

CHRIST CHURCH, DARTFORD

Sunday 6th June 2021

Dear Christ Church family,

Welcome to our latest newsletter that seeks to keep you in touch with developments at Christ Church as we **wait** for the pandemic restrictions to relax but still **seek** to be faithful in worshipping and serving God.

The church leadership has been contemplating our plans for the Summer as we await with hopefulness in our hearts that the Covid-19 restrictions will be removed on 21st June, while recognising that there may still be delays to this. With this in mind, we will continue our current pattern of Sunday worship pending the government announcements, and fresh Church of England guidelines, expected later this month. To remind you we have:

9am In-Church Holy Communion Service

10am On-Line Service via the Christ Church YouTube Page

11am Phone-In Service

With a 11am In-Church Family/All Age Service on the first Sunday of each month.

Once we have clarity over the next phase, we will be issuing a new service schedule to reflect the new situation.

Please note that for the time being you will still need to book for the In-Church services either via the Booking Sheet available in church or via the booking email, ccdartfordbooking@gmail.com or the booking phone line on 07828 082515.

Our ministry with our primary age JAM children will continue with monthly Sunday afternoon meetings in June and July and our Youth Footfinder members will continue with their programme as set out by their Leaders. We give thanks to their leaders for their tenacity in continuing with this ministry throughout the last year. Please do hold them in your prayers.

It is envisaged that JAM will begin to meet on a Sunday morning as from September and there are exciting plans for the future of the Footfinders group!

Rebuilding our Church Family

Our primary objective throughout the Summer is to **rebuild our church family** and so we are organising a **Church Family Get Together on Saturday 10th July** from 1pm to 4pm. This will be a time for fun and fellowship in our church grounds with a selection of food celebrating the differing nationalities within our church. Please do feel assured that if social distancing is still required then this will be a Covid-19 safe event. Chairs will be provided but you may want to bring your own rug or deckchair.



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In addition, following the success of the recent Chatty we are planning similar monthly events for people to re-connect over coffee, 3-4pm on Wednesdays: 16th June, 14th July and 11th August. Then, in September, Catherine Mortimer is looking to relaunch the Refresh Café and Toddlers, so if you can help at all please speak to her or leave a message with the church office.

Our ministry to the community steps up.....

Each Monday during the summer holidays we will be running "Fun and Food" from 11am-2pm. This is a space for families from both church and the local community to come together with fun activities, crafts and lunch. To register your interest in either helping with this or attending with your children please email Lynne (youthbookings.christchurchdartford@hotmail.co.uk)

Church life is getting back to normal.....

The Buildings Team has reconvened under the leadership of Tony Addison who, with the team, is working on a number of issues within the church building. By the time you will have read this our five yearly Quinquennial inspection of the church building will have taken place which will give them much more to get their teeth into!

Sharon Jarvis is leading a group of people exploring our communication strategy across all mediums, be it paper based or electronic so that we can ensure all church members, the community and our wider on-line friends are aware of the church's activities.

Our two Church Wardens, Deborah Gibson and Olu Ogunoye handed over the baton to our new Church Wardens John Gulandia and Tracey Akinlade at our recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting. We thank God for all that they have done for us. We pray for them as they explore their new ministries with God and for John and Tracey as they transition into their new roles as Church Warden. We also give thanks that we have a diverse and dynamic group of people on our PCC and welcome William Onifade onto the team.

Our ministry to each other and of prayer continues...

We acknowledge however, that many people are still bearing pain at this time, be it the loss of a loved one, a job, or a feeling of isolation and so please do feel free to contact the church office and we'll get back to you for prayer or practical help to support you in life's journey. On this note, we would like to remind you that there is a Monthly Prayer Session on the first Thursday each month, at 7:30pm (please contact the church for the Zoom link) and the church will continue to open for Private Prayer each Wednesday afternoon from 2pm to 3pm.

Yours in love,

Richard
(Rev Dr Richard Mortimer)

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