

**St Matthias & St George Parish Church.**  
**A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.**  
**Week commencing 26th July 2020, 7th Sunday after Trinity**

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come.....will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans v 29*

**Fr Glenn Reading – Team Vicar**

Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278

**Curate: Mthr. Victoria Barlow** email

[victoriabarlow@hotmail.com](mailto:victoriabarlow@hotmail.com)

**This Sunday:** Father Glenn will again be holding Morning Prayer online at 10.30 am **in The Bridge Church, Headless Cross and will be joined by Mother Victoria.** Click on the Church website, and then click onto Virtual Church.

**Our Website:** Please visit our website [www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk) and under Virtual Church click on 'Prayers and Scripture in Times of Anxiety' to see the material that Mother Victoria has uploaded. *Don't forget that the website also contains children's activities.*

**Foodbanks:** If you can, please support foodbanks during this time of considerable anxiety for many. Please leave any food or toiletry donations on the Vicarage doorstep. Glenn will then take them to Newstart in Bromsgrove which is still operating for vulnerable families; or leave a donation or two in the boxes provided by the supermarkets.

**Prayer Chain:** If you have someone you wish to be prayed for, please contact Pauline Jones on 892650 who will then contact other members of the Prayer Group.

A little bird has told me that **Brenda Mole** celebrated her birthday on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Well, I'm sorry we're a bit late with the good wishes but nevertheless, many belated Happy Returns for your birthday Brenda. A biggie I hear next year!

**Change is afoot!** Following on from the Open Conversations that were run at the start of the year, the Diocese is moving forward with its plans to change how it organise itself and its buildings to help the churches to be healthy and sustainable and to enable those in ministry to have roles that allow them to flourish. It has been awarded funding by the national church to appoint someone who has the change and programme management skills to help transform the Church across the diocese. This post will work with Bishop Martin, and the rest of the Diocesan Restructuring Group in enabling the Diocese in the 'change' process. **The Diocese is now recruiting for the new post of Deputy Diocesan Secretary: Restructuring.** If you know of anyone who this post might suit then the link for an application pack is <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/job-vacancies/deputy-diocesan-secretary.php>

**We pray for those who are sick:** - Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret, Margaret, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi, Pastor Robin Baker, Colin, Steven, and Margaret Andrew.

*We pray for the soul of Joan Murray recently departed whose funeral will take place on Thursday 30th July. We hold her husband Bill, and other members of her family in our prayers.*

**A 'Recovery Group'** formed from the clergy and from church laity have met online to discuss the reopening of the church for private prayer and subsequently for the resumption of worship.

**The church is currently open for private prayer on Wednesdays between 10 am and 12 noon; and on Sundays between 2 and 4 pm.**

*It is hoped for the resumption of worship in September. Watch this space!*

**Loosening of lockdown:** As we move further into the loosening of 'lockdown' and the changes that brings in our daily lives, we pray:

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.

Loving Jesus, you are compassionate to those in need and heal the sick in body and mind.

Look kindly on those who are fearful at this time. Help us all to put away all thoughts and actions that separate us from you and from one another. Give us grace to live our lives confident in your promise that you are with us always. Amen.

Both these prayers underline the text at the head of the page, namely, that nothing '*will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*'

Please give notices for inclusion in next week's edition to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at [richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk)

Log onto our website for more information [www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk)

