



## NEWSLETTER ❖ 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Dear friends

I am grateful to the Bishop for promptly approving our risk assessment for opening the church for private prayer. From Sunday 27 June it will be open each day at these times:

weekdays      4-6pm - *so as to avoid disrupting - and being disrupted by - the restoration work*

weekends        3-5pm

What might you expect if you come to the church? The changes that have taken place are not, of course, designed to ruin the spiritual experience of visiting the church for prayer and will likely be familiar for anyone who has visited their GP, the pharmacy or those shops that have been open so far. The most important measure remains social distancing: all those in the church building are asked to remain at least two metres apart (unless they are from the same household) and the rows of chairs have been cleared to aid free movement. A maximum of ten people in the church, not including one or two supervising, will help support that objective.

In order to gain permission to open the church, various other actions have also been agreed with the Bishop: sanitising hands on arrival and departure, avoiding touching surfaces with which others may come into contact, cleaning chairs and hassocks after use, cleaning the floor after each open session. In order to protect the space used for recorded services by my household, the Sacrament chapel gates will remain closed while the building is open; in view of this, the Blessed Sacrament will also be reserved on the high altar to provide the customary focus for prayer. You may notice that the high altar has temporarily been moved to its original - it is better lit in that position and also, once we are permitted to allow people to attend the Eucharist, the more spacious arrangement in the sanctuary will help the servers keep separate from each other and from me. My colleagues who need to use the altar the other way around know that it will be arranged for their safety once we are allowed to return to assisting each other in the usual ways.

As you can imagine, all this involves a great deal of work and I would like to thank in advance all those who are already volunteering to supervise the building during these sessions and assist with the cleaning regime.

If you are able to visit, you will notice that the renovation work has recommenced. It has been a busy week for Stuart Niven's team and I am grateful for the progress that has been made with their attention to opening jammed windows, repairing rusted frames, and priming and undercoating rainwater goods all around the site. The new grey paint for the external metalwork will start appearing soon; a sample seen this week indicates just how much the old grey had been bleached over the years, even though the chemical analysis of the two paints is identical.

As if there was not enough to keep us busy, our inestimable treasurer Ian Palfrey has been working with a new tenant for the corner site, 35 North Street. The premises are currently being upgraded to provide an office for a scientific research company from 1 August. Although this represents a further financial outlay, the delay in the restoration work on the church has aided cashflow a little enabling us to engage with a keen prospective tenant when the market was not advantageous.

With so many material concerns, how do we ensure we give sufficient attention to spiritual realities? This question has not been far from my mind when so often in recent months church authorities in

these islands have been so engrossed with the risks of COVID-19 to our *physical* wellbeing. While I am sure they have not deliberately sought to be the mouthpiece of secular authorities, a little more Christian distinctiveness might be reassuring. Glibly arguing that all the Lockdown procedures are just a manifestation of love for our neighbour may suggest a new way of viewing our privations, but I'm not certain that this is what the Lord Jesus would do, if he had to deal with these 'unprecedented' circumstances.

I'm grateful to a friend who observed recently that infectious diseases were far more rampant and dangerous in first century Palestine than 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe. How then might we explain the complete absence of risk management considerations the Lord's instructions at the last supper? His many healings show that Jesus was hardly lacking in compassion for the physical needs of his contemporaries, which suggests that something of greater significance must have been at stake 'on the night that he was betrayed'.

Biblical scholars now suggest that St Paul's main contribution to the development of the early church was not centred on the doctrine of justification by faith but on securing table fellowship: Jew and gentile, male and female, slave and free, Scythian and barbarian, rich and poor, gathering together in the Eucharist as members of one family in Christ - a unity that overthrew some of the most rigid taboos the world has ever seen, and can do so again in our time.

Perhaps if we realised a little more deeply just how significant that unity in Christ is, we would perceive each other not as strangers bearing risks, but members of one family, called and forgiven. This bond of unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ will carry us into the banquet of heaven, long after the family ties of earth have dissolved. So baptismal water is, after all, thicker than blood.

*Fr Alasdair*

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

The Rector take his regular day off on Tuesday: Morning and Evening Prayer will be placed on the website by kind members of the congregation; Mass will kindly be celebrated at home by the Haselhursts on Tuesday.

Another Zoom meeting (bring your own coffee or tea) is scheduled for **1000 on Wednesday**.

To Join Zoom Meeting at 1000 on Wednesday:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82546386442?pwd=Nklvc005SGINVldDSlJTZEFlkUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 4638 6442

Password: 4mkGii

To join Zoom Compline at **2100 on Wednesdays**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87820265205?pwd=V3dFMFZLRUk0SjBnMEtKRi9KSHdxZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 2026 5205

Password: 2CYC3z

A reminder that, wherever possible, audio recordings of services are being shared on the church website here:

<https://www.allsaints-standrews.org.uk/category/virtualservices/>

Thank you to those providing audio files for various parts of today's Sung Mass and especially to Fr Giles for providing the Homily.

### **HOMILY FOR TRINITY 3**

May I speak in the Name of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*...you are not under law but under grace.*

BBCI viewers have been enjoying a re-vamp of Alan Bennett's "Talking Heads", a series of dramatic monologues well-suited to socially-distanced performance. The first, shown a few days ago, had Imelda Staunton performing "A Lady of Letters", the story of a lonely busybody called Irene Ruddock who compulsively spies on her neighbours and sends endless letters of complaint. Isolated Irene's actions have sad and serious consequences leading to her being imprisoned after starting yet another letter-writing campaign. In prison, however, Irene makes new friends and develops a thriving social life, taking classes and gaining new skills on a secretarial course. She states that she feels truly happy, perhaps for the first time in her life. It is in confinement that Irene finds freedom.

Well I can tell you, confinement does not suit me! Living under a rule of law holds little attraction for me.

*I want to break free  
I want to break free  
I want to break free from your lies  
You're so self satisfied I don't need you  
I've got to break free  
God knows, God knows I want to break free*

In today's Gospel, Jesus exhorts His disciples to welcome a prophet ... to welcome a righteous person. We are to respect those who are set in authority over us – be that authority civil or ecclesiastical. But respect does not require agreement and nor, necessarily, does it require compliance.

How we live our lives is dictated, in part, by circumstance and situation. Nonetheless, we also have a very significant degree of freedom in terms of the choices we make – for good or for ill. To choose to do what we know to be right, or to choose to do what we know to be wrong. Our God-given Free Will. Others will disagree with me. I understand and respect different perspectives. But, for me, life is best lived by maximising the expression of personal freedom, and by a good dose of social generosity. For me, freedom is a God-given gift to be celebrated and enjoyed.

But is freedom always beneficial? In recent months, we have all had our usual liberties curtailed by both Church and State. The impact of these restrictions will have been felt to a greater or lesser degree by each one of us. The recent announcement of some easing of restrictions has brought joy to some but heightened anxiety for others.

Our freedom to access corporate sacramental worship in the company of the communion of saints on earth (and in heaven) has been removed by new laws. Early on in the lock-down process, I heard one of our bishops say "We have closed our churches out of love not fear." Well, that was perfectly phrased to induce feelings of fear and guilt in its hearers, wasn't it! One of my minority views happens to be that access to corporate sacramental worship may be considered essential rather than a luxury. Others clearly disagree with that view, and I have to acknowledge and respect that difference of opinion. Nonetheless, I have done my best to be a good boy and have lived according

to the rules and laws which have been put in place for the good of the majority. I have sought to be an obedient slave. And have sought to be a loving slave.

St Paul points out that to live lovingly is even more demanding than obeying the law. None of us can earn our salvation: we are saved because of the free and undeserved gift of God's love, mercy and forgiveness – we are saved by grace. Now, however, we have “under grace,” not only the Ten Commandments, not only Holy Scripture, but also the Sacraments. Those outward signs of invisible grace, by which grace is given to our souls, and which enable us to keep the Commandments.

If we are no longer under the law but under grace, does that mean we are now free to sin and to disregard the Commandments? To diminish our personal commitment as disciples of Jesus Christ to love the Lord our God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves? St Paul suggests not. When we live under the law, sin is our master – but it is not the law that justifies us or helps us to overcome sin. Committed to follow Christ, He is our Master, and He can give us power to do good rather than evil. A Christian is not someone who cannot sin but someone who is no longer a slave to sin. He or she belongs to God.

Obedience to grace sets us free for lives of service. There is a hint of this in today's Gospel: in which Jesus says, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me ... whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones ... will not lose their reward.”

We are free to choose between two masters: sin or God. The wages of sin is eternal death. By choosing Christ as our Master, we receive His free gift of eternal life – new life that begins with God on earth and continues with God forever. A gift which we can never fully understand, but which we can, if we will, receive.

So, what does this mean to us today? First, I think it means we should not condemn other people because they don't live according to our standards or because they do not share our understanding of things. We have no idea how difficult their lives may be, and they may be doing their very best to behave lovingly in the situation in which they find themselves. “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.” Second, we should not give up our freedom and revert to an enslaved morality of inflexible rules and regulations. Third, we should set ourselves the highest possible standards of applying the law of love wholeheartedly, whatever our circumstances. That is the least we can do to show our gratitude to God for His free gift of forgiveness and love. “I am not under the law but under grace.”

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Fr Giles Dove*

## **THE REVD CANON DR IAN MICHAEL**

Many will already appreciate that Monday 29 June is a significant anniversary for Fr Ian. Pentecost is one of the traditional times at which services of ordination take place and this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr Ian's ordination as priest by Bishop Hugh Montefiore at Birmingham Cathedral. Monday's celebration of the Eucharist will therefore be a Sung Mass in honour of both St Peter and Fr Ian, at which he will preach a short homily (- Fr Ian that is, not St Peter).

Father, it is a great privilege to be a priest with you here at All Saints' and I - among many - look forward greatly to being free to raise a glass with you again in days to come. We might just rehearse that in our own 'bubbles' on Monday anyway.

*The Rector*

## SERVICES BY TELEPHONE

*The Scottish Episcopal Church has organised coverage of some services by telephone for those who wish to use it but do not have internet access. The following guidance has been issued by the General Synod Office.*

How to join the service over the telephone:

In order to hear our broadcast service by telephone there are a couple of things you need to do.

1. Call the free phone line before 11am. The line will be active from 10.45am before the Sunday service and 6.15pm before the Thursday service. In case of any difficulties, we encourage you to phone in as early as possible, although not before 10.45am on a Sunday or 6.15pm on a Thursday.
2. Once you have called the number you will be prompted to enter a "meeting ID". The number appears at the end of this email, and please note that there are two different 'meeting ID' numbers listed, one for Sunday service and one for Thursday service. Type the relevant number on your telephone keypad, then press the # (hash) key.
3. You will then be prompted to enter a participant ID. Simply ignore this request, and once again press the # key.
4. You should then hear music, and a sporadic countdown until the start of the service.
5. The service will run according to the 1982 liturgy. While you are listening you will be joining hundreds of others in worship at exactly the same time. Those who have been participating on the internet have been praying along at home, some even joining in to sing. Although the service is recorded, everyone watching or listening is worshipping at the same time. When participating in the worship, your voice will not be heard by the other participants in the meeting, this is to ensure that all callers can hear the service clearly.

If you have any problems accessing the service, please feel free to contact the General Synod Office and ask for Aidan Strange - the Digital Communications Co-ordinator - to call you back on a number you provide. He will aim to be in touch before the next service to help you resolve any problems with the telephone service.

The details are as follows:

The phone number is 0800 260 5801

### **Sunday Worship**

Meeting ID: 817 1523 4515

Service Begins at 11am  
Phone line open at 10.45am  
Service lasts around 30-40 minutes

### **Thursday Worship**

Meeting ID: 894 7162 6403

Service Begins at 6.30pm

Phone line open at 6.15am  
 Service lasts around 20-30 minutes

## LECTIONS FOR SERVICES THIS WEEK

<i>Trinity 3</i> 28 June	<b>Mass</b> Jeremiah 28.5-9 Psalm 89.1-4, 15-18 Romans 6.12-end Matthew 10.40-end	<b>MP</b> Psalms 14-15 Deuteronomy 15.1-11 Acts 27.33-end	<b>EP</b> Psalm 18 1 Samuel 28.3-19 Luke 17.20-end
<i>Mon 29</i>	<b>St Peter</b> Ezekiel 3.22-end Psalm 125 Acts 12.1-11 Matthew 16.13-19	Psalms 139-140 Isaiah 49.1-6 Acts 11.1-18	Psalms 141-143 Ezekiel 34.11-16 John 21.15-22
<i>Tues 30</i>	Amos 3.1-8, 4.11-12 Psalm 5.8-end Matthew 8.23-27	Psalms 144-146 Judges 9.1-21 Luke 15.11-end	Psalms 147-150 Job 28 Romans 12.1-8
<i>Weds 1</i> July	<i>St Serf</i> Amos 5.14-15, 21-24 Psalm 50.7-14 Matthew 8.28-end	Psalms 1-5 Judges 9.22-end Luke 16.1-18	Psalms 6-8 Job 29 Romans 12.9-end
<i>Thurs 2</i>	Amos 7.10-end Psalm 19.7-10 Matthew 9.1-8	Psalms 9-11 Judges 11.1-11 Luke 16.19-end	Psalms 12-14 Job 30 Romans 13.1-7
<i>Fri 3</i>	<b>St Thomas</b> Ephesians 2.19-end Psalm 31.1-6 John 20.24-29	Psalms 15-17 2 Samuel 15.17-21 John 11.1-16	Psalms 18 Job 42.1-6 1 Peter 1.3-12
<i>Sat 4</i>	Amos 9.11-end Psalm 85.8-end Matthew 9.14-17	Psalms 19-21 Judges 12.1-7 Luke 17.11-19	Psalms 22-23 Job 32 Romans 14.1-12

If you don't have your own Prayer Book, the Offices of Morning & Evening Prayer are in the same section as recorded services on the church website. If you'd like to borrow a Prayer Book or any other resources from church, let the Rector know.

## GIVING TO ALL SAINTS'

A reminder for any who would like to support All Saints' financially our bank details are:

Bank:	Royal Bank of Scotland
Branch:	113 – 115 South Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9QB
Sort Code:	83-26-28
Account name:	All Saints Episcopal Church – St Andrews
Account number:	00104363

Treasurer's contact details: Mr Ian Palfrey, 8a Howard Place, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9HL  
 01334 472358      [treasurer@allsaints-standrews.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@allsaints-standrews.org.uk)

## **INTERCESSIONS**

Some have heard that Berenice Smith has been in hospital following a fall. She has now returned home but has found the experience quite disorientating. Robin White is still recovering slowly from hip surgery hampered by her difficulties with breathing. Please remember them in your prayers.

### **IN PARTICULAR NEED**

Debbie & Priscilla White, Eleanor Ross, David McLean, Anne Zweers, *Priest*, Amy Cox, Robyn Seenan, Bill Scott, *Priest*, Anne Clayton, Ian Sadler, Andrew Mate, Graham Kennedy, Robin White, Berenice Smith

### **CONTINUING NEED**

Lenora Mahoney, Effie Keracher, Jonah & Chris Andrews, Gareth, Jenni & Rosalie Saunders, Judy, Ashley & Kathleen Cummins, Charles & Thomas Ware, Ann Noltie, Lawrence Reynolds, Sally-Marie Gardner, Edie, Alice Bullough, Joan Day, Janet Reid, Catherine Rowe, Bill Hyland, Samantha, Steve Scott, Angela Allaway, Lori-Mark Quate, Elizabeth Talbot, Juliet Davey, Lucy White

### **RESIDENTIAL CARE**

Catriona, Fiona Ingham, John Shillaker, *Priest*, Marie-Louise Moffatt, *Priest*, Charlie Mather

### **RECENTLY DEPARTED**

Averil Taylor, *priest*, Linda Gallagher, Noah Donohoe, Hugh Talbot, *priest*

### **YEAR'S MIND**

28 Elizabeth Grant, 1940, Andrew Wylie, 2011  
29 James Hampton Spence, 1929, William Wilkinson, 1997, Gregor McGregor, (Bishop) 2003  
1/7 Thomas Bowes Wilson, 1929  
3 Jean Isobel Stirling, 1945, John Aitken Dickson, 1992  
4 Peter Fittun, 2006

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