Where is God in a Coronavirus World?

AN all church session will take place on Tuesday 26 May at 8pm via Zoom, with teaching from Ben, and then breakout groups for discussions.

Please note change of date!

If you are reading this email you should have received an actual invitation to this event with accept or decline options. Please use this option rather than emailing the office, if you haven’t seen an invite, please check your spam folder! It is really important to tell us you are keen to take part so we can form the breakout groups in advance.

Join with us for Church@Home

JOIN us for this week’s Church@Home service on Sunday from 10.00am. This Sunday celebrates the Ascension. The readings are Matthew 28.16-20 and Acts 1.3-11.

Christian Aid Week Thank You

THANK you to everyone who wore red on Sunday morning, to increase the spread and accessibility to others. We have many more people watching than actually attend services…

Coffee Zoom

IT is lovely to see lots of familiar faces at the Zoom video coffee morning afterwards, do join in if you haven’t already!

The link will be in the Friday email from the office, and will be the same each week, please try and join promptly at 11.00am.

We weren’t the only church affected by Zoom problems last and we trust that the technology behaves itself this week so we can enjoy some time together.

Daily Hope - Free Phone Line Update

DAILY Hope, a free national phone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services by telephone which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19 offering hope and encouragement to those who may be struggling.

Groups of the week

Please pray for all the Centre hirers, especially those who earn an income from their groups. Also for teachers, school staff and parents looking forward to half term.

Thought for the week

It’s the moments that I stopped just to be, rather than do, that have given me true happiness...

Give thanks for

The NHS staff working so hard, and for their huge band of volunteers
The Oakley Support Network volunteers
The technology allowing us to continue to converse, lead and come together
Food producers and distributors, retail staff, posties, refuse collectors – the mainly unseen people who are keeping us going!
A growth in community spirit
All those who have recovered.

Please pray for

Those isolated and feeling alone
Those who are ill
Those who are anxious
Those missing their families
Those who feel distanced from their loved ones
Those who are fearful of losing their jobs
Those who are worrying about their finances
Those who need clarity about exams and their futures
Those cancelling events
Those whose weddings are disrupted
Those who are grieving
Those unable to celebrate special occasions

Prayer Morning & Night now on Zoom

MORNING Prayer is now available via Zoom each weekday morning at 9.00 am offering a time to pause, pray for the day ahead and reflect on a short piece of scripture. You’ll be connected to others around the parish doing the same. If you haven’t mastered the technology as yet, you could even ring around the parish doing the same. If you haven’t mastered the technology as yet, you could even ring someone and say it together over the phone.

There is a Zoom meeting for Night Prayer each evening Monday to Friday at 9.00pm.

Please contact the office for the link, as we are not publishing these widely, if you have the link already, it hasn’t changed.

Staying in touch

THERE’S a lot of phone calls, Zoom meetings, and general ‘keeping-in-touch’ going on, which is great to hear about. If you would like to be a caller or receive some ‘Check up and Chat’ calls, please let the office, Ben or Katey Butler know using the new Pastoral email address - pastoralcare@oww.church

As a scarecrow, people say I'm outstanding in my field. But hay - it's in my jeans.
**Discipleship Groups**

We are using Zoom to support Alpha and other small group meetings. If you would like to start a new group or you would like to host a Zoom meeting to connect to an established group, please get in touch with Ben or the office and we can work out what support you need.

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**Oakley Support Network - ONS**

THE church continues to work alongside the Parish Council and the Oakley Community Association to provide a means by which people can ask for help and be supported with essential shopping, collection of prescriptions and advice on coping with difficulties associated with self-isolation and social distancing. The network can be trusted to support you so please use it if you need some help to keep safe.

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**Up on the Roof**

THANKS to the persistent and sterling efforts of Mark Peryer, we have now received planning and Diocesan approval to replace the temporary roofing over the North Aisle roof at St Leonard’s. We should also take time to thank Rowland Tilley for the temporary roof that has stood the test of time and countless storms. We will shortly appoint the contractor to do this work and we will continue to keep you informed of progress.

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**A Question of Food**

SEVERAL people have asked about food donations etc as Besom has closed temporarily. AT present we have no easy outlet for food donations, so our suggestions would be that if you are physically in a supermarket, then buy extra and leave in the store. If you are self-isolating or shielded then donate money direct to Basingstoke Foodbank via Virgin Giving or by BACS transfer to: Basingstoke Foodbank
Sort Code: 60-02-49
Account Number: 80118577
send a cheque to Basingstoke Foodbank to this address
Trinity Methodist Church Sarum Hill Basingstoke RG21 8SR
There is a form on their website for gift aid purposes.

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**Vaughans news - same family, different news!**

JEREMY and Carole Vaughan are celebrating their Ruby Wedding anniversary this weekend, I am sure they would love to hear from you via post, email or phone, as their original plans aren’t possible...

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**Thank you**

ANGELA Rush writes, “I would like to thank all my friends at St Leonard’s for their kind thoughts and prayers, cards and gifts following the death of my mother in April. They were much appreciated. God bless you all.”

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**2019 Review**

THE Review of 2019 meeting will be held on
Sunday 31 May at 11.00am
in the post church coffee slot.
This will not be the APCM meeting which has to physically take place so there will be no elections at this time. But it will be an opportunity to reflect on last year’s achievements, and see the church accounts presented.

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**Saturday Morning Prayers**

AN ecumenical group that meets for one hour a week to pray for the Parish and Cluster areas as well as for the activities of the different churches involved. Our desire is to see the power of God moving in this community.
Contact Mike Compton to join this Saturday morning Zoom group or to find out more.

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**We’ve moved 😊**

But the number's the same

THE office has relocated but the phone number remains the same, and is happy to receive calls and the usual queries! If there is no answer, please leave a message and the call will be returned.

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**Keep saving**

DON’T forget to keep hold of your crisp packets, stamps and milk bottle tops for when we can finally reopen the Centre safely.

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**Where to find the Sunday Service**

CHURCH services are broadcast on the St Leonard’s Channel on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrNfHyJkOQN8xrurnw1VznQ
and on the church website www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk

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**Enriching Relationships**

FOR those of you who are married, one consequence of lockdown is that you may have spent more time with your spouse in the last two months than at any other time in your lives! For many this pandemic has put a lot of pressure on relationships and family life.

For others, it has offered the chance to reconnect and rediscover life with their partner. Either way, this crisis is waking us all up to things that really matter in this life. What better time to invest in your deepest relationships than this?

_The Marriage Course_ is a series of seven sessions, designed to help couples grow in their relationship and build a strong marriage. The course is now available online for free. This is a brilliant resource which we hope will be an encouragement and a blessing to everyone who engages with it.

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**No Show**

SADLY the amazing Oakley Show has been cancelled, but on a more positive note this means you have a bit longer to perfect your craft, cooking and art skills ready for next year’s show…!

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**Thy Kingdom Come**

THIS annual event starts at Pentecost and we would urge you to take part in any way you can. More information and ideas will follow, but the Archbishop of Canterbury suggests you think of five people to pray for each day, so start thinking about who they might be in the meantime!