

St Nicholas, Chislehurst

Weekly News



16th October 2020

Please remember the environment before you print this Newsletter. If you do print, it is best printed as a booklet.

The order of service will be emailed out and put on the website so that it can be printed at home or viewed in church on tablets or smart phones. For those without internet access a small number of orders of service will be printed out and left at the entrance, and then taken home by worshippers.

CHURCH DIARY

Sun 18th 0930 Parish Eucharist (Common Worship) in church and livestreamed.

Celebrant: Rev'd Harriet Johnson. Sermon: Mr Peter Ridge. Peter's sermon is at the end of this Newsletter.

1500 – 1700 Open for Private Prayer

Wed 21st 1200 – 1400 Open for Private Prayer

Sun 25th 0930 – Parish Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer) in church and livestreamed: Rev'd Harriet Johnson.

Organ music for October 18th

Before Service:

Hymn tune : *Gopsal* ("Rejoice, the Lord is King") – Handel

Adagio – Frank Bridge

After the Peace:

Largo (in the style of Handel) – William Wolstenholme

During the Administration;

Hymne, op.58 – Marcel Dupré

Concluding Voluntary:

Celebratio – Karl Jenkins

OUR BROADCASTS These will all be on our Facebook video page:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/stnicholaschislehurst/videos/?ref=page_internal

We are sorry that the Live Stream of last Sunday's service didn't work. It worked to start with and then the gremlins took over.

Our Sunday morning service will have to be pre-booked. Worshippers can book their tickets by calling the church office between 0900 and 1300 Monday to Friday on **07547 798266**. You will then be given a seat number. Please understand that we may not be able to accommodate people who have not booked a place. If you get a voicemail message, when calling the above number, please leave your name and contact phone number and we will call you back to confirm your seat allocation.

When arriving and leaving church, please do remember the “Rule of 6” and avoid “mingling”.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend the church due to the risk that they pose to others.

If you test positive for Covid-19 within 7 days of attending church, please let us know immediately.

WORSHIP AT ST NICHOLAS: London has now moved into “High” tier of Covid-19 Lockdown Rules. We understand that Places of Worship can remain open at all Tiers.

This recognises the important role churches continue to play in serving their communities and providing vital comfort and support to people amid very difficult times.

However, we fully appreciate the scale of the threat from COVID-19 and recognise the vigilance we will need to continue to practice in order to minimise the possibility of spread of the virus.

Face Coverings are now required at St Nicholas, as with all places of worship, unless you are “Mask Exempt”. Please come prepared, but masks will be available in church if you have forgotten yours.

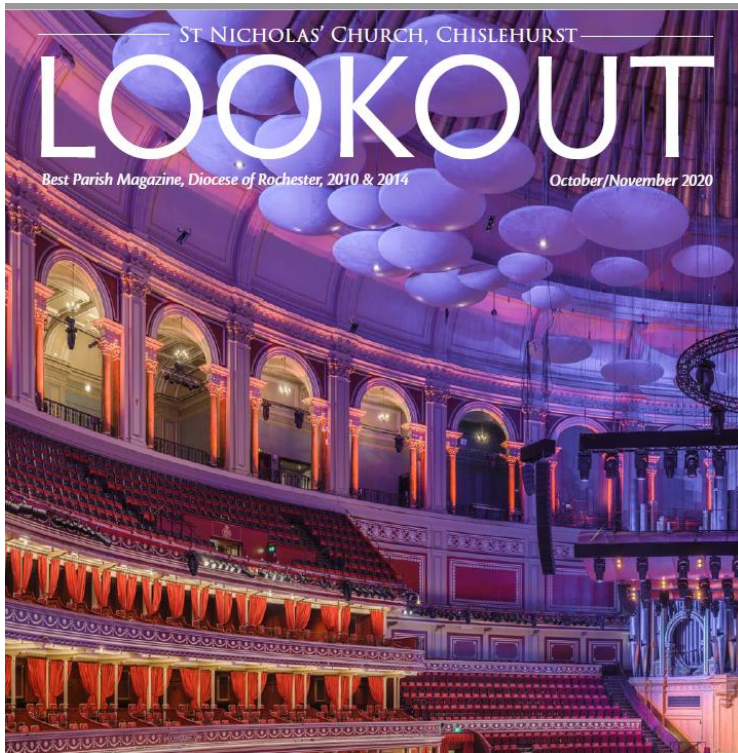
In these difficult times those at extra risk and the ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ should be aware of the risks of attending public worship.

RECTOR FOR ST. NICHOLAS Last week, we told you that interviews were scheduled for Tuesday. So far, no appointment has been made. We will keep you informed.

WEDDING WITH 15 With all that is going on it was wonderful to see Becky and Tom married last Saturday, with only 15 people allowed in.



The service was very intimate and moving. Our congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple!



LOOKOUT Our Parish Magazine is now available to read or download on our website: <https://stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk/lookout/>

As usual packed with interesting articles.

We are still looking for a new editor, or small group who are interested in forming an editorial team. If you think you can assist, please contact the churchwardens.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE Following the closure of the Chislehurst branch of the Royal British Legion it has fallen to St Nicholas church to organise Chislehurst's Act of Remembrance. Last year over 1,000 people attended the Act of Remembrance on the Common near the Falklands War memorial tree. As you know it is not possible for large gatherings to take place at the moment. With regret, therefore, there will be no collective Act of Remembrance outdoors on Remembrance Sunday but we will stream a short service from a closed church with no congregation at 10.50 as we remember all those from Chislehurst who have fallen in wars.



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED Our annual service to remember those who had passed to fuller life has recently been held in the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday. Given current circumstances we have decided to move this service back to the former position of sometime in the spring. Further details will be given in due course.

FREE HOME LIBRARY SERVICE If you can't get to the library, the library can come to you. This includes books, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs. Further information is on the next page. Call 07464 524846 or visit <https://www.better.org.uk/library/bromley>

BROMLEY HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

FREE SERVICE



For anyone who cannot visit their local library - the library can come to you. You can receive regular visits with selected items according to your tastes, which can include:

- Hardback, paperback and large print books
- Audio books
- Books in different languages
- DVDs
- Music CDs
- Any information you need

For more information, please speak to a member of staff at your local library, ring 07464 524846 or visit Better.org.uk/library/bromley

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CHILDREN IN DISTRESS ANNUAL SERVICE

One of our supported charities, **Children in Distress/Copii in Dificultate** celebrates its 31st anniversary with a worship service that will be available online on 17 October, including a section with Rev'd June recorded in our church.

“We will give thanks to God for our supporters and staff and celebrate 31 years of ministry to children and young adults with extreme challenges. We hope you will join us to celebrate and give thanks.” The service is at **8am tomorrow** on their website: <https://www.childrenindistress.org/>



SCHOOL ADMISSION FORMS Supplementary forms for admission to St Nicholas primary and Bishop Justus secondary schools required the signature of the Rector. In the absence of a Rector, forms will be signed by Sarah Cordwell as the Bishop's Representative and chair of the PCC. We will give details of the process for submission of forms for signature in due course.

WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS:

All those in key jobs who are keeping us safe.

And: Angela Anderson, Yvonne Auld, Isabelle Burman, Valerie Burn, Betty Court, Brigitte Davies, Carol Dixon, Eugenia Footman, Michelle Fribbens, Maureen Fricker, Joanna Friel, Gillian Harris, Elizabeth Heath, Max Lardner, Ken Lye, Eric Mountford, The Mouzouri family, Denise Payne, Jeanne Pearce, Judy Peebles, Maria Petrovan, Penny Pinto, Brenda Pocha, Ruth Radley, Peter Rawlins, Rachel Saxby, Lucy Shelford, Tim Shields, Joe Stashko, Pat Taylor, Anne-Louise Whittaker.

Those who have died: Gordon Brown, Rita Shaw and Joan Wells.

If you know of anyone who should be receiving these emails but isn't getting them, please do let us know – or get them to contact us.

If you have anything for inclusion in our weekly newsletter, please send it to stnickschislehurst@icloud.com

SEVENTY ARE SENT OUT

Written sermon to accompany the 9.30am streamed Common Worship on 18th October 2020

Luke 10: 1-9 (and 10-20 also refer)

Prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen



Introduction

- When I was a keen young Christian contemplating my future career on leaving school, I prayed earnestly that God should not want me to 'be a vicar'. I joke that this was one prayer of mine when God smiled at my presumption. He already had other plans.
- When preparing this sermon, I was reminded that Jesus didn't just have 12 disciples; he had many in the crowds that followed him as well.
- Not only did Jesus send out the 12 disciples to do his work (Luke 9) but in today's Gospel we read that he appointed 70 **others** and sent them on ahead of him to prepare the towns he would soon visit.

Twelve Disciples

- Luke says that Jesus gave the **Twelve** who he had chosen power and authority for their task over demons and sickness.
- He was training them for their future roles for him. In today's they would be, bishops, ordained ministers, theologians. They still had lots to learn, which you will see if you read the whole of Luke's chapter 9.
- They would become the leaders of the Christian movement after the resurrection and would take Christ's message to faraway places.

Seventy others

- Seventy is about the same size as an average congregation. Imagine if we at St Nicholas were those 70 **others**. What would be the special task that God is asking you and me to do for him?

- We are not told specifically if the Seventy were given special powers; but we know that Jesus appointed them for the role they were to play. That is to say he selected them individually, knowing their gifts and the competency of each one.
- They were sent to prepare the townsfolk to advertise that Jesus was going to visit. Are our lives an advertisement for Jesus?

Inescapable facts from the gospel

- God needs helpers – that is the way he has set up the world
- He calls us, He puts ideas into our heads, He shows up opportunities to help others through the media, within the breadth of our family and friends at our work or leisure activity; sometimes it is an imperative message: Just Go, Just Do, Just speak
- He works through his followers – each of us must work out what that means for us. But we are not alone; other church friends are here to talk to, to listen to our concerns
- Wilson Carlyle who established the Church Army in 1882 recruited ordinary folk (an army if you will) to preach the gospel
- Today, Church Army officers are recognised and acknowledged in Canon Law as lay workers, trained to be evangelists, but working in difficult areas; places of poverty, run down estates, specialist areas like prisons and hostels, places where people have lost hope

Serving Christ day by day

- Be in the open about our faith not hiding in the shadows
- Serving Christ can be costly in many ways: time money emotion
- The work must not be done for glory or pride or reward or riches
- There is indeed a rich reward of joy in seeing lives changed for the better; but not riches you can spend
- Let us be active in bringing peace not conflict

Jesus is glad when the seventy return rejoicing (Luke 10: 17-18)

- Jesus' response was to say: **"I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning"**.
- This seems to be a vision of the final conquest of Satan. It does not mean that the battle with evil is over in our time: far from it. It is also a warning to preachers and all God's workers against pride and over confidence
- It is also true that where God's light shines through the work of the seventy, there can be peace and joy and recovery for people in distress.

How can I play my part?

- Jesus sends out 70 disciples in pairs to announce his coming, to prepare the way for him **so let us encourage one another**
- Daily we pray, "Thy Kingdom come"; that is not just a wish but should be a personal commitment to take our part in God's mission
- Seek to support the clergy and the mission agencies who do God's work
- Be humble and joyful day by day
- Get active with a charity. Respond if you see a request for help
- Commit not to offer to God offerings that cost me nothing

Mine are the hands to do the work, my feet shall run for thee, my lips shall sound the glorious news, Lord here am I, send me

Amen