

St Peter & St Paul, Appledore - St Mary the Virgin, Stone
PEW NEWS for a VIRTUAL CHURCH - 27th September 2020
16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

WELCOME to Pew News for a (semi) virtual Church Community. Though, from time to time, we are able to meet 'in the flesh,' this is still a chance to keep in touch with each other and to share our worship and prayers. You will find the Collect for the Day, and the designated readings for this Sunday. One of the readings, or an extract from it will be printed on the sheet, together with resources you may wish to use in your daily prayer.

GOOD NEWS!
OUR CHURCHES ARE NOW OPEN!

This Sunday please join us as we worship at St. Mary the Virgin, Stone-in-Oxney at 9am. The service is a celebration of Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer.

Our **Wednesday** morning service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer at 9.30am in Appledore is also returning on Wednesday 14th and 28th October.

St. Mary the Virgin, Stone-in-Oxney continues to be open for private prayer every day from 9am to 5pm.

St. Peter and St. Paul, Appledore opens every Sunday and Wednesday from 9am to 5pm.

These times will be kept under review.

We would like to remind you that the wearing of masks/face coverings in church is mandatory. In line with the

requirements, the ministers will wear masks only at the point of communion, to protect the bread from infection (until that point, the bread will remain securely covered). We will also maintain strict hand sanitising. Please be very gentle with those who are not wearing masks because it may be for a very good reason.

'Produce in the Porch' and 'Library in the Porch' are operating in both St Mary the Virgin Church, Stone and St Peter and St Paul, Appledore. You will find a range of preserves, plants and miscellaneous goodies, as well as a range of reading and reference material. Please read the notices which will help you to enjoy your shopping experience safely.

In our prayers throughout the week

We pray for all who are suffering or in need, all who are unwell and those who look after them, including all NHS and key workers at this difficult time. We pray for those known to us who are ill: for Peter Coleman, John and Joan in Stone, for John Sergeant in Appledore, and for Eva.

Please also remember, in your prayers, those who are bereaved.



If there is someone who you'd especially like the church community to pray for, please email [Alison algil@btopenworld.com](mailto:Alison.algil@btopenworld.com) and/or patricia.fogden@btinternet.com

The Collect for Today

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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. Amen

Readings:

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4,12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin," we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and

he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of

The links between the readings

Living right with God means making many, and often great, changes in our lives in order to adopt God's values. This is what repentance is.

You might say that it is a type of 'rehab'. In the Old Testament, New Testament and Gospel readings, to three different communities, we get three different illustrations - a prophecy, a hymn and a parable - illustrations of what this new way of life looks like.

It is a big thing to embark upon and a lifelong project both communally and individually.

We pray for the church around the globe. Where Christians are assembling for worship, protect them from viral infection.

Where Christians are worshiping with print and screen, grant them steadfastness in your word. Strengthen those believers who doubt your goodness. Bless our clergy, lay leaders and committee members as they serve our congregations in this difficult time. Amen

Pew News compiled by

Revd Tricia Fogden 01233 758250

patricia.fogden@btinternet.com

Please do get in touch if there is anything that we can do to help **GOD BLESS**