*The Parish Churches of St. Peter & St. Paul, Wincanton*

*and St. Michael, Pen Selwood*

**

Church website: [www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk)

September 27th 2020 16th Sunday after Trinity

 St Michael’s Day

Dear Friends,

I am conscious as I write this (on Monday) that we are in very stretching times, and it is not yet clear how we are going to move forward in the face of rising rates of Coronavirus infections. It is possible that what I am writing now will be superseded by the time we get to the weekend. I am conscious that this level of uncertainty in our day to day lives is draining and that we need to concentrate particularly on being kind to one another in the long days of this pandemic.

I am grateful to the teams from both churches who have been working on our risk assessments and working practices to enable us to open for private prayer, services of public worship and for funerals. This has been a lot of work behind the scenes, and we continue to adhere to the guidance from the Government and National Church which is also frequently updated.

This week, following a thorough risk assessment exercise, we are re-opening the parish office in a limited way for Rachel to work in (it is not possible for it to be a shared space). Office hours are slightly reduced to allow for cleaning at the start of each day.

Another risk assessment has been undertaken to allow some more limited pastoral work in person (beyond extreme circumstances or for funerals). It is now possible for Penny or I to make a brief visit to administer communion (in one kind) in a well ventilated room at home or in your garden, particularly if you are unable to come to Church currently. Our capacity to do this is rather limited by the guidance and the potential transmission risk. If this is something you would be interested in, I would need to talk through with you individually the best way for us to meet your needs at this time (as there are options). So, please give me a ring to discuss it. (*In today’s fluid circumstances: I do hope this is still possible by the time you read this!)*

Of course, if you would prefer a pastoral phone call in the current circumstances, these are available too and are not time-restricted in the way a visit for home communion would have to be.

Our annual meetings are approaching: For St Peter and St Paul on Wednesday 7th October at 6pm in Church and for St Michael’s on Sunday 25th October after the 10am Service. Please put these dates in your diary. Paperwork will be circulated before the meetings, and questions will need to be submitted at least 3 days before each meeting. Please speak to your wardens if you wish to join the PCC in either Church at this important time

With love in Christ, Alison

PS: When coming to public worship, please bring a small pot of hand sanitiser if you plan to receive communion.

PPS: Do bring long-dated products for the Lord’s larder to harvest this week at Pen Selwood and next week at Wincanton. They need tinned soup, tinned macaroni cheese, tins of baked beans & sausage, confectionary, toilet rolls, shampoo. **Thank you.**

**Contact Details for Rev Alison Way -** Please note my contact details are:

Address: The Parish Office; 38 High Street, Wincanton, BA9 9JF

Landline: 01963 33151, Work mobile: 07515 958988

Email: rector@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk, Twitter: @revalisonway

Facebook Group: Wincanton and Pen Selwood CofE Churches

My usual day off each week is THURSDAY.

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**Readings for 27th September: Revelation 12: 7-12 John 1: 47-end**

**Readings for 4th October: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-end Luke 12: 16-30**

**The Parish Church Office** has re-opened this week, the new office hours are **09:30am – 1:15pm** on **Tuesdays, Thursdays** and **Fridays.** Please only visit if it is absolutely necessary and for 15mins maximum, and only if you feel well. Please sanitise your hands when you enter the office, and please wear a face covering.

#### Church Diary

**Sun 27th Sept 10am Pen Selwood Church St Michael’s Day and**

**Harvest Public Worship Service**

**Sun 27th Sept 9am-11am Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**Wed 30th Sept 2pm-4pm Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 4th Oct 10am Wincanton Church Harvest Worship Service**

**Sun 4th Oct 10am-3pm Pen Selwood Church open for private prayer**

**Wed 7th Oct 6pm Wincanton PCC – APCM Meeting in Church**

 **NO private prayer session today in church**

#### Church Notices

**St Peter and St Paul Harvest** - Our Harvest Festival service will take place on  **4th October** at **10am**. Donations of non-perishable food items are welcome (no fresh produce). All donations will be donated to the Lord's Larder. A box for donations has been placed on the table near to the north door. Donations can be placed in this box when the church is open for private prayer or services. The Lord’s Larder have particularly requested the following items: tinned soup, tinned macaroni cheese, tins of baked beans & sausage, confectionary, toilet rolls, shampoo. **Thank you.**

**Bibles for the School** - I was able to deliver the bibles bought by Churches Together to the school during the summer holidays.   Due to the generosity of everyone, I am also able to send a cheque for £50 which the school will use for resources for RE teaching.  The headteacher has asked me to pass on his thanks to everyone who contributed to this, he is amazed at the scale of the generosity.  The children are already enjoying using the bibles.   Thank you. **Penny.**

**Lent Boxes -** We are now able to receive your Lent boxes, so if you took a Lent box before the lockdown, please bring it back to the church on a Sunday morning when there is a service. All the money collected in the Lent boxes goes to Zambia. **Thank you, Judy.**

**Advent Calendars –** I am again taking orders for the Real Advent Calendar. They contain fairtrade, palm oil free chocolate for each day, a book of the Christmas story and each window shows a scene of the Christmas story. Priced at £3.99 each, please let me know if you would like to order one more. **Penny.**

***Congratulations to Richard & Gill D’Arcy on their Golden Wedding Anniversary! Celebrating 50 years of marriage on Saturday, 26th September!***

**Prayer List –** If you would like to be added to our Prayer List, or feel a friend or relative should be on our Prayer List, please do let me know. If you are wanting someone else to be prayed for you must have their permission. Anybody is welcome to be included in our prayers at any time, and I will also pray for you in

my daily prayers. Please use the contact details in this newsletter to contact me. **Alison.**

 **Prayer Diary**

**From today’s readings:** “And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

**Prayer Chain:** If you would like immediate prayers for yourself or someone you know please contact one of the following (requests passed in confidence): Penny Ashton 33990 or Judy Chiplen 33834. If you wish to join the prayer chain, contact Judy 33834. If you wish to be added to our Prayer List, please contact Rev Alison Way 33151.

**Please continue to pray for** those of our fellowship and friends whoare ill or recovering from operations: Derek Ayers, June and Steve Beech, Margaret Brown (Gwen Evans’ Daughter), Irene Rix (Sue Hall’s Mum), Ann and Bryan Phillips, Sam (Gill Oaten’s Great Great Nephew), Joyce Bentley, Mike Gray, Sue Cox, Brenda Piper, Bishop Peter and Jane Hancock.

**Please remember** the long-term sick, the housebound & their carers.

**Please pray for those who grieve, and for the departed:** Jeffrey Lee,

Beryl Griffin, David Doe, Jacqueline Myatt.

We pray for Wincanton Health Centre, for the staff in their work pressures.

*Parish Office: 38 High Street, Wincanton BA9 9JF 01963 824503*

*Any items, for inclusion the Newsletter, to Rachel by midday on Wednesday.*

 *Email:* *office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk*