



## UPDATE #22

### THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The Annual Church Meetings would normally take place around Easter, but had to be delayed this year because of the lockdown. They are now being planned for Wednesday 21st October, although almost certainly they will have to take place 'on-line' via Zoom. In preparation for these meetings, **we need to give notice of revising the Electoral Roll** in early October to reflect any changes in the last few months. If you would like to apply to join the Electoral Roll, please contact Bernice (866630 or [towncentreparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:towncentreparishoffice@gmail.com)). The deadline for applications to be received is 5pm on Sunday 4th October.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is the meeting at which the Churchwardens are elected. Both Dan Watts and Wendy Whitfield have now served the maximum time allowed, so we will be electing two new Churchwardens. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is an opportunity to review the last year (in this case, the last 18 months!), to receive a number of reports, to elect members of the Parochial Church Council (the PCC), and to raise questions for consideration by the PCC in the coming months.

If you would like to attend the Annual Church Meetings, but are unable to access Zoom, please let Bernice know as soon as possible. It may be possible to link you up with someone who can help.

### SAFEGUARDING ANNOUNCEMENT

*All churches in the Diocese of Chelmsford have been asked to publish this message...*

**Past Cases Review 2 Update.** Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) is a review into the handling of safeguarding cases across the Church of England. The review was commissioned following a 2018 report that revealed many shortcomings both in the process and final outcome of the original Past Cases Review that had been commissioned in 2007.

In every diocese across the country, independent reviewers will be looking at every safeguarding case file as well as the files relating to church officers, both lay and ordained, past and present. Parishes have also been asked to check that all their safeguarding cases have been correctly reported to their diocesan team and to notify them of any cases that haven't been reported.

**Listening to Survivors.** A key focus of PCR2 is listening to survivors. Individuals who wish to make representations to the PCR2 process, who need to come forward with information or to make any safeguarding disclosures regarding church-related abuse are encouraged to make direct contact with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at [safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org) or to visit [chelmsford.anglican.org/pcr2](http://chelmsford.anglican.org/pcr2) for further information. However, recognising that this may not feel safe for those with a lived experience of abuse from within the Church, a dedicated telephone helpline (0800 80 20 20) operated independently from the Church by the NSPCC, has been set up.

*Meanwhile, a reminder that any concerns about safeguarding can also be raised with:*

- our Parish Safeguarding Representative, Mrs Anne Kavanagh (07544 391882 or [gannanne@gmail.com](mailto:gannanne@gmail.com)), or
- the Vicar, Revd Mark Wallace (07772 615378 or [towncentrevicar@gmail.com](mailto:towncentrevicar@gmail.com)).

### FUND-RAISING FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT

The Redevelopment Committee received the good news this week that St Peter's has been awarded £10,000 from the Friends of Essex Churches Trust towards the work on the building.

Thank you also to all who sponsored Matt, Peter and James Wallace on their bike ride last month — they raised £1,562.

## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- The Vicar deeply regrets that the new lockdown restrictions mean that it is no longer viable to welcome people back to the Vicarage garden after the Sunday service. If the situation changes, we will let you know as soon as possible.
- The weekly Church Prayer Meetings continue on Wednesday evenings at 8pm, via WhatsApp.
- As well as 'in-church' and 'on-line' opportunities, we are exploring 'at-home' possibilities. It looks increasingly likely that the restrictions will be with us through the winter, and we are looking to find ways for people to gather — safely and legally! — through the colder months. Watch this space!
- Practical help is still being co-ordinated by Bernice Watts and Morvern Cox, who can be contacted by email on [stpeterspracticalhelp@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterspracticalhelp@gmail.com) or by telephone on 01206 866630.
- Anne and Mick Kavanagh are taking part in a cycling challenge throughout September, covering 300 miles to raise funds for *Cancer Research UK*. They have been motivated by Mick's recent experience of cancer and excellent NHS care, the importance of exercise to recuperation, and the treatment and care being offered to friends. They are keen to point out that all sponsorship money will go to CRUK, but that they do not wish to deviate any potential funds from the *St Peter's Project*. If you would like to know more, follow their progress, and/or make a donation, please visit: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/anne-mick>, or feel free to contact Anne and Mick directly (07544391882; [mick.jademaide@gmail.com](mailto:mick.jademaide@gmail.com)). Prayers for good weather and a following wind also appreciated!

## READINGS, A THOUGHT, AND A PRAYER FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

*Lectionary readings:* Jonah 3.10-4.11; Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16

*Something to think about:* Our readings this week reveal how God's kingdom of grace prompts different responses, even amongst God's servants. The Gospel reading and the Old Testament reading both, sadly, illustrate the ugly sin of envy. God is compassionate and gracious, but sadly Jonah is not: the prophet is offended that God relents from judgment when the people of Nineveh repent, and while his concern should have been for this great city of thousands of souls, he just feels hard done by. The parable in Matthew 20 has a similar note: instead of being glad that there is employment for all, many of the workers are angry at such generosity. Like Jonah, they didn't like grace being given to those they considered undeserving! By contrast, in Philippians, we have Paul. He too wrestles with themes of fruitful labour and his reward, but for him the all-important thing is that although he longs to be with Christ, he is willing to delay this joy for the good of others. How different to the attitude of Jonah?! What a contrast to the attitude of the workers in the parable?! So let us pause and reflect: how do we respond when God is gracious to those we feel do not deserve such generosity? are we ever angry with God because he doesn't act the way we want him to? what attitudes might we need to confess and repent of? how might we be more like Paul, living a life worthy of the gospel of grace?

*The Collect:* God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE CHURCH DIARY

**Sunday 20th September** [the 15th Sunday after Trinity]

- 10:00am — **Church Family Worship Online** (available on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#))
- 10:00am — **Morning Service in Church** (booking essential, see above)

**Wednesday 23rd September**

- 8:00pm — **Church Prayer Meeting** (via the *St Peter's Church* WhatsApp group)

**Sunday 27th September** [the 16th Sunday after Trinity]

- 10:00am — **Church Family Worship Online** (available on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#))
- 10:00am — **Morning Service in Church** (booking essential, see above)