

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week commencing Sunday July 11th 2021 6th after Trinity

In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. Ephesians 1 v 11

Fr Glenn Reading – Team Vicar

Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278

Curate: Mthr. Victoria Barlow email

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Anne Batchelor - Mission Enabler, Calling Young

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Please maintain the Covid safety measures that are in place. These include:

- * **Informing Glenn, before Sunday, if you intend to come on Sunday to worship**
- * **Maintaining the 2 metre Social Distance**
- * **Leaving Church immediately after the service.**
- * **Wearing a mask at all times**
- * **Keeping conversation to a minimum**

Please note - additional online services.

- Fr Glenn continues to stream Sunday Evening Prayer at 6pm on our Facebook page.

- Mthr Victoria continues to offer *Compline on Tuesdays, at 9pm. Just press ctrl+ and click on the following link*

<https://www.facebook.com/victoria.barlow.750>

- You can also watch Rev Ruth Wilson offer *Evening Prayer from the Methodist Manse at 5.00 pm on Mondays. Just click Control + [here](#) to view*

Weekday services are on: **Tuesday** 10 am

Astwood Bank –*Traditional Language*

Thursday 10 am St Peter's, Crabbs Cross.

We pray for those who are sick: Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret Emms, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret Savage, Nesta, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi, Colin, Steven, Margaret Andrew, Brian, Wendy Voller, Christopher Shakles (Can you please let Richard Porteous know if any of the above no longer need our prayers.)

Care of the church grounds: Julia and Julian have been doing a sterling job of improving and maintaining the Memorial Garden but it is apparent that other parts of the church grounds are looking a bit scruffy. The weeds along the kerbs have been doused with weed-killer but require some kind soul(s) to remove them now that they are dead. Likewise the car park could do with the stones which have found their way onto the tarmac being swept up and returned to the stone border. Any offers?

Log onto our website for more information at

www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

Foodbanks: There is a box at the rear of the church in which food and toiletry gifts can be placed which will go to **Redditch Homestart** and local foodbanks. Items particularly needed are: **instant mash; tinned meat – ham, corn beef; tinned carrots, peas and potatoes; long life fruit juice, custard; rice puddings; tinned fruit, jam, toothpaste.**

When she recently received two boxes of food that we had donated, Karen Jones, manager of Redditch Home-start, said how grateful everyone was for the kindness and generosity of our congregation in donating food and toiletries for the families with whom she regularly works. Karen has sent a thank you letter, which you'll find underneath, which shows exactly why our donations of food are so necessary. I hope you will read it.

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Seahorses. Mthr Victoria writes 'The seahorse population is endangered due to a drop in seagrass, their natural habitat. We have teamed up with Redditch Kingfisher Rotary for a fundraising campaign to raise money to replenish sea grass as part of our care for creation. **If you are interested in creating a silk painting, via a zoom tutorial with full kit and tuition supplied for an all-inclusive cost of £45 on August 17th 6.30 – 8pm, please contact Mthr Victoria.** Victoria will also have a final collection this Sunday (11th) towards helping preserve seahorses and is very grateful for the donations she has received so far.

Diocesan Festival of Flowers Please see the poster at the rear of the church regarding this event in which The Bridge church will be involved.

Please give notices for inclusion in next week's Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday either at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk or on 01527 542620. *Many thanks go to Tony Strong who has produced the last three editions of Spotlight whilst I've been on holiday/ indisposed.*

7th July 2021

We would like to say a big thank you to all your parishioners and supporters who have donated food to our Home-Start families.

Because of the diverse situations our families experience, their children's needs are not always their first priority. This has a detrimental effect on their children who suffer emotionally, socially, and educationally and their basic needs are not always met.

We as a charity provide non-judgemental, practical and emotional support to families who are struggling and help build parents/carers confidence and ability to cope.

We are a very busy scheme, currently supporting 175 families at any one time. The demand for our service through covid has been massive with an increase in referrals from both Social Services, Health and Education. We were lucky enough to receive government emergency funding to meet demand and have done this by supporting families by phone, on-line and socially distanced out-door visits. Since June we are back to offering face to face support, support groups and our specialised services.

Your donated food was given to families where parents are struggling to feed their children – this could be because:

- of Covid and how it affected their family.
- of the changes in the benefit system where families face a 4-6 week wait before benefits are paid.
- a parent was furloughed, made redundant or receive low pay.
- maternity leave.
- not being able to work because of severe mental health issues or disability.
- mothers who have fled domestic abuse or are withheld money by their current or ex-partner and finds it a struggle to provide for the essentials.
- some parents may not have had good role models in their own lives growing up and struggle to budget and need our support to address this.

Before Covid we operated our own food bank with the support of 'The Bridge Church' and we could get supplies to the families as soon as it was needed. Through Covid we worked in partnership with the local foodbanks but now feel it is important that we offer a direct service once again. Demand is currently greater than our supply and we would always welcome and appreciate any donations of dried foods and personal care products.

We hope you are all well, keeping safe and looking forward to a bit more freedom.

Kind Regards



Karen Jones
Manager



