

**LOVE ONE
ANOTHER**

In View – Lockdown Lifting

St John the Evangelist Milford

July 2020



Welcome

Another edition of “Lockdown In View” and none of us can guess when and how our current circumstances might change. I think we are getting into a routine now of what might be the “new normal”! This week sees our twelfth Zoom service - most of which, since the end of May, have come live from church. Clive has now joined me, keeping social distancing of course, in leading these services. We all thank God that he feels able to come back and lead us, and also that Janet is improving by the day. For all of us that have seen her, it has been amazing to see that she has recovered so quickly from what was a very traumatic and frightening experience for her. May God be with her in the coming weeks.



Open for private prayer

Wednesday 9am – 3pm and Sunday 11am – 3pm

Church is now open for a period each week for personal prayer and meditation. We know from comments, and seeing that chairs have been sat on, that there have been visitors. We all hope that their visit has helped them in their personal time of enforced change.

Clive and I are currently going through all of the ramifications of opening up for services under the current restrictions. We held a PCC meeting recently in Church with the aim of seeing just how many people we can safely have in Church at one time. Sadly it’s not many, perhaps up to 20, but we are still working on it and will keep you informed. One thing is for sure, we will be continuing with Zoom based services for some time to come. So your weekly Sunday 10am Zoom invitation is available for the foreseeable future. The possibility of having a congregation while broadcasting live is, for reasons of personal privacy and security, not easy and subject to all sorts of restrictions. One thing we are considering is a trial of a midweek, Wednesday morning, said communion service BUT it will not be communion as you know it. Participation and movement will be very restricted and the Eucharist will be in one kind only, the consecrated bread. As we will be forced to limit numbers to maintain social distancing, we would like to know in advance if you might consider joining such a service. Before we can offer such a service, we have to have full PCC agreement. So it will be some time while we discuss the options and practicalities.

Please let me know your thoughts and ideas on this and any other possibilities.

In the meantime, let us all remember that Christ was very clear when He said that when two or three are gathered in His name then He was there among them.

May God be with you.

Peter Hewson

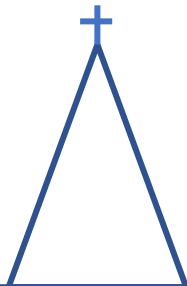


Sundays on Zoom

Join us for 10am Morning Prayer or 11am After Church Chat on Zoom by following the link below on a PC, tablet or smartphone.

If you don't have an Internet connection, you can still join us –

On any phone just dial 0203 481 5240 – you will then be asked to enter the meeting ID and passcode



10am Morning Prayer

Zoom link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75739460257?pwd=R2lCRFNqa25jcERUa0FORINtWdNidz09>

Meeting ID: 757 3946 0257

Passcode: 021767

Zoom link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8686583969?pwd=SHpiRmtDZlYrYTRxRFRqcVBKMGJyQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 658 3969

Passcode: 874883

11am After Church Chat





Help with church finances

St John's normally receives many donations through the envelope scheme or as cash on the offertory plate, so our income is falling short due to virus restrictions. We are now expecting a deficit this year of **£13,500**, and this continues to grow with every month without normal services in church.

So this is a plea to anyone who would normally put cash in the offertory plate, through the envelope scheme or white envelopes. Please help to make up the gap by **sending a cheque or setting up a standing order** with the bank.

I can now even take credit card donations over the phone. Just give me a call on 01483 423398 with your credit/debit card handy and tell me the amount you wish to donate, the card number, expiry date and the magic number on the back of the card. I also need your house number and postcode.

For payments to our bank, the bank details are:

Bank: NatWest 77 High St, Godalming
Account Name: St Johns Milford, Parochial Church Council General Fund
Sort code: 60-09-04
Account number: 00752770

My address for cheques (or even at a pinch cash) is: Nicholas O'Brien, Hawthorn Cottage, Moushill Lane, Milford, Godalming, Surrey, GU8 5BH. Cheques should be made out to "St Johns Milford PCC".

Thanking you for your continued support.
Nicholas O'Brien, Hon. Treasurer

Days gone by

John Hambly sent in this photo – challenging you all to guess when and why it was taken.

(Bonus points if you can name everyone in it!)

Answers to stjohnsmilford@hotmail.com



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

This is a Church of England **free** phone number. It gives you access the services, reflections, hymns and prayers that are being posted online. Call at any time and choose what you want to hear.

Online encouragement

Do visit stjohnsmilford.org.uk/encouragement/ if you want to listen back to any of our services, find prayers or music. There are links to several hymns that choir member David Pepe has recorded at home.



Organ maintenance

Some of you may remember that the organ "blew up" during the last service we held in church. Bill Braid thought you might like to hear that it is now up and running again, although now waiting until we hold services in the church building again.



Singing on Zoom

As many of you already know – Alison Turner has been recording songs with Rock Choir during the lockdown. The Godalming Rock Choir rendition of Queen's track 'We are the Champions' can be found at: <https://youtu.be/F4ZPH5FyzOs>



Godalming 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. stjohnsmilford.org.uk/practical-help/ has other details about using the store.

The council has recently published these statistics. In the 82 days since this extra foodbank started it has supplied "10,346 days' worth of food and hygiene product support to 60 different households (comprising 111 adults and 86 children). "

You can support the food banks with donations, on Tuesdays 8.30-11.30am. 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".

Please help if you can.



Milford Post Office

Maddie wanted you all to know that Milford Post Office has now returned to its usual opening times:

Mon-Fri 9.00am – 5.30pm
Sat 9.00am – 12.30pm

Surrey County Council Autism Strategy

The first generation of people diagnosed with autism in childhood are now approaching retirement. Surrey County Council is now consulting on how to make the county better for people with autism of all ages. For more information, visit surreysays.co.uk/csf/autismstrategy. The survey runs until 21 September.



Out and about

Winkworth Arboretum recently reopened. They are now operating as close to normal as they are able.

You have to book tickets through the National Trust website (nationaltrust.org.uk/winkworth-arboretum) for a half-hour arrival slot, even if you are a member and do not need to pay. They are only releasing tickets one week ahead, each Friday.

This all keeps numbers in the arboretum low, so social distancing is easy. It is a very peaceful place.

There is a one-way system around the entrance area, but once inside you can wander as you could before. The café has reopened, although all the tables are now well-spaced and outside. Alison Turner can testify that the scones are still delicious, and her sons enjoyed the ice cream!

Mr Stear – award as an Eagle Radio Breakfast Hero

Mr Stear, Head Teacher at Milford School, has gone above and beyond during the coronavirus pandemic. From supporting the children with 'Zoom Stories' and 'Seven Days of Kindness' to getting Jo from 'S Club 7' to sing 'Star of the Week'. He was thanked for his continuous hard work and support. The video is here: facebook.com/eagleradio/videos/2780520348843218

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