*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)

November 15th 2020 2nd Sunday before Advent

Dear Friends,

As our second lockdown continues, I hope this newsletter finds you well. This week has included more hopeful news in vaccine developments on the horizon, against the backdrop of lockdown restrictions and increasing cases of Covid-19 across our country. The Archbishops have asked us to use this time to make prayer for our nation a focus in this month, and specifically to pray at 6pm every day. Here is a link to the call of prayer for the nation

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>,

There are daily short prayer videos available via the Church of England social media channels on facebook and twitter to support this. I have included one of the letters they have written to encourage our nation in the worship video for this weekend.

The worship video for this week also includes ‘Spiritual Communion’ for the first time. The term ‘Spiritual Communion’ has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. This offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with God, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, ‘I am the Bread of Life’.

*You might wish to have something to be your communion as you watch the video, and to take at the point where the video focuses on the bread and wine (after the prayer of Spiritual communion).*

With love in Christ, Alison

PS. I am taking some down time 19th-26th November at home, for urgent matters please contact Penny or the wardens.

**A prayer for these uncertain times**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**A prayer for our scientists**

Lord, We thank you for the intelligence, the enquiry and learning of our scientists, and all who are working around the clock for a cure and vaccine against Covid-19. Please strengthen the bonds of closer cooperation, and mutual learning; and lead them to the healing of the nations. For your name’s sake, we pray, Even Jesus our Lord. Amen

*(These prayers are from the Church of England website)*

**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](mailto: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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*I gather the daily hope line – now includes an option for light chair based exercises…. Alison.*

**Readings for 15th November: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Matthew 25: 14-30**

**Readings for 22nd November: Ephesians 1: 15-end Matthew 25: 31-end**

**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](mailto:office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk) business will continue as normal.

**Good Samaritan Telephone Calls –** As we approach another period of lockdown, would you like a regular wellbeing telephone call from your church? Many of you found these calls invaluable during the last lockdown, and we are offering this service again. Please contact me and let me know if you would like to be included in our weekly catch up telephone calls. **Alison.**

#### Church Diary

**Sun 15th Nov 9am - 11am Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 15th Nov 10am - 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for private prayer**

**Wed 18th Nov 12:00 – 2pm Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

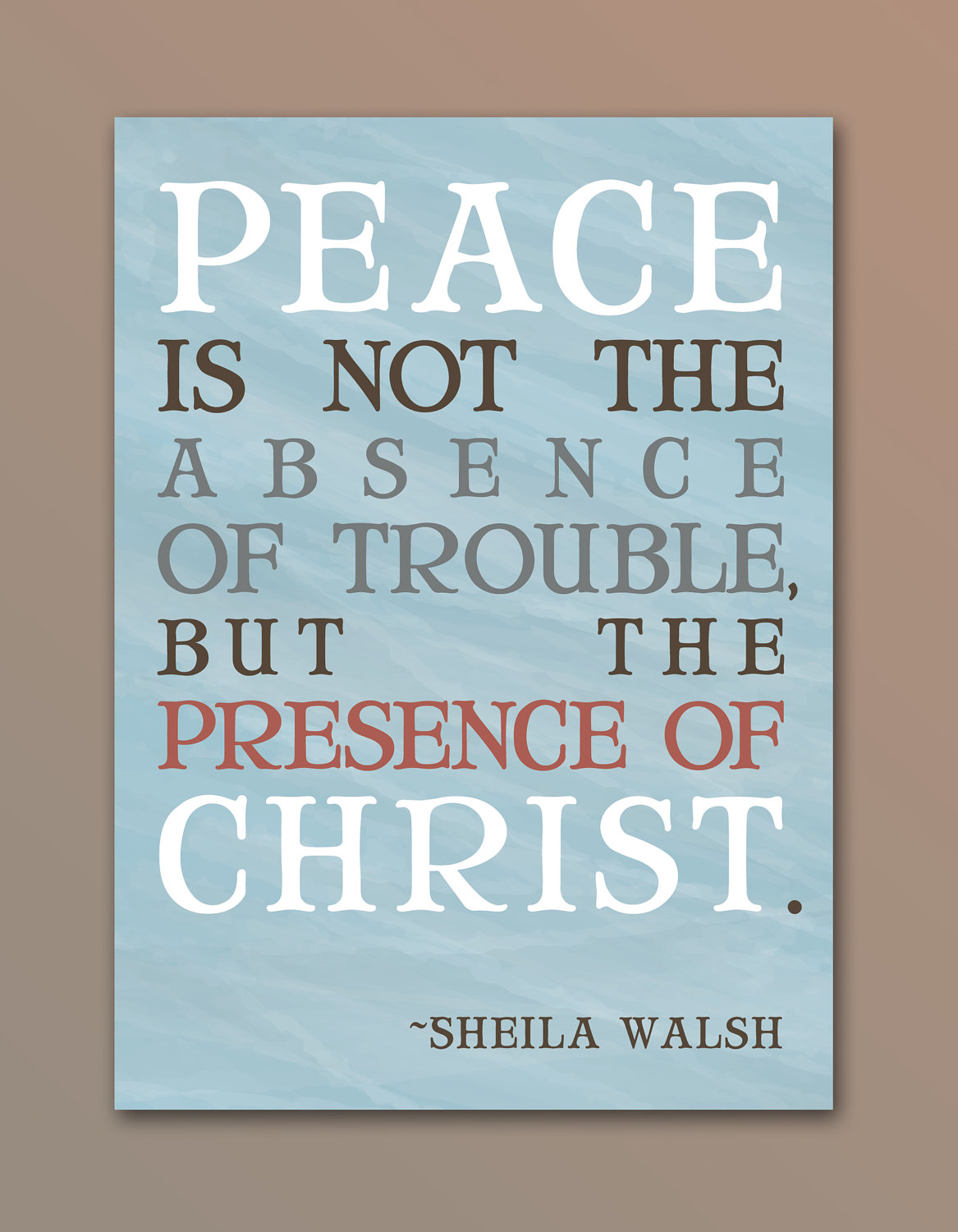
**Sun 22nd Nov 9am – 11am Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 22nd Nov 10am – 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for private prayer**

**Wed 25th Nov 12:00 – 2pm Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

#### Church Notices

**Daylight Bible Notes -** I shall be ordering New Daylight Bible notes for 2021 shortly. I have contacted current users who in the main are continuing. If others wish to order, I shall be pleased to add them to the list.  The cost for the year is £14.00, or 18.00 for large print. Please let me know if you are interested on 01963 31195. **Maurice Steady**.



**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:** “For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

**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:** 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*](mailto:office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk)