*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)

11th July 2021 6th Sunday after Trinity

Dear Friends,

One of the things that is finally back on the table in the near future is communal singing in places of worship, according to the Government announcements earlier this week! So one of the important questions is what to sing first! If you have ideas about that do get in touch with your suggestions.

Here is the full text of the latest statement from the Church of England from <https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/news-releases/covid-19-bishop-sarahs-tribute-sacrifices-many-government-prepares>

T*he Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England’s Covid Recovery Group, has paid tribute to the sacrifices of many amid the pandemic as the Prime Minister outlined plans to lift most restrictions from July 19.*

*She said: “I welcome the Prime Minister’s presentation of the latest scientific data which underpins their decision in principle to lift most restrictions from July 19. The vaccination programme has been an answer to prayer but, while it has transformed the outlook of the pandemic, it has not eliminated all risk. So it is right, as the Prime Minister has said, that we all must exercise personal responsibility and carefully manage the risks from Covid-19. As Christians, called to love our neighbour as ourselves, we must also exercise collective responsibility and continue to take appropriate precautions to protect others.*

*“Over the past 18 months we have mourned the tens of thousands who have died from Covid-19. We have also all made sacrifices and seen previously unimaginable changes to our way of life as we sought to protect one another and especially those who are most vulnerable. In churches that has meant unprecedented restrictions on the way we practise our faith itself, affecting our ability to meet together, to sing together and to celebrate the sacraments together, all of which are at the heart of our worship.*

*We have also seen particular restrictions on the way we marked major events in our lives through baptisms, weddings and funerals; sadly many were denied the basic comforts of sharing moments of joy and pain with others. I’ve been inspired by the way churches have risen to the challenge, finding new ways of gathering to worship God, reach out and serve their neighbours in these difficult times.*

*I have been deeply moved by the extraordinary efforts of those working on the front line in our NHS and social care. And I would also like to highlight the sacrifices, often overlooked, made by children and young people to protect us all for so long during such a formative time in their lives. I am also mindful of those who lives have been radically changed by the effects of long covid.*

*We will await the new Government advice for places of worship and adapt our guidance to churches accordingly.”*

Once we have both the material from both the Government and the Church, we will be working on what this means for us locally in the days and weeks ahead. Can I express my gratitude to all those who will help in this process in anticipation!

With love in Christ, Alison

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**Readings for 11th July: Ephesians 1: 3-14 Mark 6: 14-29**

**Readings for 18th July: Ephesians 2: 11-end Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end**

**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 is Monday*

**Home Communion and other visits:** It is possible moving forward to make pastoral visits, preferably in a well-ventilated room at home or in your garden, (and this could include home communion if desired). Please get in touch to arrange, it will be very good to catch up.  **Alison and Penny.**

**The Parish Office** 38 High Street, Wincanton BA9 9JF. Rachel, the Parish Administrator, works during the following 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.

#### Church Diary \* SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE

**Sun 11th July 10:00am Pen Selwood Church Public Worship Service**

**Sun 11th July 9am – 11am Wincanton Church open for Private Prayer in**

**the holy space only.**

**Wed 14th July 12:00 -2pm Wincanton Church open for Private Prayer in**

**the holy space only.**

**Sun 18th July 10:00am Wincanton Church Public Worship Service**

**Sun 18th July 10am – 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for Private Prayer**

**Wed 21st July 12:00 -2pm Wincanton Church open for Private Prayer in**

**the holy space only.**

#### Church Notices

**Volunteers Required Please -** At St Peter & St Paul’s Church we are looking for two volunteers to join our rotas to help on the 5th Sunday of the month. One as a Sides Person, and one as a Collection Counter. If you would like to help, please contact Richard D’Arcy for further information on 01963 33160. **Thank You.**

**GDPR Return Form** – Please don’t forget to return your GDPR consent form to Rachel at the Parish Office as soon as possible, either by post to the Parish Office, 38 High Street, Wincanton BA9 9JF (or via the stamped addressed envelope enclosed with your posted mailout) or complete the form electronically and send it via email to: office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk. **Thank you**. A huge Thank You to those of you who have already returned your forms, very much appreciated.

**Help Required Please -** St Peter & St Paul’s Church require short term help unlocking and locking the church for our Sunday worship services. If you were on the Locking Rota before the pandemic, or if you attend our Sunday services and could unlock the church in the morning and lock the church after the service, the Church Team would gratefully appreciate your help. Please contact Rachel at the Parish Office if you can offer your help. **Thank you**.

**ALAN & ROSEMARY** thank all of those who responded to our Diamond Wedding and Anniversary of being also Vicar and Wife! **Many Thanks.**

**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:** “Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”

**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, Canon Alan and Rosemary Watson, Elroi Manor, Gwen Evans.

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

**Please pray for those who grieve, and for the departed:** Congetta Short.

We pray for Wincanton Health Centre and Wincanton Community Hospital, 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*