

## March 2021 Newsletter

### St. Matthew's, Renishaw and St Giles, Killamarsh

#### Coronavirus update.

Following the latest Government information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and after consultation with members of the PCCs of both churches, the decision has been made to reopen St. Giles and St. Matthew's for public worship on 1<sup>st</sup> April. We shall be open for our Easter weekend services. It is expected that those attending services will still have to follow the current rules and restrictions with regard to hand sanitising, social distancing and the wearing of masks. Easter services as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
01/04/21	Maundy Thursday 4 pm	Holy Communion	St. Matthew's
01/04/21	Maundy Thursday 7 pm	Holy Communion	St. Giles
02/04/21	Good Friday 2 pm	Hour at the Cross	St Matthew's
02/04/21	Good Friday 7 pm	Good Friday Liturgy	St. Giles
03/04/21	Holy Saturday 7 pm	Easter Eve Service	St. Matthew's
04/04/21	Easter Sunday 10 am	Holy Communion	St. Matthew's
04/04/21	Easter Sunday 10 am	Holy Communion	St. Giles

It was just over a year ago that the WHO discussed the coronavirus that was starting to spread around the world. None of us could have foreseen the devastating effect on our world, with over 80 million people infected and nearly 2 million deaths. How has the pandemic challenged our faith over the last year?

Firstly, it has forced us to face up to the **reality of our situation**. We cannot underestimate the health, social and economic effects of the virus on our lives, churches and communities. We have learned how to do church online, but the future shape of church life is uncertain! As the

apostle Paul writes: *'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus'* (2 Cor 4:8-10). The pandemic has challenged so much of what we take for granted, but also demonstrated that God is alongside to help us in these circumstances.

Secondly, alongside the fear and uncertainty of this year, we have also learned to find ***new faith and hope in Jesus***. The experience of Jesus' death and His resurrection provides a pattern for us in facing the future: *'so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.'* (2 Cor 4:10-12).

During the season of Lent, it's good to focus on the promise of sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we consider our present struggles, are we ready to surrender them afresh to Jesus? *Parish Pump*

**Loneliness.** Since the pandemic first stuck just over a year ago the number of people suffering as a result of loneliness has increased considerably. This article from Parish Pump makes some suggestions as to how we might help.

The public have been urged to write letters to their lonely neighbours, as the Government has announced a £7.5million cash injection for community-boosting activities.

It is hoped that people will "reach out virtually and help combat loneliness", says Robert Jenrick, the Communities Secretary. This could be done either by "picking up the phone or writing a letter."

He urges, "Let's all do what we can to connect with our older neighbours, in a Covid-secure way, so they feel less alone and know how valuable they are to their communities at this time."

The charity Age UK has said it reckons there to be about 1.4million older people in England who are "chronically lonely." *Parish Pump*

### **Stress and how to cope with it.**

With the third lockdown, too many of us are facing a torrent of stress over job insecurity, home schooling, isolation, illness, or all of the above!

Stress makes us want to eat badly, exercise less and drink more. It also has a profound effect on our immune system.

While brief or 'acute' stress can spur us on to some specific achievement, the opposite is true of 'chronic' stress, which does only damage. It suppresses our immune system, making us more susceptible to bugs. That is why a stressful event can leave you feeling run down, or trigger a bad cold, shingles, or asthma.

So how do we give our immune systems some help during this crisis?

Eat well. A balanced diet includes at least all six plant-based food groups: fruit, vegetables, wholegrains, legume, nuts and seeds.

Exercise every day: regular moderate exercise helps your immune system.

Get enough sleep. It has been called "the foundation of the immune system." Avoid caffeine in the afternoon and keep devices, laptops or screens away from you for an hour before bedtime. Instead, stretch and relax, and consider a hot shower or bath.

Finally, don't be mean to yourself. Practise some self-compassion. Give yourself some private time, forget perfectionism, and accept that 'sometimes half-good is good enough.' Be kind to yourself – because even that will help your immune system. *Parish Pump*

### **Where do we go from here?**

With the announcement by Boris Johnson on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 of the roadmap to help us to carefully emerge out of lockdown how are you feeling? Fearful, apprehensive, joyous, scared, relieved, hopeful? I'm sure that there will be a plethora of emotions that we are experiencing at this moment in time. We have all played our part in staying at home and protecting the NHS. We have clapped on Thursday evenings, we have shared in the life and magnificent fundraising effort of Captain Tom, many of us have been heavily reliant on others for food and medicine deliveries, we have had our two churches closed for communal worship and we have been unable to socialise with family and friends. This pandemic has certainly taken its toll emotionally, spiritually, physically, socially, mentally and communally.

We can't escape Covid 19. We will all have to live with this for years to come. No-one is exempt. Thankfully the miracle of research to find effective vaccines has resulted in a protective shield being offered whilst still always hands-space-face. The new emerging variants can

apparently be easily managed by laboratory scientists tweaking the vaccines. Truly amazing indeed!!!

As our church services hopefully resume from April 1<sup>st</sup> the question we need to ask is what are we coming back to? There will be a strong need for postponed baptisms and weddings to occur. Funerals will continue on the basis of need. But what of our churches- the worshipping community? No doubt for some people to come back to church will be a big ask, for others there will be enthusiasm as we can come together and worship our Triune God once more. For some the isolation of being alone at home will have been very costly and to re-emerge once again can be fearful and daunting indeed.

As I reflect during this Lenten time I'm sure that we have all felt that we have been in the pandemic wilderness struggling with all the temptations that can so easily assail us. The Devil is insidious and will find any chink, any crack, any excuse to turn us away from the truth and worship of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It is SO EASY to say Yes to the Devil and so the excuses which blight our personal relationship with almighty God become a mantra. I'm too old, too busy, I don't have time, my priorities have changed..... the excuses become endless and worthless. The Devil rubs his hands with glee! He is perceived to have won. Or has he?

Almighty God continues to be our constant whilst we journey through this earthly life. Almighty God is our rock, our fortress, our very foundation. He alone is the keeper and lover of our precious soul. In him we live and breathe and have our being. Almighty God loves each one of us for who we are this day regardless of the baggage so many of us carry.

Spring is literally just around the corner which is evidenced by the emergence of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils. New life emerging from the darkness of the soil. We too are slowly emerging from the darkness of the pandemic into new life. Let each one of us not waste this God given opportunity to renew afresh our connection with our church communities, to come together in faith, hope and love.

May almighty God continue to bless your Lenten journey. Revd Helen

### **Website**

Please look on our website [www.StGiles-Killamarsh.org](http://www.StGiles-Killamarsh.org) to see wonderful photographs taken of spring flowers by different members of our worshipping community.

## Father Georges: News from Madagascar.

Dear Reverend Canon Helen and Fr Michael  
All our friends at St Gile's church Killamarsh.  
All our friends at St Matthew's church Renishaw.

Saturday the 13rd of February 2021, we lead our Congregation to plant more thousands Pine trees. We explain to them the good facts of planting lot of trees in front of the climate change and of the difficulties of our daily life 's need. We are made wise not by Recollection of our past but by the Responsibility for our future ! Seeing the number of the friends working honestly together and their behaviour in friendship, Some ideas happened in my mind and may I share some with you :  
**“ The most I can do for my friends is simply be their friends and the best time I make them friends is before I need them .” “ If I go looking for a friend, I am going to find they are very scarce, if I go out to be a friend, I will find them everywhere.”** So, thanks be to God. **“ Friendship is obviously the only cement that will ever hold the world together (... unified)“** I am very sorry,my people have received small from me but I have learnt a lot from them ! “ I believe that we can soon become self-sufficient, at least we are on the way to be so...Beside ,we are never tired to repeat that you are always a **great Inspiration** for all us both for your Love and your contribution to increase our several projects .May we declare :

**“Let us be grateful to you all who make us happy; you are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”** I just remember one quotation : **“A single rose can be my garden...a single friend my world “ (Leo Burcaglia).**

Even there is a long distance between our Countries ,you are our true friends because you understand our past, you believe in our future and you accept us just the way we are.

To close, we believe that great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave. **“I would rather walk a friend in the dark than alone in the light “ (Helen Keller)**

Those are some update photos about this day: **(NO COMMENT )**

Our target is still: **Start where we are, Use what we have and Do what we can**



**We have also received this lovely email from Father Georges and Eveline.**

Dear Reverend Canon Helen and Fr Michael

Good evening .

It is very nice to hear from you. The time is flown very quick and God is always with all us.

Thank you very much for your message. It gives us great encouragement to continue our task.

with you all..... Yourselves and your people are a lovely one because since long time ago you have been built a strong bridge for our two countries and in 2008 you have given us a privilege to come and meet you all. *It is an amazing miracle, isn't it?*

*We all are very rich because God gives us Faith and Wisdom. He lets us demonstrate all that in our friendship and in our work !*

*We wish you health and success in your Ministry ,soon we will enter in Lent.*

*We will write again very soon.*

*Regards.*

*Fr Georges and Eveline*

*All the Congregation.*

*PS :Corona virus is still strong in Madagascar.  
are also afraid of entering in a second lockdown!*

## **Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 22 February – 7 March**

Both our churches support Fairtrade. In Fairtrade Fortnight 2021, we will highlight the growing challenges that climate change brings to farmers and workers in the communities Fairtrade works with. The facts are straightforward. Farmers and workers in the global south, who have done the least to contribute to climate change, are disproportionately affected. They have told us that:

- Climate change is one of their biggest challenges right now.
- Low prices for their crops mean that they are struggling to fight back.
- With more money through Fairtrade they feel more equipped to meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges posed by climate change.

The climate crisis is an immediate and ever-increasing threat and those in climate vulnerable countries are already seeing its impacts from droughts and crop disease to floods, heatwaves and shrinking harvests. With the emergence of the global COVID pandemic, the challenges that farmers face now are bigger than ever before with falling commodity prices and widespread shocks reverberating along our global supply chains. Ongoing poverty in farming communities makes it increasingly hard to cope with the effects of climate change. *From Fairtrade Advertising campaign.2021.*



## **Mothering Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world.

The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

*Parish Pump*

## **St Giles Church Hall**

St Giles Church Hall has been closed since December 2020 consequently our income has been seriously depleted. At the moment we are working with the latest Government advice of being able to re-open from 12<sup>th</sup> April with Covid-19 compliance still in place. In order to facilitate re-opening we have purchased 50 Eco plastic chairs which can be easily wiped down with anti bacterial wipes/spray after every session. The cost of the chairs has been £611-40p of which a grant from Diane Charles Community Leadership Scheme for £300-00 has covered half of the cost and we are very thankful to Diane for her continuing support as we strive to serve the Killamarsh Community the best way that we can.

## **A Big Thank you**

I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to those wonderful people at both St Giles and St Matthew's who have posted or brought their weekly envelopes with cheques or cash to the Rectory during the lockdown. As you know even though both churches remain closed fuel, insurance and other monthly bills still have to be paid for. Thanks also to those at St Giles who contribute monthly through the Parish Giving Scheme. Your continued generosity and thoughtfulness are both very much appreciated. Revd Helen

## **Killamarsh Conservation Group**

Members of Killamarsh Conservation Group have been busy in St Giles Churchyard this week. The bird boxes were inspected, cleaned and re-installed. Pictures of their work can be seen on Facebook -Eva's post on Killamarsh Voice.

I would like to say a big THANK-YOU to the members of the Killamarsh Conservation Group for their continuing hard work and dedication in supporting St Giles Churchyard. Revd Helen

Editor: Revd. Michael

Below find a summary of the latest government Roadmap to exiting the current lockdown in table format. This is from section 3 of COVID-19\_Response\_\_Spring\_2021 downloaded from [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**STEP 1**  
8 March

29 March

**STEP 2**  
No earlier than 12 April

At least 5 weeks after Step 1

 **EDUCATION**

**8 MARCH**

- Schools and colleges open for all students
- Practical Higher Education courses

 **EDUCATION**

- As previous step

 **SOCIAL CONTACT**

**8 MARCH**

- Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person
- Household only indoors

**29 MARCH**

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors

 **SOCIAL CONTACT**

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors

 **BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES**

**8 MARCH**

- Wraparound care, including sport, for all children

**29 MARCH**

- Organised outdoor sport (children and adults)
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities
- All outdoor children's activities
- Outdoor parent & child group (up to 15 parents)

 **BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES**

- All retail
- Personal care
- Libraries & community centres
- Most outdoor attractions
- Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only)
- Self-contained accommodation
- All children's activities
- Outdoor hospitality
- Indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents)

 **TRAVEL**

**8 MARCH**

- Stay at home
- No holidays

**29 MARCH**

- Minimise travel
- No holidays

 **TRAVEL**

- Domestic overnight stays (household only)
- No international holidays

 **EVENTS**

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings and wakes (6)

 **EVENTS**

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings, wakes, receptions (15)
- Event pilots

### STEP 3

No earlier than 17 May

At least 5 weeks after Step 2



#### EDUCATION

- As previous step



#### SOCIAL CONTACT

- Maximum 30 people outdoors
- Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review)



#### BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- Indoor hospitality
- Indoor entertainment and attractions
- Organised indoor sport (adult)
- Remaining accommodation
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)



#### TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel (subject to review)



#### EVENTS

- Most significant life events (30)
- Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%
- Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%
- Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%

### STEP 4

No earlier than 21 June

At least 5 weeks after Step 3

All subject to review



#### EDUCATION

- As previous step



#### SOCIAL CONTACT

- No legal limit



#### BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- Remaining businesses, including nightclubs



#### TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel



#### EVENTS

- No legal limit on life events
- Larger events

