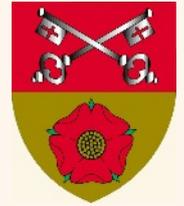




Outreach

The Parish Newsletter of St. James Church, Briercliffe
Available on our church website, www.briercliffestjames.co.uk



Issue 8 - May 2021

Church Opening

A Sunday service at 10.00am. will continue to be conducted until the end of May. The pattern of services will then be reviewed. There will be no midweek services as yet.

Church Business News

Six months ago, on Sunday 25th October, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting of St. James' Church were held. They had been delayed due to the first period of lockdown and the Tier restrictions of 2020, until they could be held in church.

The usual pattern for these meetings, required by the Blackburn Diocese, will be resumed when they are held on Sunday 30th May following the morning service. They will be chaired by the newly installed Vicar, Rev'd Sharon Greensmith.

A warm welcome awaits the Rev'd Sharon, in late May, but Covid restrictions will inevitably mean a smaller attendance for her invitation only institution and installation service, than anybody would wish.

The APCM will include the presentation of the Treasurer's Financial Statement and the election of some PCC members, whilst the Vestry Meeting will be concerned with the election of Churchwardens.

Revision of Church Electoral Roll

It is that time of year where we revise the Church Electoral Roll. If you are already on the Roll, could you please let me know if you have changed any of your details i.e. change of address or telephone number etc. The list is on the notice board at the back of church, where you can check if you are on the Electoral Roll.

If you would like to be added to the Roll, please take a form from the Church Wardens table (back of church) and return completed and signed before Saturday 15th May 2021. If you can hand them in to me, Andrea Bettany, or leave on the Church Wardens' table, I would be very grateful. If you have any questions please call me on 07796616961.

Christian Aid Week - 10th to 16th May

Christian Aid

Christian Aid envelopes will be available in church on Sundays 2nd and 9th May. Please collect and contribute as generously as possible at this difficult time worldwide. Envelopes should be returned to church on Sunday 16th May.

It's 'Goodbye' from Father Tim

A big thank you to Father Tim, as he leaves us in May, for being our Interim Vicar during a difficult period of emerging from lockdown, church repairs and clergy vacancy. Here is Father Tim's final contribution to our newsletter:-

May seems to be a month of new arrivals and also of saying goodbye. My time with you ends with the institution of your new Vicar and you will have been eagerly awaiting her arrival. I was new to Lancashire and have only been here for three years. It didn't take me long to discover how warm and welcoming you all are and it has been a joy to live among you. I am sure Sharon will soon find this out for herself. She also has the pleasure of not only enjoying your beautiful countryside but also the more dubious delights of pie and black pudding! Which, I was led to believe are basic staples for all in Lancashire. I am only sorry that due to the lockdown I have not been able to get to know you better.

May also sees the feast of the Ascension. After the resurrection our Lord spent time with his disciples preparing them for their great mission. But all things must come to an end. Christ ascends to His Father in heaven so that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, he can be with all his people through all ages.

May the Risen Christ and the power of the Spirit be with you all in this new chapter in the life of your church family.

Fr. Tim

Welcome to Revd Sharon who might need some advice on settling in!

Hi everyone,

Well, the wait is almost over. I'm not going to lie, it has been a stressful time keeping all the proverbial plates spinning – and I must confess I have smashed the occasional one! But as I pray through the Benedictus every morning, I am constantly reminded of part of my duty of service as a Priest: *'And you child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.'* This, amongst other prayers and periods of contemplation, provide me with the strength needed to carry on, knowing I have God's blessing.

So, as I move up to Briercliffe I would be most grateful to know a few things – the best local pub that serves traditional real ale and has a potential dominoes or pool team (for hubby!); the best local hairdressers; the nearest swimming pool or leisure centre; nearest walks/fields for taking Barney out (that's my dog by the way not my husband!), and I enjoy theatre and supporting local amateur dramatics so if there are any local productions scheduled for later on in the year, do let me know. Most of all, I love a good natter and getting to know people so please do come and make yourself known – I am always up for coffee and cake!

With blessings,



Rev Sharon.

Church Cleaning

Cleaning inside church will now take place on the **3rd Wednesday** of each month at **6pm**.

First clean will be **Wednesday 19th May**, if you would like to help with this task please come and join us as many hands make light work. It takes around 45 mins to an hour at the most.

Please let Andrea Bettany know if you would like to join us, you do not have to commit yourself to every month.

Many Thanks - Andrea Bettany & Chris Holdsworth (Church Wardens)

Website Resources

Please visit our Church Website: www.briercliffestjames.co.uk, where you will find lots of useful information along with the weekly Worship at Home leaflet, a resources page, Fr. Tim's homily, School newsletter and various links to other websites.

Stewardship

If you would like to join our Stewardship Giving Scheme, either by weekly envelopes or bank standing order, please contact the Church Treasurer on 01282 434877, or have a word with Barbara Hanson in Church Please also consider gift-aiding your donations if you are a UK tax payer.

Posting of notices

As Covid restrictions are relaxed church groups and organisations, able to resume their activities, might like to request the posting of brief notices on this newsletter. Any information should be sent, by email, to the Editorial Team Coordinator before the 18th of each month please.

St. James Lanehead C of E School

Go to our church website and click on the link to read their newsletter and a letter about the recruitment of a new School Governor.



Burnley Food Bank

Please continue to support the Food Bank by donating at the Spar Shop; the need will be even greater as the year progresses.



A Prayer for the Vacancy

Generous God, you care for your children by sending a shepherd to guide us along the way of life and discipleship. As we prepare for the coming of our new Vicar, Rev'd. Sharon Greensmith, support and strengthen by your Holy Spirit, the ministry of our Church Wardens, PCC and visiting clergy during this time of vacancy. Help us to look forward with joyful hope to all that we will achieve together in building up your Kingdom in this parish and may the light of your countenance ever shine upon us and bless us. In Jesus' name. **Amen**

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