Wilton Parish News



SPRING 2021



Welcome to our Spring Edition!

Read on to learn about our **Church Services** and **activities**, some thoughts for the "**National Day of Reflection"** on 23 March; an **invitation to Confirmation** (if you haven't yet taken this step!); and also news of an appeal to "**Give thanks for your Vaccine**" - by supporting **Christian Aid** in their aim of providing vaccines and basic supplies for some of poorest nations of the world. Unsurprisingly, our **Easter services** will feel a little "different" - but at least we are able to celebrate Easter this year! There will be a range of services in Holy Week and, on Easter Day itself, both a traditional Easter Communion service and a family-friendly "Easter Celebration" for all ages.

All being well, as we move towards summer, we will see more activities, events and services in and around our churches. For the latest developments please visit our website

www.wiltonparish.co.uk or see posts on our Facebook page:

@StMaryAndStNicholasChurchWilton

Contacts:

Rector: The Revd Mark Wood, Tel. 01722 742571 (not Saturdays) Email: rectorwilton@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Christine Matthews Email: wiltonpcc@btinternet.com Mondays 11-12: Wednesdays and Fridays 10-12



What's on?

Parish Groups

As restrictions ease, we hope to restart some of our previous activities and offer some new ones!

For those craving fresh air and company, the **Holy Ramblers** (walking group) should be possible before long, and, as soon as we are allowed to meet indoors, our **Bible Book Club** and **Christian Mindfulness** sessions will follow.

For the moment, our **choirs** and **ringers** are all but silenced ("solo performances" only for now!) but we hope they'll be permitted to meet together again soon.

Our **Mother's Union** groups and men's **Grapevine** are keeping in touch "virtually" just now again we hope they will soon be able to meet "physically".

Our **Altar Servers** (age 8—adult) are still playing a limited role in our services. New recruits are always welcome and now is a good time to start, while it's relatively simple!

Finally, we would really welcome a few more "Church Guides", ready for when we are able to open the Parish Church to visitors again. (No expert knowledge required!)

If you are interested in any of these, please contact Rev. Mark Wood for details.

Church Services

Regular worship is currently offered only at the **Parish Church**, but this will be reviewed regularly as Covid 19 guidance evolves in the coming weeks.

Sunday Worship is at 10.45am

This is a short (30 min.) service of 'Morning Prayer', sometimes followed by Holy Communion for those who wish to stay.

This service is recorded for our website and Facebook page. If you are unable to get to church, you may like to "join in" from home. Or, if you are unsure whether you might like to attend, why not preview before you try?!

There is also a celebration of **Holy Communion** on **Wednesdays at 10am**.

Strict safety measures remain in place for your protection: face coverings are compulsory; hand sanitizer must be used when entering AND leaving the building; and social distancing (2m) must be observed at all times.

If you would like to help us maintain our work and worship please consider making a donation via our website: www.wiltonparish.co.uk



Ramblings from the Rectory

So here we are on the Roadmap to recovery - and for very many of us, it can't come soon enough!



We need to be alert, though, for potential "collisions" ahead between our desire to just get it all over with, and to do everything we've been missing all at once; and the need to be sensible and cautious, in order to avoid any "forced U -turns" back into lockdown.

If we're really going to build on the huge gains of the past few weeks, it will need patience across the generations, as many are fully vaccinated but others will not be for some months yet. And it will need understanding for, and a willingness to support, those sectors of society that have been impacted, more than most, by the financial strains of the pandemic if we are going to really start functioning again.

And it seems to me that the way ahead won't be so much a free-flowing highway as a pilgrim's trail - a route we travel steadily, sometimes with difficulty, always with determination, and paying attention to whomever we meet along the way. A journey with no "Sat-nav" - and no clear sense of when we'll have "arrived at our destination". (No more motoring analogies, now, I promise!)

On Tuesday 23rd March, a year on from the beginning of the first lockdown, there will be a "National Day of Reflection" - an opportunity to take stock of all we've been through - even if we can't make sense of it all - before we push forward into the log-awaited recovery. I've included a little further into this edition, an "aid to reflection" produced by "CPAS", which I hope you might find helpful.



Ramblings from the Rectory

"My Pandemic" encourages to recognise our sadness at all that has been lost, but also to be thankful for the good that has remained, and that may sometimes have surprised us despite everything else.

Looking back over the past year, I can hardly express the depth of anguish that many of us have felt this year - loved ones unable to say goodbye to those who have died, funeral wishes unfulfilled because of Covid regulations and, for me, the agony of trying to give "Last Rites" over the telephone - something I dearly wish never to have to repeat. Family celebrations, and long-planned projects have been abandoned. Hard-earned businesses have gone for ever, and individuals have experienced the heartbreak of missed opportunities and lost skills. We can't simply pretend all that was a bad dream, and now it's somehow "back to normal" - the human cost is too great, and we have to acknowledge that, before we can rebuild for the future.

While we can't ignore, or change, any of that - there IS still so much to be thankful for. Firstly, we are still here! And the incredible work done by local volunteers - firstly with the Covid Help team, and more recently with the Vaccinations, at the Michael Herbert Hall, and in Salisbury - has been tremendous. Human "goodness" has been just as palpable here as human sadness, and we do need to keep a handle on both.

In our churches, I am thankful for both the resilience and enthusiasm of our young people, who've carried so much, and for the patience of those forced to shield, who've been excluded from so much. And I've been deeply impressed by the faithfulness of people of all ages, and across our parish - determined to "keep things going" in the best ways available to us, and determined not to lose contact with each other. I'm thankful also that, despite feeling a little "rusty" on too many of the things I used to do, along the way I have managed to pick up a few new skills, and am grateful to those who've helped me do so!

However we do it, on 23 March or some other day, I'd encourage all of us to make a little time to reflect - to weep if we need to, to smile when we can - and most of all to give thanks for all that we still have, and for new opportunities ahead of us. $M_{-}\lambda_{-}$ $M_{-}\lambda_{-}$



"My Pandemic"



The pandemic has impacted us all in different ways.

You may like to use this guide to reflect on your personal experience.

Try to find a quiet place, and around 30 minutes,

to use these questions to explore what has been going on for you.

It may be helpful to jot down your thoughts for later reflection.

Thanksgiving

What are you thankful for?
Think about small things,
such as food,
as well as bigger things,
such as frontline workers.

Thanksgiving is recognised as aid to mental wellbeing. People who are struggling are often encouraged to keep a "gratitude diary" - writing down three or more things that make them feel grateful, even on the hardest days.

Lament

What are you missing/longing for? This may be people or things you have lost, hopes that have been dashed or longing for a better future.

To "lament" is to voice or describe the sadness that we have felt.
We might want to talk about things, to create a piece of art, sing sad songs, or make scrapbooks about what or who we have lost. We might light a candle as we remember, and as we hope and long for a better future.

Learning

What have you learned..?
.. about life, about what and who is important to you, about yourself?
What things will you do differently as a result of the pandemic?

You might like to write or draw in a notebook, for a few moments at a time, during the week—to help you reflect on your life and to think things through. After a few weeks look back and see how things are going.

Prayer

If you pray, what will you want to include over the coming weeks?

Think local/national/global;

Think people/situations/all life;

Think of your hopes and concerns.

Many people pray - whether they follow any religion or not - whenever there is a crisis! But prayer is not just for emergencies - our "conversations with God" can be as natural, and as honest as with our closest friends. If we can't find our the right words, we might a candle as a silent prayer.



Is it time yet?!



Do you think it might be time for YOU to be Confirmed?



If so, why not explore further?

We will be preparing for a Confirmation Service at St Mary and St Nicholas' Church, in July.

(Both adults and Young People welcome.)

What does preparation involve?

A series of discussions (online or "in person" if allowed) where we try to make sense of the Christian faith, and see how the Christian faith sense can make sense of our lives.

No formal "qualifications" needed!

What will happen in the service?

Bishop Andrew *confirms* you in God's Holy Spirit, by laying hands on your head and praying for you.

You *confirm* that in your daily life, you want to continue growing in faith and understanding.

What if I have some questions?

Please get in touch for a chat!.

Revd Mark Wood

Tel. 01722 742571 em

email: rectorwilton@gmail.com



Faith, hope and charities!

Give Thanks for your Vaccine!

In Wilton and Netherhampton, we've seen an amazing response to the challenges of Covid 19 - with volunteers of all ages getting involved in efforts to support the vulnerable and isolated, and, more recently, enabling more than 10,000 vaccinations at the Michael Herbert Hall.

A superb community effort! Sadly, we know that there are many communities around the world that don't have access to vaccines or even the basics they need to protect themselves, like clean water for handwashing.

And so we have partnered with **Christian Aid** (a superb charity, working in many parts of the world, and celebrating its 75th anniversary this year) to launch an appeal for some of the world's most vulnerable people.



As you or a family member are protected, can you give something to help protect those who don't have access to vaccines?

If you can help, please use the QR code, on the left, or type this link to access our giving page.

https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/wiltonvaccineappeal-124ad

Wilton Educational Charity is seeking a new Secretary.

WEC is the older of Wilton's Educational Charities, and makes annual grants to young people living in Wilton for various Educational purposes - including books, equipment, music and sports activities.

Thanks to Earle Broadbent, the current Secretary, WEC's affairs are in good order – but he would now like to hand this over to "a younger pair of hands"! The Secretary's role involves keeping an eye on finances, coordinating Trustees meetings twice a year and the annual distribution of Grant cheques.

If you might be interested in this role, or know of someone who might be suitable, please contact Rev Mark Wood for more information.

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Easter 2021



Easter Day falls on Sunday 4th April.

Our main celebrations will be: 9.30am Holy Communion at St Catherine's, Netherhampton

10.45am Easter Celebration at the Parish Church (St. Mary & St. Nicholas', West Street)

Both services will need to be pre-booked.

If you hope to attend the service at **Wilton**, please email Christine Matthews on **wiltonpcc@btinternet.com** (or drop a note to The Parish Office, West Street, Wilton, SP2 0DL) with numbers in your household/bubble who will be attending.

For the service at **Netherhampton** - please contact Katie Ray on **01722 335701**

Requests must be received by Sunday 28 March, and you will be advised, no later than Weds. 31st, whether or not we have been able to allocate a place for you.

For other events in Holy Week, please see our www.wiltonparish.co.uk or see posts on our Facebook page:

@StMaryAndStNicholasChurchWilton

