposing it as a floating chapel where seafarers could congregate and pray.

Social reformer Elizabeth Fry asked the charity to send books for her to pass on to men posted at coastguard stations and the First Lord of the Treasury, Robert Peel, made a grant of £500 to help the organisation's cause.

In 1834 Sailors' Society appointed its first full-time chaplain Benjamin Prynne, as its Thames missionary, followed by a full-time missionary in Cape Town. In his first year alone, Prynne spoke to 50,000 seafarers. In 1871, with the support of Giuseppe Garibaldi, the charity set up a Sailors' Rest and Institute in Genoa. The organisation launched its magazine, *Chart & Compass*, in 1879. At this time, Sailors' Society received patronage from not only the British Royal Family but also Czar Alexander III of Russia and King Umberto I of Italy.

In 1902, the charity founded the King Edward VII Nautical School for '*hardy and heroic sons of the sea*'. The Lords of the Admiralty donated copper and wood from *HMS Victory* to Sailors' Society, which the charity made into coins, plaques and busts to use for fundraising.

The only junior officer to die when Titanic sank in 1912, sixth officer James Paul Moody, had trained at the Society's King Edward VII Nautical School in 1910.

During World War I the charity supported thousands of seafarers from torpedoed vessels. In the final months of World War I, Sailors' Society supported more than 14,000 people from torpedoed ships.

The Prince of Wales launched a special appeal to raise money for the charity's cause in 1923 and the following year, the organisation built the Empire Memorial Hostel at Limehouse, which was opened by one of Queen Victoria's granddaughters, Princess Marie Louise, so that seafarers could have a 'clean and airy' place to stay. Princess Marie Louise's involvement continued a long tradition of royal endorsement and support. King George V – the 'Sailor King' – had been patron since 1892 and made regular donations. When he died in 1936, King Edward VIII and, on his abdication, King George VI, continued the Royal Family's connection and annual subscription to the Society.

During World War II the Society again cared for large numbers of sailors who survived their vessels sinking and funded a sea ambulance to help injured seafarers.

During the 1960s the Society had a seafarers' centre in Hamburg, which provided welfare support to the Beatles, who recognised Sailors' Society as the same charity as in their native Liverpool!

In recent times the Society's chaplains made more than 400 visits to anxious families during the Falklands War and following the capsizing of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* chaplains supported survivors and the families of the lost.

The Society is an interdenominational charity and has close links with many of the mainstream Protestant Churches in the United Kingdom, such as the Baptist Union, Church of Scotland, United Reformed Church, and the Methodist Church. The charity's head office is in Southampton.

In the Catholic Church Sea Sunday is supported by the **Apostleship of the Sea**, an agency of the Catholic Church. Founded in Glasgow in the early 20th century, it provides pastoral care to seafarers through chaplaincies in ports in all continents of the world. It offers practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality, belief or race. The Apostleship of the Sea in Great Britain is part of an international network known to the maritime world as *Stella Maris*, working in more than 311 ports served by 216 port chaplains in more than 30 countries.

As ever, thank you to Stephen for the **pewslip**.

One of the hymns we would have had this week which we know as '*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*', is actually called '*Here I am, Lord*' and was written by Dan Laurent Schutte. In 1979 he was a 31 year old Jesuit studying theology in California when one of his friends asked him to write a song for an upcoming ordination Mass. His friend wanted the song to include the images of the word of God, the light of Christ and the bread and wine—images that would

eventually appear at the ends of the verses: "Who will bear my light to them?" "Who will speak my word to them?" The words of the hymn are based on Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 3.

His compositions are primarily written for Catholic liturgical use, but, over time, have found their way into Protestant worship. A poll conducted by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians found among members that it came second among "songs that make a difference". Schutte continuously receives correspondence regarding *Here I am, Lord* and in a magazine article cites one of his favourites as coming from an army captain serving in Afghanistan.

The captain wrote that the troops would gather in a field for Mass, near where they were fighting, and their chaplain would lead them in singing *Here I Am, Lord*. The servicemen and women who had grown up with the song could all sing it by heart. In the letter the captain had said "*We stand here in this awful place, where we are asked to serve our country but fear for our own lives, and we sing 'Here I Am, Lord,'*". Schutte also receives letters from people suffering terminal illnesses or from their spouses, who say the hymn has helped them face their hardships with the hope that God accompanies them. Schutte is reported as saying "*I'm very aware that God is doing something beyond me when I get those letters from people... It's also very humbling because it's something way, way far beyond what I can do.*"

SERVICES FOR FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

This week's **Sunday Service** on BBC **Radio 4** at 0810. 'Sowing in a time of uncertainty'

"The parable of the sower is one of Jesus' best known stories - and one which speaks especially clearly to a time of uncertainty. Seeds are sown into an unknown future, and the conditions in which they will grow are something we can't always predict. As the end of a most unusual term approaches this year students, pupils and teachers across the UK will be wondering just what kind of fruit may lie ahead. Rev Dr Rosa Hunt, co-principal of the South Wales Baptist College reflects on the message Jesus parable offers today in a service led by Rev Dr Craig Gardiner and including contributions from staff and students at the College".

There will be the usual **live service** on the **Church of England's website** and on their Facebook page at **9.00am** <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>. In his first service as **Archbishop of York**, Stephen Cottrell, will lead this week's service online.

This week the live streamed service from **Chichester Cathedral will be at 9.30am**. You can access this service live by clicking on the link and it will take you to the page with instructions on how to view. You can also view it later www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/services/live-services

Songs of Praise - The UK's Favourite Hymn.

*"The ten hymns were recently chosen as the UK's most popular by Songs of Praise viewers in an online vote and include three by living hymn-writers, each of whom takes part in the programme. But which one will be the UK's favourite? **BBC1 1.15pm***

This week's **Choral Evensong service** on **BBC Radio 3** at **3.00pm** comes from The Chapel of King's College, Cambridge with the choirs of King's and St John's Colleges.

NEW BISHOPS TO BE CONSECRATED

The new bishops of Horsham and Lewes will be consecrated next week on the feast of St Swithun, Wednesday 15th July. They will both be able to invite a limited number of guests to the socially distanced services of consecration in the Chapel of Lambeth Palace.

Ruth Bushyager is to serve as Bishop of Horsham and Will Hazelwood becomes the new Bishop of Lewes.

On the same day Hugh Nelson, Vicar of St Mary Goudhurst with Kilndown in the Canterbury Diocese, is also to be consecrated as the new Bishop of St Germans in the Diocese of Truro.

"We are grateful that the Archbishop of Canterbury has been able to arrange for these consecrations to take place, despite of the restrictions on public worship. This enables the new bishops to begin serving in the dioceses of Chichester and of Truro as we continue to meet the challenges that face us nationally and globally," said the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner.

MARY'S MEALS

Some of you may remember that a few years ago, when Canon David Pain was our priest, we raised some money for the charity 'Mary's Meals' by holding a lunch event 'St Mary's meals for Mary's Meals'. I was reminded of the charity again this week when browsing for something for KIT as it is the subject of the Radio 4 Appeal on Sunday. It all began in 1992 during the Balkan conflict, when brothers Magnus and Fergus MacFarlane-Barrow organised a local appeal for blankets and food. They filled a Jeep with aid and delivered their cargo to Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They returned to Scotland expecting to resume work as fish farmers in Argyll, but in their absence their parents' shed had been filled with yet more donations, resulting in them eventually driving from Scotland to Bosnia a total of 23 times to deliver supplies.

Magnus took a 'gap year' and has never gone back to his old job. The project was registered as a charity, then named as Scottish International Relief (SIR).

During a trip to Malawi in 2002, Magnus decided to attract girls and boys to school by providing meals. From feeding 200 children in southern Malawi in 2002, Mary's Meals now works with communities in 19 different countries around the world. The meals the charity serves in schools attract children into the classroom, where they can gain an education that will one day be their ladder out of poverty. It costs just £15.90 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every school day for an entire year. Their school feeding programmes are owned and run by community volunteers in the countries where they provide food. For example, there are over 80,000 volunteers in Malawi who take turns to prepare, cook and serve the daily meal in each school. According to their website they are now feeding 1,667, 067 children every school day!

Find out more: www.marysmeals.org.uk

A 'SEA' RELATED TALE FOR SEA SUNDAY

A man was caught in a flood. Two people came by in a boat to rescue him, but he waved them away shouting, "No the Lord will save me". An hour later another boat came along, but once again the man sent them away saying "The Lord will save me".

Eventually a helicopter arrived but still the man refused to be picked up and shouted out "The Lord will save me!"

Unfortunately, an hour later the man drowned. At the gates of Heaven he asked St Peter, "Why didn't the Lord save me?". I waited and waited. Peter replied, "For Heaven's sake, he sent two boats and a helicopter, what more did you want?"

PYNHAM & HAWTHORN MEADOWS

Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council are asking for your views on Pynham and Hawthorn Meadows. You can speak to their consultant on site today (11th July) from 1000 – 3.00pm and at Hambrook Post Office in Broad Road on Tuesday 14th July from 0900 – 2.00pm.

If you can't get along to one of these sessions you can give your views by completing an online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Pynham-Hawthorn-Meadows>

EMSWORTH VIRTUAL CONCERT BAND

Emsworth Concert Band has created a virtual performance of 'What a Wonderful World' as a tribute to all NHS staff and key workers. Andy Hall (Musical Director) and Jo Bennett (Chair and flute player) came up with the idea and all bandmembers were asked to participate – recording themselves playing their parts at home. You can listen to it here:

<https://youtu.be/TMTxjJOB1MQ>

SUSSEX SNOWDROP TRUST ANNUAL WALK

NEW DATE - Sunday 13th September 2020

The Duke of Norfolk has kindly allowed the Snowdrop Trust a new date for their annual walk. If you normally take part then please save the date.

Arundel Castle Park Estate, BN18 9AU - 1:00pm to 3:00pm - £5 Adults / £2 Children (Under 5s free)

SAINT SWITHUN

Swithun was an Anglo-Saxon bishop of Winchester and subsequently patron saint of Winchester Cathedral. His historical importance as bishop is overshadowed by his reputation for posthumous miracle-working. As we know, the saying goes that if it rains on Saint Swithun's bridge in Winchester on his feast day (15th July) it will continue for forty days.

*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St Swithun's day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain nae mare*

Swithun was initially buried out of doors, rather than in his cathedral, apparently at his own request. William of Malmesbury recorded that the bishop left instructions that his body should be buried outside the church, *ubi et pedibus praetereuntium et stillicidiis ex alto rorantibus esset obnoxius* [where it might be subject to the feet of passers-by and to the raindrops pouring from on high], which has been taken as indicating that the legend was already well known in the 12th century.

In 971 it was decided to move his body to a new indoor shrine, and one theory traces the origin of the rain legend to a heavy shower on the day of the move, which it was said was the saint marking his displeasure towards those who were removing his remains. This story, however, cannot be traced further back than the 17th or 18th century. Also, it is at variance with the 10th century writers, who all agreed that the move took place in accordance with the saint's desire expressed in a vision. It is also suggested that the legend was derived from a tremendous downpour of rain that occurred on St. Swithun's Day, 1315.

In France, St. Medard, St. Gervase and St. Protais are credited with an influence on the weather almost identical with that attributed to St Swithun. In Flanders, there is St Godelieve and in Germany the Seven Sleepers' Day.

There is a scientific basis to the weather pattern behind the legend of St Swithun's day however. Around the middle of July, the jet stream settles into a pattern which, in the majority of years, holds reasonably steady until the end of August. When the jet stream lies north of the British Isles then continental high pressure is able to move in; when it lies across or south of the British Isles, Arctic air and Atlantic weather systems predominate bringing rain.

I prefer the angry Saint theory!

THE LIGHTHEARTED BIT!

How was the brands and logos quiz? This week we are spoiling you as we offer 2 quizzes, Big, Bigger Biggest (shamelessly pinched from elsewhere) and cryptic clues to TV shows.

DEAR GOD...

Children in a school were invited to ask God a question or to tell him something. These are some they came up with (*if you are experiencing déjà vu it is because this has been in the parish magazine before*)

- Dear God Please can you put another holiday in between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there at the moment.
- Dear God Thank you for my baby brother but I did ask for a kitten. I hadn't asked for anything before, you can look it up
- Dear God How come you did miracles in the old days but don't do any now?
- Dear God Did you mean giraffes to look like that or was it an accident?
- Dear God How did you know you were God. Who told you?
- Dear God I don't think anyone could be better at being God than you and I'm not just saying that because you are already God
- Dear God My Grandad said he talked to you when he was little. How far do you go back then?
- Dear God Is it true that my Dad won't go to heaven if uses his football words in the house?
- Dear God I don't think Cain would have killed Abel if they had their own bedrooms.

And **finally**, our prayer for Sea Sunday:

Lord God, Creator of land and sea,

 bless those who work at sea.

Be with them in fair weather and foul,

in danger or distress.

Strengthen them when weary,

lift them up when down

and comfort them when far from their loved ones.

In this life, bring them safely to shore

and, in the life to come,

welcome them to your kingdom.

For Jesus Christ's sake, **Amen**. (*From the Mission to Seafarers*)

We wish you a happy week and remember to stay safe.

Carol & Willem