



WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday October 4th 2020 – 17th Sunday after Trinity

WELCOME to the 30th edition of my weekly letter, **and the last** – but see below for more information about future ways of being in touch. This Sunday is the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity, as the Church continues its journey through 'Ordinary Time'.



Throughout our readings today we hear stories of vineyards and those who tend them. In the appointed Psalm and in our first reading from Isaiah, we hear of God's love song for his vineyard, and how that vineyard is his chosen people, the house of Israel, who have neglected it and failed to help it grow its longed for fruit. It is a theme taken up by Jesus in the Gospel Reading – the story of the tenants in the vineyard – where the landowner sends his slaves and then his son to collect the produce owed to him, but the tenants refuse to give the landowner what they owe him and instead abuse and even kill those whom he sends. For the religious leaders who know their Old Testament, the vineyard must again stand for Israel, so it's no wonder that the chief priests and the Pharisees realise that

Jesus is talking about them! As ever I'll be trying to make sense of it all in my sermon both at our Morning Worship via Zoom and our Epilogue in the Parish Church. I hope to be able to take these passages in an ecological direction, so you have been warned!

Don't forget as ever that I am here for you if there is any way in which I can help you – chaplain@scilly.church / 423911.

SUNDAY WORSHIP



Our Parish Morning Service via Zoom on Sunday at 11.00 a.m. As for every Sunday, the code is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477892334?pwd=aWVpWXVidksralpVZm1yUjN6VDg0dz09>. You will be able to join from 10.30 a.m. and chat to others before we start properly at 11.00 a.m.

FUTURE WORSHIP PLANS

Just to confirm our **worship plans** for the next few Sundays:

This Sunday October 4th – Zoom at 11.00 a.m. and Epilogue at 8.15 p.m. – this will be the last evening service for the time being

October 11th and 18th – simple services via Zoom at 11.00 a.m. led by Canon Lynda Barley – please use the same access code as before: 477 892 334, and the same passcode: 019127, or the usual link above – no evening service

(Canon Lynda will be staying in the Chaplaincy while we are on Tresco)

October 25th – Service of the Word at 11.00 a.m. in the Parish Church

November 1st – Holy Communion at 11.00 a.m. in the Parish Church

November 8th – Special arrangements for Remembrance Sunday – to be confirmed

November 15th onwards – a new pattern of live and virtual services

RETURNING TO CHURCH ON ST. MARY'S

From 25th October, we intend to move back to Church for our regular Sunday service. We are taking great care to keep the Parish Church COVID-secure, and we have arranged seating to preserve 2 metres social distancing throughout. We will be using every other pew in the central part of the Church, alternating from side to side – so row 1 on the right, row 2 on the left and so on. We will also be using the back row of the raised seating on each side of the building. We have room for 25 households – that is 25 individuals or couples or families who live together – and that should just be enough to accommodate our usual winter congregation. Please note that as the central pews are less than 2 metres long, only one individual or couple or family can occupy each one. To help us preserve social distancing and keep movement to a minimum, we are going to ask people to take the next available seat, so, at least for the first few weeks, please do not try to sit in your favourite seat as that may make things more complicated later on!



A reminder that face coverings are now mandatory in church, unless you are a member of an exempted group, although if you are reading or leading the prayers the face covering can be removed for the duration of your speaking part – this is to help ensure that we can all hear each other clearly and to assist any who are helped by lip reading.

Sadly, congregational singing is not permitted for the time being, so we will continue to use recorded music or solo instruments, but I hope that this will allow us to experience a wide range of musical styles as we have been doing in our Zoom worship.

We would be very grateful if at least some of the congregation could arrive in good time, as there will be hand sanitising on your arrival, and then the taking of Test and Trace details, either by filling out the form or scanning the QR code on your smartphone, and if everyone arrives at 10.55 a.m. we will be unable to start the service on time!

There will be special arrangements for the taking of Holy Communion, but I will go through those at our first live (non-eucharistic) service on October 25th, ready for the resumption of Eucharistic worship on November 1st.

Much of this may sound strange and difficult, and very different from the worship style and atmosphere that we have known in the past, but my colleagues from other churches who have already been through this process tell me that the sense of strangeness soon disappears, and everyone is able to feel a strong sense of unity with one another, even though socially distant, and a genuine spirit of devotion to Christ though the experience of sharing the Word and the Sacrament together.

I will try to be in touch with everyone on all the islands before the end of the month to talk through these arrangements, and to share any concerns that you may have.

WORSHIP VIA ZOOM AND THE CHAPLAINCY LETTER

While we look forward to worshipping together in person once again, we are also anxious not to lose all the benefits we have experienced in our Zoom worship, both in the style of presentation and content of the service, and also in our ability to be together across the islands and with our friends on the mainland. For this reason, with the agreement of the PCC, we will be worshipping together via Zoom at approximately monthly intervals, and probably on the following Sundays: **December 6th, December 27th, February 7th and March 7th**. This weekly letter will now become a monthly letter, and I will send one out at the end of October, and then during the weeks leading up to each Zoom service, so our mainland friends and others will always receive notification in good time before we meet via Zoom. But please note the dates above.

