

In View – Lockdown Continued

St John the Evangelist Milford

June 2020



Welcome

Well, here is our second edition of “Lockdown In View”. I’m not sure how many more of these there might be, but I pray and hope that we might all be able to meet face-to-face again soon. Since our last edition we have started weekly services which are now coming from Church via Zoom. It may not be the same as attending in person, but we can at least all share the familiar surroundings of St Johns. It is a strange experience leading worship in an empty Church with only a small laptop PC, on which I can see a “sea” of faces. Last week many of these were wearing something red especially for Pentecost. Through these services we are all able to be a part of a prayerful and loving community worshipping together in the name of The Lord. For our “Coffee & Chat” after Church, Alison has now managed to break us out into smaller groups, which I hope that you find make for easier conversation, even discussion! With these, as well as the community service that we are all participating in, whether as providers or users, we can stay together as a caring community.

God’s word to us all was that we should be a loving and caring community for all and, from what I see in Milford, this is certainly the case, just showing that it is a great place to live in.

May God bless you.

Peter Hewson

Rainbows over the church

As we approached Ascension, the church grounds were decorated with rainbow bunting, in an initiative coordinated by Nathalie Hinds. Many church members have been involved in producing lots of knitted/crocheted rainbows. The aim being to brighten the community, and show our support for the NHS, key workers and all families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Just a little of the positive reaction on Facebook, from others around the village, is shown opposite:





10am Morning Prayer on Zoom

At 10am on Sundays we hold a short Morning Prayer service over Zoom. There have been 30-40 households joining us for the service in recent weeks. But the good thing about meeting online is that there is always room for more!

If you have a smartphone, tablet or PC join us on the link sent out by email. If you need a reminder of the link, or were not contacted please email stjohnsmilford@hotmail.com.

You can join us on the telephone too:

Dial in on **0203 481 5240**

You will hear “Welcome to Zoom. Enter your Meeting ID, followed by #”

Dial Meeting ID **757 3946 0257 #** on your phone

Then you will be prompted to dial the password, which is **021767**

If you can't join at that time there will be a link to the audio from the service, on our website later: www.stjohnsmilford.org.uk/encouragement/

Milford School

Appreciative parents and children hung this banner on the gates of Milford Infant School. It reads:

“To Mr Stear and all the staff at Milford School. We would like to show our gratitude for all that you have done and continue to do for our children. Milford School is the BEST and that is because of you all. Thank you from all the children and parents x”



VE Day

The 75th anniversary of VE Day was commemorated on Friday 8th May with much socially-distanced partying. This photo was provided by Sally and Bill Braid.



11am After Church Chat on Zoom

At 11am on Sundays, when everyone has had time to get a cup of tea or coffee, some of us get back together on Zoom. No agenda, just a chance to chat with friends. We split ourselves across 3 or 4 tables in our virtual Church Centre.

You can now join us for this on the telephone too:

Dial in on **0203 481 5240**

You will hear “Welcome to Zoom. Enter your Meeting ID, followed by #”

Dial Meeting ID **868 658 3969 #** on your phone

Then you will be prompted to dial the password, which is **874883** (Note: This password recently changed.)

It would be lovely to see, or hear, you there.



Samson Rising

Brenda Tye wanted you all to know that John Hambly has written an autobiography called “Samson Rising”. It will be released in August, but you can already pre-order your copy. Cost £18.95. There is more information at <https://www.unitedwriters.co.uk/store/samson-rising>

£££ Help with church finances

St John's normally receives a quarter of its planned giving as cash through the envelope scheme, and more as cash on the offertory plate. As our building is closed, our income is **already £5,000 down** on the same time last year, from £12,000 to £7,000.

If you would normally put cash in the offertory plate, please consider a **change to giving by standing order** instead. Several people have already done this.

You can set up a standing order through internet banking, if you use this facility. State your name clearly on the transfer. That way we can still claim Gift Aid (if you have signed a Gift Aid form) or claim under the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS) if the donation is £30 or less.

St John's bank details are:

Bank: NatWest plc, Godalming Branch, 77 High St, Godalming, GU7 1AR

Account Name: St Johns Milford Parochial Church Council

Sort code: 60-09-04

Account number: 00752770

To help with the shortfall, Nick recently made a donation to the church bank account using his smartphone banking app, but cheques can be handled. They should be made out to "St Johns Milford PCC" and sent to "C/O Nicholas O'Brien, Hawthorn Cottage, Moushill Lane, Milford, GU8 5BH".

Thanking you for your continued support, whatever you decide to do. Nicholas O'Brien, Hon. Treasurer



Anyone for tennis?

Virginia Bottomley has offered use of their isolated tennis court to any frustrated tennis players in our community. Email stjohnsmilford@hotmail.com for the contact number, to fix a time to use the court.



Missing hymns and services?

Many services are available online every week. Go to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/> to find out what is on.

There is also a Church of England **free** phone number. It gives you access the services, reflections, hymns and prayers that are being posted online. You can call it at any time and choose what you want to listen to:



Prayers to share

There are a number of links on our website to compilations of prayers for this season. Here is one from the Church of England booklet:

"God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen."

Find more at

www.stjohnsmilford.org.uk/encouragement/ under the heading PRAYERS.

In the same place you will find a couple of poems, which are too long to reproduce in the newsletter:

One by Roy Christer called 'Prayer', which both Wendy and Maddie provided.

And one called 'Ode by an Oldie (80+)' by Laura Thompson, which comes from a friend of Eva.



Doorstep photos for Samson Centre

John Hamby thought some church members might like to support this initiative to raise funds for the Samson Centre.

Alice Collins is a local photographer based in Milford and she has set up her own fundraiser to help the Centre by taking photos of people on the doorstep of their own home.

She is asking for a minimum donation of £10 to the Centre via her JustGiving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Alice-Collins5>) if you would like your photo taken alongside your family outside your home.

If you would like to book in for your own doorstep photo, please get in touch with her direct via email on 94alcollins@gmail.com or phone her on 07341 440993.

Her website is www.alicecollinsphotography.co.uk

Rest In Peace

Sadly, I have to report news of other members of St John's who have died recently. They will both be remembered and greatly missed:

- Dorothy Tarry
- Kathleen Wigmore



New arrivals

Our church friends Nat and Esther are pleased to announce the safe arrival of baby Solomon, a little brother for Susianna.

Spread church news

If you enjoy reading this newsletter, **tell people about it**. Lend them your copy or point them to our website. If they feel they missed out, put them in touch with us, so that they are included next time.

If you enjoy a Zoom service, **tell people about it**. Encourage people to give it a try. Put them in touch with us, so that they are invited next time.

We are hugely constrained in who we can tell about the things going in our church under the current restrictions. Our electoral roll does not include everyone who might see themselves as a member of St John's. Even people on email may no longer use the address they put on their electoral roll form, or our emails might get misdirected to their Spam folder!

We use our website and Facebook - but it is hit and miss. The very best way to spread good news about our church (and our faith) is still word of mouth.

We all hope to be able to return, safely, to our church in the not too distant future. In the meantime you can find practical help and spiritual encouragement on our website <http://www.stjohnsmilford.org.uk/>

If you need any other help, contact us by email at stjohnsmilford@hotmail.com or call the vicarage on 01483 414710.

I hope this newsletter goes a little way towards keeping our church community in touch while we all stay home. Any errors or omissions are all mine.

Editor: Alison Turner



Bigger Food Bank

The Godalming & Villages Community Food Store (located at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre) now offers free food, toiletries and household products. This is in addition to the existing St Mark's foodbank.

Call 01483 523575 if you need this help. <http://www.stjohnsmilford.org.uk/practical-help/> has other details about using the store.

You can support the food banks with donations, on Tuesdays 9-11am only. Leave them in the shopping trolley outside Milford Village Hall, or the one outside Tesco. Both are clearly signed "Donations for Godalming food bank organised by the Godalming and Farncombe Community Corona Virus Assistance".

Donations have dropped in recent weeks, but the need is still increasing. Please help if you can.