

August Newsletter 2020

'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.' (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The 60s hit *'Turn! Turn! Turn!'* by the Byrds is based on verses in this chapter: *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.'* The different seasons of life are not random, for God is in control and His timing is perfect: *'He has made everything beautiful in its time.'*

The verse goes on to say that God *'has also set eternity in the human heart.'* This means that we all have an in-built sense that there's more to life than what we can see, as we search for meaning in life. However, we can fill our lives with other things: career, pleasure, shopping and relationships. While good in themselves, these things can never ultimately satisfy. It is only a relationship with God through Jesus that truly satisfies. How does this challenge us?

Firstly, we are to live for God in all that we do, knowing that it all counts for eternity. This includes helping others find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ for eternity.

Secondly, we accept that there is lots in the current *'season'* where it's difficult to know what God is doing: *'no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.'* However, we do know that everything has consequences for eternity.

Finally, how can we be more aware of eternity every day? Spending time with God in worship and prayer will bring us the true pleasure that belongs to eternity.

'You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.' (St Augustine). Parish Pump

Coronavirus update

I am sure that all our hearts are gladdened by the thought of being able to attend services in church once again from the 16th August. Though the services will be quite different to what we are used to, we hope that it will nevertheless prove to be a spiritually uplifting experience.

Some information on what to expect.

On entering church you will be required to use the sanitizer provided or to use your own if preferred. You will be asked to sign in entering your name, consent, post code and contact numbers on the form provided, this is for track and trace purposes (see below). You will always be asked to observe social distancing keeping at least 2m apart. Members of the same household will of course be able to sit together. Pews have been marked to help indicate where you may sit a safe distance from others. Face coverings are now to be worn in church (see CofE guidelines printed below). If you forget your face covering or you have not got one disposable masks will be available at the back of church. A reduced service sheet will be provided which you will be asked to take away with you to avoid cross contamination. A new service sheet will be provided each week. During the service there will be no singing though some music may be played. When it becomes time to take Holy Communion at **St. Matthew's** you will be asked to approach the chancel step one at a time, receive communion in one kind only whilst you remain standing and then return to your seat. The next person will then go forward and so on until all have received. At **St. Giles** you will be asked to approach the chancel step, keeping 2m apart, and receive communion as above and then return to your seat via the indicated route. At the end of the service you are asked to leave by the marked route, once again using the sanitizer provided. Sadly no refreshments are allowed following the service. There will be no collection taken during the service so you are asked to place your donation on the plate provided.

Updated protocols when coming to church

Numbers allowed in church

Due to current government regulations and the requirements of social distancing we are limited to the number of people allowed in church at any one time. St. Giles 30, St. Matthew's 20

Track and Trace

We have been asked to collect information regarding attendees at Private Individual Prayer sessions and also with any service of public worship. The information is collected so that if anyone does have Coronavirus we can then notify those who were at church that day of the potential risk so that they can be tested. Each sheet is kept for 21days then destroyed. You will find these sheets at the entrance to the church building . Thank you so much your understanding regarding this very important matter for the safety of us all.

New guidance on face coverings

In light of the change in government advice, the CofE has issued new guidance on the use of face coverings. This guidance is to help ministers and their congregations to understand the current advice on wearing face coverings, and how this applies in churches.

The CofE strongly advises that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from Covid-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

Poetry corner

The Lockdown Lifts

There's life in the town!
No longer 'locked down'!
The people stroll out in the sun
The majestic trees
Sway in the light breeze
Like they wanted to join in the fun!

Like light after dark!
We can walk in the park!
Buy our tea, and sit out on the grass!
We can chat to our friends
As our loneliness ends
And we smile at the strangers we pass!

Yes there are still queues
Which cease to amuse
But things are no longer so black!
As they sing in that song –
You miss what is gone,
But it's great when at last it comes back!

By Nigel Beeton Parish Pump

Someone

Someone is missing

Someone has gone

Someone has left us to carry on

Someone who was loving

Someone who was caring

Someone whose life for a while we were sharing

Someone we will remember our whole life through

Someone who was Special

That Someone was you.

Written by Ann Ward

New Envelopes for 2020/2021 have arrived

First of all may I thank each and every one of you who support St Matthew's, Renishaw or St Giles, Killamarsh through your weekly/monthly monetary contribution. Each donation is very much appreciated and never simply taken for granted. The new envelopes for September are now available. For further information please contact either Revd Helen or Revd Michael on 0114-2482769

Parish Giving Scheme at St Giles.

If you wish to donate to St Giles Church there is the additional facility of offering your donation through this scheme via Direct Debit. Funds go straight into St Giles Church current account on a monthly basis. If you are able to Gift Aid then for every £1-00 you donate St Giles receives a further 25p. The application process has been made much simpler now, especially if you are not computer savvy. The telephone service is live and operates weekdays between 9am-5pm. Prospective donors can set up a regular gift to St Giles Church by calling the dedicated phone line **0333 002 1271**. The code for St Giles Church, Killamarsh is 1206 12068. If you require any further information then please contact Revd Helen on 0114-2482769

Father Georges 2020 Harvest Appeal

Following on from Father Georges recent newsletter I was particularly struck by the plight of Father Georges and his people during lockdown as he writes, 'the economic situation and the social life are both becoming very bad'. It is down to Father Georges' long term visionary strategy regarding various farming projects that we have supported over the years by successive yearly fundraising that continues to enable his community to be sustainable and viable. Father Georges has hope and zeal for the future.

Father Georges immediate work now is to produce eggs by breeding more egg-laying hens and produce more pork by breeding more pigs.

Rather than accumulating all money and then sending it off in October I have sent off current individual donations totalling £310-00 (the additional administrative fee was £34-50 for this first time transaction) to Father Georges on Friday 22nd July via the Nat West Bank .

Father Georges Harvest Appeal will continue throughout August, September and up to our Harvest Services. There is a clearly marked yellow bucket for Father Georges in both churches. Alternatively, please send your donation to The Rectory, Sheepcote Road, Killamarsh S21 1DU in an envelope clearly marked Father Georges 2020 Harvest Appeal.

Thank you for your generosity which will continue to make a real difference to their lives and their well being in Madagascar.

Revd Helen.

Children's work At the moment children's work has temporarily ceased during a Sunday morning act of worship due to the Coronavirus restrictions therefore we do ask that all children remain in their 'family bubble'. Thank you.

Bible Focus

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Hebrews 12:1

Reflection

Who would have imagined just six months ago what was about to happen to the world in which we live? Who could have predicted the tragic effect that the Coronavirus would have on human life? Who could have foreseen the devastating consequences of the virus on the economy? I should imagine no one!

Yet here we are six months later living in a world beset by both of the above and the world is somehow a very different place. It is in some ways a kinder more grateful world that we now live in. The selfishness which once prevailed at the beginning of the pandemic, demonstrated by panic buying and the empty shelves in our supermarkets, has been replaced by a multitude of acts of loving kindness. The health care workers once taken for granted have been afforded a new and sincere respect. Life, itself, has taken on a new value, a new immediacy.

God alone knows what lies in store for each of us as we continue to struggle through this difficult and most uncertain of times. Ever reminding us that it is He alone who can bring light out of darkness and joy out of grief. Our part is to trust in him and "run with perseverance the race marked out for us"

Revd Michael.

You can also keep in touch via our website, a Church Near You, Facebook or the Rectory phone: 01142482769