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

*and St. Michael, Pen Selwood*

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

November 1st 2020 All Saints Day

Dear Friends,

This weekend we give thanks for all the saints that have preceded us since the times of Jesus. This is a great company of people who have responded to the presence of God with us, and have lived lives worthy of their calling giving glory to God. Though we tend to think of saints as those marked out as extremely holy (and there is a complicated process involved in becoming a recognised saint in the church), yet St Paul frequently addresses his letters to all those who have faith as saints. We are the ‘saints’ here for today in our communities. As I write this I am conscious of the very troubled times in which we are currently living, and I am waking up today (31st Oct) to the prospect of more restrictions peeping over the horizon. As the saints God has for our world today, please pray for our Government, for our health service, for our scientists and for our communities for wisdom, for discernment, for peace and for working together for the common good.

On Monday (2nd November), the church traditionally marks All Souls Day – when we remember those we love but see no longer. This year there is a recorded ‘Remembering in hope’ service available on youtube - <https://youtu.be/Dbcf-QB9_KI>. This is available now, and you may like to have a candle you can light to hand as you watch. The names of those who were submitted to the parish office are remembered. There is plenty of space and silence to remember other people that are important to you within that too.

We are all conscious that Remembrance Sunday is now on the horizon. There are a number of levels that we need to think and pray about marking Remembrance in 2020. Firstly - We will need to work out for ourselves what it is possible for us to do based on the restrictions in place when we get to that point. There are resources for doorstep remembrance with this newsletter. I also think this might be a good time to decorate a door, window or front garden with poppies to show our hearts steadfastly remembering.

Secondly - At the moment in Wincanton, it is hoped to host a wreath laying ceremony in St Peter and St Paul Church for remembrance (sadly, this service is invitation only), and to have the church open for private prayer for everyone (between 10:15am and 12 noon). I will also take part in a brief Act of Remembrance at the outside war memorial (10:50am approx.).

In Pen Selwood, it is hoped to host a brief Act of Remembrance in the churchyard at 10:50am approx.. Strict social distancing and the wearing of face coverings will be required.

All of this is subject to change and alteration at very short notice. Clearly, in regards to marking Remembrance, we cannot do anything like what we would want to do in the current circumstances, and this is very painful. The most important thing is that we do take time to remember however and wherever we can.

*O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those people who have been injured or who have died in active service. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life, peace and hope, now and for ever. Amen.*

With love in Christ, Alison

PS: For tracking and tracing we now have **QR codes** up in both churches – so you can scan your attendance via the NHS Track and Trace app if you wish. The app appears to be reliant on having phone signal!

**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.

**Home communion:** At the moment it is possible to arrange a brief visit to administer communion (in one kind) in a well ventilated room at home or in your garden. If this is something you would be interested in, we 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 Alison a ring to discuss it.

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**Readings for 1st November: 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12**

**Readings for 8th November: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end Matthew 25: 1-13**

**The Parish Office** has had to close due to the continued restrictions placed on employers, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Rachel is working from home, during normal office hours: **Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings 9:15am – 1:15pm.** You can contact Rachel on 01963 824503 or via email at: office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk business will continue as normal.

#### Church Diary

**Sun 1st Nov 10am Wincanton Church Public Worship Service**

**Sun 1st Nov 10am-3pm Pen Selwood Church open for private prayer**

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

**Wed 4th Nov 6pm Pen Selwood PCC meets in church**

#### Church Notices

**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. Closing date for orders is November 8th. **Penny.**

**Intercession Prayers -** As many people are staying at home to keep safe from Covid, we have lost several from our rota of regular readers and intercessors in services at St Peter and St Paul.  We are particularly short of people to lead us in intercession prayers. Please would you consider whether this is a way in which you could contribute to our worship.  We have several people who undertake this duty once every three months, and the prayers can be taken from a book if you wish. We don't need polished performances, but sincerity in bringing our communal concerns before God, so please give this prayerful consideration and let me know if you are able to help.  Thank you. **Penny.**

**Children's Society boxes -** It's time to open the Children's Society boxes. Please bring your box to church when there is a service, or contact me for collection. Thank you.  **Judy** – 33834.

The Churches Together **Course for Advent** is the York Courses Living in Hope.  Please contact myself, or Rachel in the Parish Office, if you require further details. You will notice that this year's course will be run on Zoom and if, as seems possible, we have to accept further restrictions on meeting due to Covid 19, we

may be relying on Zoom more and more. If you use email you may be able to access Zoom, and I am happy to help anyone with the basics so that they can join in more.  Please just ask.  **Penny.**

**Contact Pool Winners** for the September Draw (drawn on 10th October) are:

1st Ruth Budden (No. 61) £30, 2nd Brenda Piper (No. 81) £20, 3rd Danni Wood (No. 44) £10. Congratulations to you all. **Joanna Durham-Matthews.**

**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:** “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.”

**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, Nicky King, Ron Lawrence, 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:** David Doe,

Jacqueline Myatt, Sidney Bundy.

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

**Food for thought and prayer** - We will be looking for another churchwarden to accompany Sue, next April for St Peter and St Paul. Please give this your consideration and pray.

*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*