



The Revd Canon Christopher M Strain
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"St Luke's - A community of whole-life disciples of Jesus Christ committed to worship, growth, fellowship & mission."

22nd September 2020

Dear St. Luke's Church Family,

Welcome back! This Sunday we are aiming to welcome people back into our lovely church building. Whilst we know the church is the community of God's people and not a place, it will be so good to open the doors once again and to see each other physically. However, if you prefer not to be present, we quite understand. The good news is that we shall continue to use ZOOM from the church so you can join in that way – it will be basic and your patience will be appreciated!

Please feel able to rejoin us whether or not we have seen much of you the last few months. We do appreciate that Zoom has its limitations, and many have not been able or wanted to sign in on a computer or tablet for very good reasons including being on a screen all week, family commitments and the need to get out!

So from **next Sunday, 27th September, there will be a service at 10.30am subject to any further Government and Church restrictions.** The service will be within the hour, I hope. Please note the following, and forgive our need to be prescriptive. You will appreciate that we need to be ever so careful at every point:

- *We have assessed the risks and actions have been put in place.*
- *Please read the A1 board when you come in.*
- *Please do not come if you may have any possible Covid symptoms.*
- *The church has been set up to enable people to sit on their own or in family/ bubble groups. Please sit where you are asked to and follow the one way system.*
- *We shall need to track and trace by recording who is present, and will ask for names if we are not sure of who you are. Providing the information is compulsory.*
- *People will need to socially distance and not gather in any groups in or outside the building.*
- *Please sanitise, wear masks (unless leading / speaking) etc and wash hands as soon as you get home.*
- *A small music group can sing, but otherwise singing is not advised.*
- *There is no need to book in! We could get up to 100 in the building at a pinch.*

The next few Sundays we continue our theme on the Community of God's people.

- **27th September** will be Holy Communion with wafer Bread brought to those who wish to receive
- We shall celebrate **Harvest on 4th October.** It will be an All-Age service led by Maggie and Glenda.
- We are having two baptisms on **11th October**
- Children's groups could start on **18th October** if we can manage the complexity (We may need to book children in – Anna will be in touch post-honeymoon!)

Other Services

- We intend to continue with the **Sunday 5.00pm service** in the Chancel and by Zoom,
- **Wednesdays Morning Prayer at 9.30am** is by zoom
- I hope to offer a simple Morning Prayer in church on **Thursdays at 9.30am from 1st October.**

With this letter I am including three other things for you.

1. A copy of **MORNING PRAYER** (a slight revision of one we have been using over the last months)
2. A copy of **HOLY COMMUNION**.
Do keep these to use at home on Zoom or for your own personal use. Paper copies will be also available for Sunday Church.
3. The other enclosure is a little booklet called **“trypraying”** which I came across recently. This is my personal gift to you, and I hope you can make time to read it. It is very accessible. You might care to pass it to a friend. More copies are available in church or do order more yourself. Search “trypraying” for more info.

A Word from Jesus to anxious disciples

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

These words are often read at funeral services, and I read them last Monday. For me they have added power and relevance as we continue to live through these difficult and uncertain times. I am sure that most of us, and I include myself, have felt anxious, confused, troubled and disorientated this year. It is important to acknowledge how we have been feeling and the intensity of our emotions. We need to be honest with God. The Psalms help us to do this – they say it as it is – no pretence.

At the same time, as I was reflecting in a recent sermon, it maybe that something is happening in us in the wild waters of the open sea in a way that it cannot in the calm of the harbour or in the security of the quay. I do not like wildness and waves; I would rather have control and calm, but when we are away from the routines and even the pattern of church-life, God is doing new things in us. And in all this God says to you and me, **“Trust me and know my peace, even your troubles.”**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Meeting of Parishioners

Please take notice that this will take place on **Monday 12th October from 7.30 – 8.30pm** by ZOOM (usual link). The Annual Report and summary of our Accounts were circulated six months ago. We shall have the normal brief presentations. We need to elect our churchwardens, 3 Deanery Synod members for 3 years, 3 PCC members for 3 years and 1 PCC member for 2 years. Some nominations have already been received but others are welcome. It would be great to see some younger people joining the PCC. For a nomination form please contact the Office.

Connect Groups

Now is the time to join a Connect Group by zoom for friendship, Bible study, prayer and support. Do speak with Chris to know more. Most groups are using the **“Jesus the Game-Changer”** course.

Church Finances and Giving

Thank you on behalf of one another for your support. We appreciate your commitment going forwards to enable us to maintain and grow our church life. **Our bank details are: CAF Bank Limited Sort code 40-52-40 Account St Luke’s Church, Parkstone PCC No. 00008836.** You can also send a cheque to St Luke’s Church Parkstone PCC to the Church Office Wellington Road Parkstone BH14 9LF

In conclusion may I thank you for being part of the church family at St Luke’s. We do appreciate all you are and your presence, prayers and participation.

With love as ever, especially at this challenging time for you.

Chris Strain