

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of “Christ the King” team ministry.
Week commencing 19th July 2020, 6th Sunday after Trinity

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. KJV Psalm 86 v15

Fr Glenn Reading – Team Vicar
Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278
Curate: Mthr. Victoria Barlow email
victoriabarlow@hotmail.com

This Sunday: Father Glenn will again be holding Morning Prayer online at 10.30 am **in church and will be joined by Mother Victoria** who continues to live-stream Compline, evenings at 9 pm. Click on the Church website, and then click onto Virtual Church. If you'd like to watch Reverend Ruth saying Methodist Evening Prayer at 7pm Monday to Friday, then go onto the Bridge Church website and click on Virtual Church.

Our Website: Please visit our website 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.

July 24th is **Samaritans Awareness Day**. Whilst there is speculation that the suicide rate has increased during the lockdown period, this is refuted by a couple of academic studies. However, it is agreed that lockdown has added tremendous stress onto the lives of emotionally and mentally vulnerable people. We pray for all those working for Samaritans and all those affected by Covid and would pray, 'Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed'.—*Psalm 57:1 (NIV)*

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
Log onto our website for more information
www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

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. 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 twice with another meeting scheduled soon, to discuss the reopening of the church for private prayer and subsequently for the resumption of worship. Needless to say this involves the resolution of a number of issues and will take some time. Fr Glenn, however, hopes to be sending out a letter via email or post as appropriate in the near future, outlining the re-opening process and how our worship can be expected to continue into the future.

Covid Poem (or prayer?)

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbours
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine check-up
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way--better
for each other
because of the worst. - *Laura Kelley Fanucci*

