



St Giles Church
Together in body and spirit on
Sunday September 20th, 2020

'For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.' (Philippians 1: 21)

These words which form part of our Epistle reading for this coming Sunday have had a particular poignancy for me this week with news on Monday evening that our dear St Giles sister and beloved friend Sharon Neale had gone peacefully to be with the Lord after a long struggle with cancer. Sharon regularly attended our 8 am Service. She was someone whose strength of faith in Jesus and wonderful sense of humour shone through right to the end and she was so looking forward to going home to be with God at last. May she now indeed rest in peace and rise in glory in the arms of the Saviour she loved so much. Please do hold Sharon's husband Rob and sons Jonathan, Matthew and Darryl very much in your prayers.

Details regarding Sharon's funeral are still being finalised and we are looking at ways in which we can remember Sharon as a church family given the restrictions on numbers at funerals which are still in place. I will send more

information soon. If you wish to send a card and are not sure of the address, please send them to me at the Vicarage (36 St Giles Rd, Exhall, Coventry CV7 9HA) and I will make sure they are passed on. Please mark the envelope so I know who it is for.

This week we begin a new Sermon Series launching into Paul's letter to the Philippians. It's only 4 chapters long so I really recommend reading it all through at home. It's a real treasure trove! Our outline looks like this:

Sunday 20th Sept: Lifelines out of Lockdown (Phil. 1: 21 - end)

Sunday 27th Sept: Magnificent Mindset (Phil 2: 1 - 13)

Sunday 4th Oct: Gain out of Garbage. (Phil 3: 4 - 14)
(Harvest themed)

Sunday 11th Oct: Remedy from Rejoicing. (Phil. 4: 1 - 9)

This will also be our Annual Meeting! We'll begin at 10.30 am with a short time of worship and prayer.

Thank you for continuing to book in for services. We will need to maintain this system for some time to come. Thankfully, at present, the 'rule of six' does not apply to our worship in churches. Please do take the opportunity to come - it's lovely to see you in person! Thanks as well to everyone who faithfully joins us on Facebook Live - I love seeing your comments pop up as we go. Please do give us your feedback on your experience of this - we want to learn and improve all the time.

News from the Pews

Zoom in the afternoon

Sunday's 4.30pm Zoom communion is back on this week. If you haven't already joined us and would like to see what it's like, please email [Rev Gail](#) for an invitation.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting on **Sunday, October 11th at 10.30am** is going ahead as planned!

With special dispensation we from the Bishop we are able to hold it via Zoom which we will combine with a physical meeting in the main hall for which 30 spaces are available. To book your place please email [Penny](#) or [Rev Gail](#).

Joining the PCC

As mentioned last week, the PCC agreed to allow members of the PCC who were due to end their term of office in April 2020 to continue until April 2021 in light of these very unusual Covid circumstances. We felt this would provide some much needed continuity at a time when it will be difficult to facilitate maximum participation in the Annual Meeting. **However, if you would be interested to serve on the PCC, please do have a chat with Rev Gail or one of the Churchwardens Team.**

Bible readings for this week



Philippians 1: 21–30

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I

remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.



Matthew 20: 1 – 16

The parable of the workers in the vineyard

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

‘About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the market-place doing nothing. He told them, “You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went.

‘He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, “Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?”

“Because no one has hired us,” they answered.

‘He said to them, “You also go and work in my vineyard.”

‘When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.”

‘The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. “These who were hired last worked only one hour,” they said, “and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.”

‘But he answered one of them, “I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?”

‘So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’



Prayers for our church, our parish and our world

For those who mourn:

Sharon Neale

Jeannie

Baby Joshua & the Hope family

Joyce Elliott

Margaret Wagstaff

For God's healing love:

Pearl Duffy
Roy Edwards
Andy Burton
June Plumb
Jan Leivers
Edna Leighton
Nan Bellew
Pauline Skelcher
Maureen Mason
Lara
Florence
Job
The Keane Family

Pray for our church leaders as they struggle to come to terms with all the changing Covid 19 directives. Monday 21st September is the International Day of Peace. Pray for all involved in peace making and reconciliation. Thursday 24th September is World Maritime Day. Pray for the Mission to Seafarers which offer spiritual support to those whose livelihoods are connected to the seas.

Pray for wisdom on both sides in the ongoing Brexit negotiations. Pray for the communities which have been most severely affected by the pandemic, in this land and in developing lands abroad.

Pray for the factories and businesses which provide work in our area. For their owners and managers that they make decisions for the benefit of all.

Wednesday 23rd September is International Day of Sign Languages. Give thanks for all who work to enable people to communicate with each other.

Pray for the sick, the dying, for those recently bereaved and for those who face difficult anniversaries at this time.

**Oh God of peace and safety,
Pour your peace on us.**

Oh God of peace

Grant peace in our hearts. *(From an Arabic Hymn)*

Collect for this Sunday

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.

Please keep in touch!

Please contact Penny at the parish office with your news, queries or to book places at Sunday services.

Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 1.30pm

office@stgileschurchexhall.info

024 7636 8008

Our website is updated regularly so please check in when you can

www.stgileschurchexhall.info



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