



Going Deeper Sowing Younger Growing Community

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Sundays in September

**Sunday 6th 13<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY**

**Ezekiel 33:7-11, Romans 13:8-end, Matthew 18:15-20**

**COLLECT:**

*Almighty God,  
you search us and know us:  
may we rely on you in strength  
and rest on you in weakness,  
now and in all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Sunday 13th 14<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY**

**Genesis 50:15-21, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18: 21-35**

**COLLECT:**

*Merciful God,  
your Son came to save us  
and bore our sins on the cross:  
may we trust in your mercy  
and know your love,  
rejoicing in the righteousness  
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Sunday 20th 15<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY**

**Jonah 3: 10—4:end, Phil 1:21-end, Matthew 20:1-16**

**COLLECT:**

*Lord God,  
defend your Church from all false teaching  
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,  
that we may enjoy eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Sunday 27th 16<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY**

**Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end, Phi 2:1-12, Matthew 21:23-32**

**COLLECT:**

*Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## FROM THE VICAR

***Now you are the body of Christ,  
and each one of you is a part of it.***

I Corinthians 12:27

The apostle Paul reminded the church in Corinth of their belonging as the body of Christ. Saint Anthony, one of the Desert Fathers said 'Our life and our death is with our neighbour'. And John Donne wrote 'No man is an island entire of itself'.

In recent months we have become increasingly aware of our interconnectedness. At times that has had negative connotations because of the risk of infection heightened by proximity; we have kept our distance lest we inadvertently infect or are infected with an unseen virus.

Yet the distancing and isolation has in itself been damaging and debilitating too. Many have struggled being alone and unable to connect in the usual ways. As humans we are created to flourish with others; community is God's idea—it is not good for people to be alone—it is in relationship that we find fulfilment, meaning and purpose.

Therefore it is not surprising that Jesus' movement for change in the world is his church, a body of people who are diverse and need one another; individuals with difference gifts and abilities who working together demonstrate that the sum is greater than the parts. The body exists that the work of God may continue; what a privilege to be part of that family business!

Therefore in the life of any church we are always looking for ways in which we can help one another to get involved and serve each other and the wider community. The Father has work for us to do. The only way in which we can faithfully act as the body of Christ and be fruitful in mission is alongside one another with each member playing their part.

I warm to the image of an orchestra even though music is not one of my strengths. I am confident that Birmingham Symphony Orchestra notices when the violin section is missing, or one of the cellists decides not to play, or the percussionist dozes off!

Our part in the church may not be a leading one but it makes a difference and without it we are lacking. None of that is to say that those who have been and are still shielding should be rushing back to the church building before they are ready. It is really to say to us all that I think we have missed one another in recent months and that even if it is online or by phone, email or letter, we still have a part to play in the body of Christ, there is still work to be done.

**KB**

## Pause, Ponder...

### THEY SAID

The Bible spoke of pathways  
 Passing through the sea,  
 But the men of science said  
 Imagination running free,  
 For ocean currents  
 Were destined to be  
 Unknown until the nineteenth century.  
 Jonah told of great mountains  
 Resting in the deep,  
 Science of yesterday said  
 It was a fantasy of sleep,  
 But fast forward the years  
 And boffins agree  
 There are mountain ranges under the sea.  
 The holy scripture says God  
 Made humanity  
 Complete upon the sixth day,  
 Scientists said this cannot be  
 Many species of man  
 Before you and me,  
 Till some ancient bones told the truth of us,  
 One species – homo erectus.

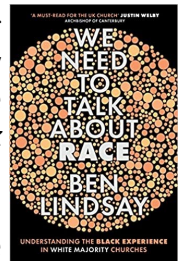
## BOOK SPOTLIGHT

Those of us from Weddington remember with fondness Alan Cook, who was a longstanding member of the Church prior to his sudden death earlier this year. It was then discovered he had written two books: *The Sword, The Snake and the Curse at Pryeway Field* and *The 12th Face of Ruth's Destiny*. Both available from Amazon. They are only slim books but I like the way Alan has combined his love of geology, archaeology and knowledge of local history, together with his faith in these two books. Well worth a read and the proceeds I believe are donated to Birmingham Children's hospital.

JANET FLAVEL

Ben Lindsey was the guest speaker at one of the most recent study days for clergy in Coventry Diocese and his book, *We Need To Talk About Race* became recommended reading. It is an enlightening and troubling read, highlighting the culture of ignorance and racism that exists in many white majority churches in the UK. I was so moved and challenged by what I read that I have started to think differently about my own ministry approach and that of our churches and I have purchased 6 more copies of the book that we can read as churches. If you'd like to borrow a copy please let me know.

KELLY BETTERIDGE



## Prayer ideas for September



- Connect with some of the Night Prayer videos we have on the St Nicolas Facebook page. You can also join in a service of daily prayer here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>
- Set aside a time each day to read a psalm and find the sentences within it that resonate for you and that you can use to pray.
- Spend some time listening. Find a quiet place and time to be attentive to God without distractions.
- Start the day with prayers of gratitude for who God is and all that he has done.
- Think about a charity that is important to you. Talk to God about different aspects of the work of that charity.
- Use your hand as a model, with each finger bringing to mind different people to pray for:  
**Thumb**—people who strengthen support and encourage you; **Index finger**—people who guide and teach you; **Middle finger**—people who lead and govern;  
**Ring finger**—those who are in need—the weak, poor, helpless, hungry, sick and bereaved; **Little finger**—yourself!

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Both churches will continue to have a service on Sunday morning at 10m using September. We will aim for these to be alternate services of Holy Communion and Morning Worship.

Numbers are restricted in order that we can maintain social distancing. At St James' services are usually limited to 18 and at St Nicolas it is now in the region of 40 people. It is helpful if those running a service can have an indication of numbers before the day lest we need to turn people away due to reaching capacity. Please book a space with one of the team if you can.

When you do arrive for a service you will be asked to read and comply with some important safety guidelines. You will be asked to leave your contact details for *Track and Trace*, wear a mask during the time you are in the building and sanitise your hands.

The live streaming of Sunday services will continue.



## AUTUMN SPECIALS

We're going to aim to offer a special 'focus' service each month from September as a way of marking some particular events and activities and to encourage a few more people to reconnect with church life. For reasons of space, these services will mainly be at St Nicolas however we want members of both congregations to feel able to be part of the worship and all services will be available online, either live or pre-recorded. Here's what is coming up and some of the people involved...



### SWANS Celebration

**Tues 29th Sept, 10.30am, St Nicolas**

Sally-Ann has been keeping SWANS going online during most of lockdown, only succumbing to a break in August! Towards the end of September we're aiming to host a service of celebration and thanksgiving, welcoming back members and helping people reconnect.



### Licensing Service

**Thurs 8th Oct, 5pm, St James**

Adrian's licensing as Associate Minister of St James has been moved to 8th October at 5pm. Places are limited however we will be

videoing the service and making it available via St James' Facebook page. Plus on Sunday 12th October those unable to be at the licensing can be part of the welcome at our morning worship at 10am.



### All Saints Memorial Service

**Sun 1st Nov, 4pm, St Nicolas**

For those who have faced the loss of loved ones during recent months, the restrictions brought about by COVID-19 have been particularly difficult. We're offering this service of thanksgiving for those connected with our churches who have been bereaved in recent months. As one of our funeral ministers John will be helping to coordinate and lead this special memorial service.



## Thanksgiving

**Late November, St Nicolas**

Unable to have our Harvest celebrations this year we nevertheless want to celebrate and be thankful for all of the good things we enjoy and the 'fruitfulness' of a challenging year. Towards the end of November we're planning a special service in which we give thanks for a different sort of harvest and acknowledge some of the heroes and heroines of the pandemic who have been shining lights in our communities during the pandemic. Mark may be asking for your ideas and nominations in the weeks to come!

## ZOOM

Many of our church events and activities are taking place via Facebook or Zoom. We want to help more people connect in this way so that they are able to access worship services and be part of the life of the community when meeting face to face is not possible. If you'd like help to understand Facebook or Zoom please get in touch with one of the team. To access church activities on Zoom the ID is **247 634 4553**. The password is **Shekinah**

## APCMS

Both churches will be holding their Annual Parochial Church Meeting in October. These would ordinarily have been held much earlier in the year but we were unable to do so. We now must hold our APCMs before the end of October and we will be aiming to circulate copies of the annual reports in the coming weeks.

At these meetings there is an opportunity for church members on the Electoral Roll to:

- ask questions about church business and the annual report;
- stand for and elect church wardens and PCC members.

There are numerous vacancies in each church and it would be lovely to have some more people stand for roles. We can get nomination forms to you if you would like to stand but please don't delay as everything is taking longer than usual at the moment! Please chat with Kelly or a churchwarden (Roger and Nick at St Nicolas or Paul at St James) for more information.

## HALLS

Church halls are now open again and some groups are returning. Not every group and activity can yet be hosted because of the restrictions but we hope that more will be able to relaunch during the coming weeks.

## PARISH OFFICE

St James Parish Office will be up and running from early September and people will be able to email Marina (Parish Administrator for both churches) and phone with enquiries. The offices will be open as follows:  
**St Nicolas:** 9-12pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday;  
**St James:** 1-3pm, Monday and Friday;  
with Marina working a few hours around these times when the office will not be open officially.



# Eco Agenda

Godfrey Armitage is Coventry Diocese Environmental Officer. He'll be leading two special Word & Worship sessions for us in September, helping us to think about our green credentials as individuals and churches. The Zoom sessions are open to anyone who is interested, using our regular meeting ID **2476344553** and password **Shekinah**.

At the February meeting of General Synod of the Church of England, new targets were set for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030.

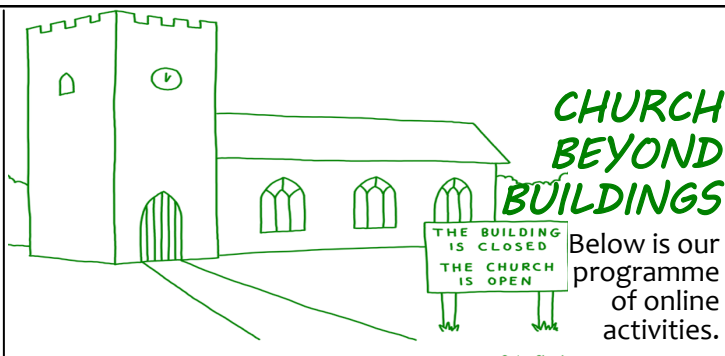
The Church of England has also announced an energy footprinting tool (available online) for parishes to calculate their carbon footprint.

The Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop on Environmental Affairs said: *"To reach Synod's target of 2030 will not be easy, and requires each of us to hear this as an urgent call to action. But this is a clear statement of intent across the Church and to wider society about our determination to safeguard God's creation. This is a social justice issue, which affects the world's poorest soonest and most severely, and if the Church is to hold others to account, we have to get our own house in order."*

In these two sessions we'll be hearing more about this target and what measures we can take to play our part.

**Wednesday 16th September, 7pm**  
**NET ZERO CARBON 2030**

**Wednesday 23rd September, 7pm**  
**LIFESTYLE CHANGES**



## **Sundays 10am - SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

On Facebook at 10am.

<https://www.facebook.com/stnicolaschurchnuneaton/>

## **Sundays 11am-12noon - CHURCH LOUNGE**

Post-service chat via Zoom. Zoom meeting ID is 247 634 4533. Password is Shekinah.

**Mondays 8am - MORNING PRAYER** on Zoom.  
Zoom ID is 247 634 4533. Password is Shekinah.

**Tuesdays, 10am - SWANS** will be returning at some point in September—more details to follow.

## **Wednesdays 7-8pm - WORD & WORSHIP**

Online Bible study and chatter.

Zoom ID is 247 634 4533. Password is Shekinah.

## **Thursdays 11.30am - SONGS FOR LITTLE ONES**

Linked with Baby Hub Sally-Ann will be leading a short session of songs.

## **Saturdays 4-5pm - CHURCH QUIZ**

A quiz suitable for all ages via Zoom.

## **DEADLINE**

The deadline for the October newsletter is **Monday 21st October**. Please email contributions to Kelly. There is not a lot of church news at the moment (for obvious reasons) so please do help us fill the pages! We'd especially like church members to contribute personal news, poems, book reviews, prayers and information for the newsletter.

## **STAYING IN TOUCH**

### **Websites**

[www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk)  
[www.stjamesweddington.org.uk](http://www.stjamesweddington.org.uk)

### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/stnicolaschurchnuneaton>  
<https://www.facebook.com/stjameschurchweddington>

### **Email**

[office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk)  
[office@stjamesweddington.org.uk](mailto:office@stjamesweddington.org.uk)

### **Telephone**

St Nicolas Office 02476344553  
St James Office TBC  
Vicar 02476346900

### **Post**

St Nicolas' Church, Parish Office, Vicarage Street,  
Nuneaton, CV11 4AZ  
Parish Office, St James' Church Hall, Church Lane,  
Weddington, CV10 0EY