

St Edmund Warkton News Sheet

28 June 2020

Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Prayer requests

Pray for the residents of Warkton parish: for the nurse, the cleaner and the carer who work with the NHS and the colleagues who work with them.

Pray for the Churches of Kettering; for the ways that each person in their congregations keeps in contact with others and for the ways that services and group meetings can continue to take place.

Continue to pray for Rosalinde, John and their family.
Please contact Mark if you would like further information.

Remember the Cerón family and their church in Chile and for the South America where coronavirus is over a million infections.

Pray for those in the Church who serve us, especially the clergy:
Robert, Andy, Wallace and Mark and Charles.

If you wish to contact - a member of the fellowship please use the contact booklet or phone the Rector 0778 810 0757.

Charles May writes - The Lord has laid it upon my heart to say:
Be strong and of a good courage. In these difficult times we are not wrestling with flesh and blood but with spiritual wickedness.

Therefore Throw off every weight, Run the race and above all look to Jesus. Much blessing. Charles.

If you have time, look at this encouragement-message from my youngest Grand-daughter Abi

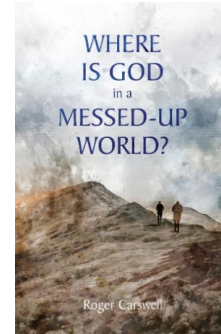
<https://www.facebook.com/the6ixcommunity/videos/2320439674922381/?vh=e>

Don't forget to click on the picture when it comes up.



Exploring the Bible

This book is a Bible Reading Plan for young people. David Murray presents a simplified way to read the Bible by offering younger readers a plan tailored just for them. Structured reading plans provide a great way to read through the whole Bible, but they're usually not designed with younger people in mind. <https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/>



Where is God in a Messed-Up World?

This book asks (and answers) questions that people are asking about God, life and suffering. If God exists and really is a God of love, then why doesn't he stop the suffering and problems in our world? While investigating the answers, Roger Carswell is realistic enough to admit that there are things God reveals to us, and things he doesn't reveal. He argues that the starting point is to find out who God is, and to figure out if he can be trusted - even if we don't have all the answers. <https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/>

The St Edmund Church wardens - met, on-line, with the St Botolph wardens and the Rector last Thursday.

Edward and Ian heard that:

--a budget of £200.00 has been allocated to open the St Botolph church building for two hours each Sunday afternoon for private prayer.
--following the bishops guidance on safeguarding, at least two DBS checked adults would be inside the building at any one time.

--at least two other persons would be outside the building to regulate the number of admissions at any one time.

--hygiene and social distancing measures would be in place.

At St Edmund it was agreed by all that:

--all the above would apply.

--the chancel would be roped off.

--two out of every three pews would have to be roped off.

--the remaining pews would have to be marked to accommodate two persons only.

--one-way movement would have to be in place.

The Rector and wardens recognised that, because of the continuously changing information coming from the Government, Lambeth Palace and Peterborough Diocese, any of the above may change!

Here is Mark's latest Blog - which he would like us to read.

[The End is Nigh. Maybe?](#)

The last '5 o'clock briefing' occurred last Tuesday, 23 June.

The briefings have been an important part of the government strategy to get through these days of 'lockdown'. Senior cabinet members flanked by leading scientists have led us through daily statistics.

We've learned a lot about how to evaluate, handle, interpret (manipulate?), and present statistical data in the process. And we all now know what the magic 'R' number represents - who could forget?

All that is now over. We are flying blind.

So what does this mean for us? When can church services resume? When will we be back to normal?

These are great questions. I know that many of us are longing for the day when we can meet together again without fear. When we will no longer need to carry around a small bottle of alcohol hand gel, and when we can shake hands and hug our friends. And, most importantly, when we can attend a service of Holy Communion. I'm afraid the answer is, we don't know. All we do know is that it will be some time yet before these things are possible.

So, what was Tuesday's briefing all about? Didn't it mark the end of lockdown? Well, we are certainly, it seems, at the beginning of the end of lockdown. However, the process is not straight forward. All we can say for certain is that there is still a long way to go. While COVID-19

infections in the UK have dropped to very low levels, internationally infection rates and mortality are still climbing. This does mean that we can ease the lockdown at home, but international travel and business are still very much affected. The next important thing to note is that, while infection rates are very low, they are not zero. The virus is still with us and it wouldn't take much to produce a rapid rise in infection and mortality again. This will be the case until either we develop and administer a vaccine, the population develop a 'herd immunity', or the virus disappears of its own accord. This last event always seems to happen at some point with pandemics, no one really know how or why. So, we can enjoy a little more freedom, but we must exercise sensible caution.

For St Botolph and St Edmund, as indeed all churches across the country, this has some serious implications. Whilst we await guidance from the bishops, the main things we know are that there will be no services of Holy Communion for the foreseeable future, meetings must be few in number and social distancing observed, and we are not allowed to sing. So, what can we do? Well, be assured that currently we have no intention of reducing our online offerings and alongside these:

St Botolph's church building will be open every Sunday afternoon from 2.00pm to 4.00pm for private prayer. Hygiene and social distancing measures are in place for this. Weddings and funerals are now allowed to take place in the church building. Guest numbers must be small, probably no more than 20, and hygiene and social distancing must be observed.

We are considering some live streaming from the church building, perhaps of morning prayer. You may be able to attend these services in person so long as hygiene measures are observed. Please let me know if you think this would be worthwhile.

This is the present situation as at Thursday 25th June. We are still awaiting any guidance from the bishops. We recognise that things are changing almost daily. We will keep you all up to date with changes as they occur.

Please keep in touch via: email, WhatsApp, Twitter, Messenger, text message, telephone, or letter. There should be something there for most of you! May God bless you.

Could you volunteer to steward the St Edmund building?