



The South West Ipswich Team Ministry

The Church of England in South West Ipswich

Trinity 11 – 23rd August 2020

Collect

God of glory, the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Post Communion

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## Readings

### *Exodus 1.8 - 2.10; The Israelites Are Oppressed*

A new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

### *Birth and Youth of Moses*

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

*Romans 12. 1 – 8; The New Life in Christ*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

By the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body

in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

*Matthew 16. 13 – 20; Peter’s Declaration about Jesus*

Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

*All*     **Alleluia**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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This week pray for the following roads in our parish.

Croft Street, Crowland Close, Curlew Road, Curtis Close, Daffodil Close
and Dashwood Close

We remember those who have recently died.

Trevor Rose, Daphne Green, Joan Smith

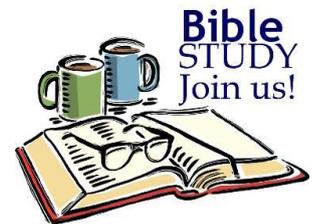
We remember those whose anniversary of death fall during this week

Arnold Stiff (28th August)

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**Bible Study Online**

We have started a 'Zoom' Bible Study looking at the previous weeks Gospel in more detail than can be contained in a sermon. All are welcome to join, if you don't yet receive e-mail updates from Merv ([revmerv@switmparish.org.uk](mailto:revmerv@switmparish.org.uk)) please ask him to add you to the list to receive instructions on how to join. This is a long-term plan that will continue after lockdown has been eased.



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Church Reopen for Private Prayer

*****CHANGES TO TIMES*****

From Monday 24th August we are changing the times that St Mary at Stoke will be open for individual prayer to:

Saturdays 10 am – 12 pm

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**Update on returning to in person worship is on the back page.**

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Greenbelt 2020



Festival passes

Will go on sale from **Monday 3 August** at just £10 for the weekend (think of them as your digital wristband for the weekend). You're very welcome to invite people round – distantly social of course – to share the one pass (one wristband to rule them all). In fact, we'd love it if you're able to experience the weekend with as many people as you're safely able to be with. If you were one of those wonderful people able to donate your festival ticket back to us this year, then your pass will be – of course – on us.

We'll still be making Greenbelt as accessible as we can, so there will be concessions and the option to apply for free passes through our 'Open Festival' scheme. We'll bring you details of all this in early August. We don't want anyone to miss out.

So for now make sure you keep the Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August free, and we'll see you there. As soon as passes go on sale, we'll let you know.

**We might not all be in the same field, but we'll still
be somewhere to believe in.**

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Shop on AmazonSmile at  
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1171465-0>,  
and Amazon donates to The Parochial

Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Mary At Stoke With St Peter Stoke Park And St Francis With St Clare In Ipswich Suffolk, at no cost to you.

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Message from Cathy Gale

We now have a date and time for Mum's (Joan Smith) funeral, the 27th August at 12.00 at St Mary's at Stoke church in Ipswich, with a cortege leaving her former house (38 Holcombe Crescent IP2 9QL) at 11.30. She is being buried at the Greenwood site near Saxmundham at 2.30.

The church will try to record the service and if they do it will be on the following website: [South West Ipswich Team Ministry](#)

Places at the church are limited because of Covid restrictions but if you would like to come, please let me know by return email to galec2@sky.com. I am operating a booking system and will confirm your place. For the same reason there will not be a reception, but we will leave some small mementoes for everyone who comes to take away with them.

Otherwise you are welcome to see the cortege and video, or follow us to the burial site.

No flowers please, just donations to Christian Aid which can be sent to the funeral director, Michael Smy, 441 Bramford Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 5AU.

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## Funeral Details for Daphne Green

Daphne's funeral will take place in St. Mary at Stoke on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 12.30 pm followed by burial at the Millennium Cemetery. A reminder that due to COVID restrictions the funeral is not a public service and is by invitation only.

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FIND are currently in need of the following items in particular:

NAPPIES SIZE 6 AND 6+ - APPLES AND ORANGES

FRUIT SQUASH - PLAIN CRISPS - WEETABIX

JAM - LONG GRAIN RICE

If you are able to help please let Merv know and he will arrange collection or for you to drop them off. revmerv@switmparish.org.uk or 601750.

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## Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle Ride

Despite the restrictions in place due to COVID-19 this year's cycle ride is still set to take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September. If you would like to ride or stride then more information can be found by visiting: <https://shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/> or by talking to Katie @ St Peters, Sue @ St Francis or Kathy Frary at St Mary's.

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Update from Rev Rob...

In the fast moving world of releasing from a national lockdown we find circumstances, guidance and rules changing at a fast pace. You may have seen in the media a certain amount of confusion regarding the place of live music in churches. This is in part because of the announcement that venues are, from the 15th August, able to return to live performances. While church social media got itself very overexcited the reality of the guidance from the national church is that there is little change. While there has been some relaxation in certain circumstances the evidence is far from conclusive and there remains a real concern that COVID-19 is aerosol dispersed

Congregational singing is still very much ruled out, however in line with the advice regarding the performing arts it is now permissible for professional and non-professional singers and musicians to perform so long as they can meet the guidance. This sounds so very simple, but the reality is far from straight forward. For now I have taken the decision that we will refrain from live music in services. We will like all of our COVID recovery evaluations continue to review them in light of updated guidance and research.

From this weekend we will begin holding Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals at Saint Mary's. These remain restricted to a maximum of 30 attendees and will, like reopening St Peters for Sunday Worship, require a considerable amount of planning and work to make these life events possible.

I have been asked by several people about when we might return to in person worship in Saint Mary's and Saint Francis Churches. The simple answer at this point is I simply do not know. There are a range of factors that have to be considered, including the considerable costs associated with making our buildings safe and how they are safely managed. For the time being there is the opportunity to join in-person on a Sunday at St Peters at 9.30 am, this is a service that is open to everyone in the team (so long as you pre-book). Having held this for

two weeks we are operating at about 45% of our maximum capacity. The service lasts for approximately 45 minutes and those who have attended have found it to be a safe experience and have appreciated being back in church. One of those who attended on the 16th said, *'This morning I went to St Peters for the 9.30 am service. Very different yes, but I am glad I went and will continue to go as long as there is a chair for me. We could not sing of course and there could not be any participation from the congregation as far as readings, prayers etc are concerned. In fact, I thought Rob handled it well considering all the restrictions. (That sounds a bit patronising but you know what I mean.) It was wonderful to have communion.'*

Once we reach the capacity for the 9.30 am service on a Sunday we have plans to add additional services through the week so hopefully everyone who wishes to attend a service will be able to do so.

We have made a provisional decision to reopen our multi use community facilities from the 1st September for those groups who wish to return. It will come as no surprise to hear that this also requires a considerable amount of work and expense. We are in the process of gauging which of our regular external hirers prior to the 23rd March are in a position to restart; we recognise that the imposition of physical distancing may mean some groups are no longer viable.

I say external groups, because Church groups fall under a different set of rules and guidelines from the national church. At this point there is no certainty when any of these, especially children's groups, will be permitted to resume. This will, in part, be affected by the decisions over schools returning and the need to maintain physical distancing and how the bubbles are managed out of school.

It is fair to say that the only certainty at the moment is that we continue to live in uncertain times. None of us know what the short to medium term future will hold, but we will continue to do whatever we

can to keep everyone as safe as possible. None of the decisions that we have, and will no doubt have to make in the future are easy. Like the rest of the world we have little experience of living through and managing a pandemic and its impact on our ways of life. We will continue to provide updates as and when we can. In the mean-time we remember the injunction from the Apostle Paul in the letter to the Thessalonians, ¹⁷*pray without ceasing*, ¹⁸*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* While we remain separated as the body as Christ, we remain united in the one who calls us and who is faithful to us. We continue to pray with and for one another, for the needs of our community, nation and world.

Beirut Explosion Appeal



**British
RedCross**

Following the devastating explosion in the port in Beirut we are holding an appeal for donations to support the Lebanese Red Cross via the British Red Cross.

Cheques made payable to SWITM can be sent to the office or transfers directly into the bank marked 'BEIRUT'.

SWITM PCC, Account number **50036545**,
Sort code **08 – 92 – 50**

The death toll currently stands at 135 souls.

Over 5,000 have been injured

Over 300,000 have been made homeless,

to put it into context that is over
double the population of Ipswich!

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem covers Lebanon and I know they will be grateful for our support and solidarity.



Resuming in-person worship in South West Ipswich

We have now resumed in-person worship at St Peters Church at 9.30 am on a Sunday. The maximum number we can safely seat while maintaining physical distancing is 24 and we have now opened the process for applying for a seat(s). This can be done in 2 ways. Firstly by completing the Google Form by using the following link

<https://forms.gle/DHDWDtSHbsf6ZPAJ9> or secondly by leaving a message on the office answer machine 01473 603229 with

- ◆ Your Name
- ◆ Your Telephone Number
- ◆ The date you wish to attend
- ◆ The number of people in your household who wish to attend.

The deadline for leaving messages on the answer machine is 12 noon on Thursdays and 9 am on the Saturday for registration via the google form, we will confirm you place over the following 24 hours. Please do **NOT** attend without receiving confirmation as we expect demand to be greater than the number of places available, unfortunately anyone turning up without a place pre-booked will not be able to enter. We will increase our provision to meet demand, please be patient if you are not able to attend on the first week. We want to increase in a safe and manageable way.

In addition to the 24 members of the congregation we are also looking for volunteers to help with stewarding and working the IT (full training will be given), if you are able to help then please let Rob know 01473 901361 or revrob@switmparish.org.uk. Regrettably the current guidance is that only those below the age of 70 can be used for helping in this way at the moment.

We will continue to live stream the 9.30 am service as well as the 11 am worship via Zoom.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the complexities of being able to join together in person.