



Weekly update no.13: Friday 12 June 2020

## How (and when) shall we sing the Lord's Song?

Some psalms of exile catch our longing to be back with our brothers and sisters, praising God in song: Psalm 137

“How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem,

let my right hand forget its skill!”

“My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come

and appear before God? “ (Psalm 42)



Despite government announcements that churches can open for private prayer from 13 June, that day has not yet come. A number of conditions must be first be met- we need to provide hand sanitisers on entering and leaving: they are on order but have not yet arrived.

We must conduct a thorough risk assessment, display warning signs and work out how to direct people to pray. We need to work out how to clean. Most puzzling of all is the government instruction (without explanation) that private prayer must be ‘supervised’. It does not feel that opening places of prayer is as important to the authorities as getting shops and businesses open. More than one commentator has noticed the inconsistencies:

“Considerable effort has been made to explore how things can continue to occur while our nation copes with the virus being present. The priorities are striking - no weddings allowed but legislate to allow no fault divorce; no church services but widen Sunday trading and open theme parks: no baptisms but allow home abortions”.

These inconsistencies reveal what matters most to an increasingly secular society. But we must resist the temptation to bad-temper. The Lord Jesus is sovereign even over secular authorities. He is testing us so that we grow in faith, and he uses this

testing for our good:

“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” (Rom 5).

If we cannot gather to sing in church, we can praise the Lord in our homes and in our gardens in gatherings of six. It does seem ironic that my suggestion of garden groups was made the very weekend that the weather turned from fine to typical ‘Wimbledon’ weather! Time to put up a gazebo?

We must remain hopeful that we will be soon be allowed to return in some form to our church grounds, for private prayer, family funerals and eventually for small services. we must persevere faithfully in prayer, for the government and for the Church, seeking to building one another up in love.

yours in Christ,  
Graham

## CARING FOR THE CHURCH

Our thanks to Chris Dell for keeping the grass cut around PPT. The men's group at PPT returns to work this Monday (15th) to care for the grounds, taking care to observe social distancing. There will be a **church spring clean** at PPT on Saturday 27 June- please contact Mike Limb (832705) if you want to attend.

We will need a rota of volunteer cleaners before we can decide how often the church building can be opened. Please contact Mike if you are interested. (Those shielding themselves are advised not to apply).

Our thanks also to Andy Marchant and the crew, who have been cutting the grass at St Mary's Hennock.

## HOUSE RENTAL WANTED

A Christian family with 3 boys are relocating from South Lincolnshire to work in the area and are looking for a 3-4 bed house to rent for up to 6 months. Contact Graham for details if you can help.

## CONTACT TRACING- beware SCAMS

### Contact tracers will NEVER:

- Ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting in 09 or 087)
- Ask you to make any form of payment
- Ask for any details about your bank account
- Ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- Ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- Ask you to purchase a product
- Ask you to download any software to your device or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet
- Ask you to access any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS

The ONLY website the service will ask you to visit is: [contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk](https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk)

We regret to announce that Malcolm Goodman, for many years a leading member of Bovey Baptist Church, has died after a short illness, aged 89. Our condolences to Audrey and her family.

### Contacts

#### **Vicar:**

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#### **Readers:**

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Carolyn Laycock 832335

#### **PPT Churchwardens:**

Roy White 832771  
Mike Limb 832705

#### **St Mary's Churchwardens:**

Frances Swan 437895  
Miles Pomfrett 331062

#### **PCC Hon Treasurer:**

Tafline Percy:  
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#### **Play Worker:**

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#### **Care Team Co-ordinator**

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#### **Ministry Assistant:** (on furlough)

Mark Alexander 07955 716329  
e: [mark@pptbovey.org.uk](mailto:mark@pptbovey.org.uk)

#### **Sick Visiting Co-ordinator:**

Jill Hosford 832966

#### **PPT Church Office Manager & Safeguarding Representative**

Mark Sugden 07508008143  
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(normally Fri; 0900-1700)

#### **Website**

<https://www.pptbovey.org.uk>

#### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/pptbovey>

## Church Services this week Sunday

### Churches Together in Bovey Valley

Sunday (7<sup>TH</sup> June) 10:30am |  
Livestream Sunday service for 1 hour

**How to join the service:** [https://](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3xnfTeZBF1YGLeRyf_4flg)

[www.youtube.com/channel/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3xnfTeZBF1YGLeRyf_4flg)

[UC3xnfTeZBF1YGLeRyf\\_4flg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3xnfTeZBF1YGLeRyf_4flg) or

click [here](#) (The link will take you to the channel page. The video will appear

on this page 3 hours in advance of premiering. You can then open the video in advance and wait for it to start

**Children:** Parents can request children's resources for both services by e-mailing

[hello@boveychurchestogether.org.uk](mailto:hello@boveychurchestogether.org.uk)

**Send a Shoutout:** We' love to hear from you with any notices, news,

shoutouts or prayer requests that you would like to be shared during the

Sunday service. Please e-mail these to [hello@boveychurchestogether.org.uk](mailto:hello@boveychurchestogether.org.uk)

[uk](mailto:hello@boveychurchestogether.org.uk)

**Livechat:** During and after the Sunday service [for 15mins] livechat comments will be open on the youtube page, and in a Zoom Chat-Room.

**This week's Sunday line up:** Johnny Walker will be leadin the service, Sallyanne Kirkup will be leading the children's talk. Mark Goodbeer will be preaching. Other guests to the livestream include Jack Knightly, Tom Hayes, Carolyn Laycock, Alison Lewis and Tom & Christine Harrison. We are planning to continue the online services until the end of August – although church buildings may re-open to some degree in this period, we are anticipating there still being a need for a livestream. If you have any ideas or thoughts on future plans please e-mail us [hello@boveychurchestogether.org.uk](mailto:hello@boveychurchestogether.org.uk)

**Zoom** is a video application which you can download for free on most computers and tablets. You can watch a service, and participate if your device has a microphone and camera. Most PPT services are hosted on meeting ID D102 163 519 , or click

<https://zoom.us/j/102163519>

You can also listen to the midweek and Sunday services using your phone: Call 0203 481 5240, and then enter the meeting ID 102 163 519#.

### Midweek Prayers

Pray with us for 30 minutes each day:

#### Monday

9am Morning Prayer on Zoom

#### Tuesday

7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom: note a different Meeting ID: 203 925 6192

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2039256192>

#### Wednesday:

9am Morning Prayer on Zoom

#### Thursday

7am Morning Prayer on Zoom

#### Friday

9am Morning Prayer on Zoom

#### Saturday

9am Morning Prayer on Zoom



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

If you cannot access online services, as well as TV and radio services, the Church of England has set up a free national phone line with short messages, prayers and hymns.

## Prayer Diary: *with readings and psalms for Morning Prayer*

**Mon 15 June: Ps 27, Luke 12.1-12**

Give thanks that we are made to be creative and imaginative, and that pray media and arts to play a wholesome and godly role in our society. For arts groups to restart.

**Tue 16 June: Ps 32, Luke 12.13-21 *Richard of Chichester***

Pray for those who have suffered increased abuse during the lockdown to find rescue and respite as restrictions lift

**Wed 17 June: Ps 34, Luke 13.22-31**

Give thanks for the help provided by foodbanks and pray that no-one goes hungry for lack of access to food.

**Thu 18 June: Ps 37, Luke 13.32-40**

Pray that Leprosy Mission may bring physical healing and rehabilitation to sufferers of leprosy, and educate families and neighbours to overcome fear and stigmatisation.

**Fri 19 June: Ps 31, Luke 12.41-48**

Pray for our society to recognise the value of family, church and small societies in creating the social capital which gives strength and meaning to our common life.

**Sat 20 June: Ps 41, Luke 12.49-end**

Give thanks for the way that Churches in the Bovey Valley have been working together and pray that we may grow in gospel unity and fruitful co-operation.

**Sun 21 June: (2nd after Trinity), Ps 49, Acts 27.1-12**

Pray for the role of fathers in raising children with discipline and esteem to be recognised and valued by fathers themselves and wider society.

**Pray for the sick:**

David Alexander, Donald Sykes, Rob Martin, Mathew Percy, Wendy Harrison, Lorna Seidel, Lucy McIlhenny, Lawrence Hall, Michelle Sadd, Jane Bailey, Janet Wootton, Lesley Timmins, Karen Rowan-Smith, Nancy Adams, Christine and Graham Downing, Eric and Marion Lodge, Ruth and Sam Strain.

**Collect: Prayer of the week - 1st after Trinity**

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
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.

# GARDEN GROUP SERVICE

## for the week of Sunday 14 June (1st Sunday after Trinity)

Please be careful to observe the [government's regulations](#) on a maximum of 6 people gathering outdoors, and maintaining 2 metre social distance. You are recommended to bring your own chairs, or if using the furniture of someone else to wash or wipe down surfaces before and after the gathering.

If you share refreshments, please do not pass cups and plates to one another, but collect them from a common table. We recommend that each person brings their own bible, and prints a copy of this service order. It may be helpful for one person to lead or facilitate the group, so that you don't get stuck in discussions that distract from the aim of worship and prayer. Why not make a habit of meeting on Sunday, or any day of the week?

This simple service is offered as a suggestion: you are obviously at liberty to read, sing or pray whatever you like. Though we are unlikely to be allowed to sing inside churches because of an increased risk of transmission, singing outside (at a good distance from one another) will be much safer.

### Opening

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Psalm:** this week's psalm is a lament, which may help us express our sadness at not being able to meet in church: Psalm 42, 137, or 122 : read together if you have the same version or read one verse in turn.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen**

**Bible reading:** Acts 2.42-end *The Life of the early Church*

### Questions for discussion

*Understanding the passage:*

What were the core activities of the early church? (v.42)

How did their fellowship (*koinonia*) develop in practical ways? (vv 44-45)

What did it feel like to be part of the early church? (v46)

What impact did they have on the wider community? (vv 43, 47)

*Applying the passage:*

How would you like our church community life to be more like the church of Acts 2?

In what ways does our life and practice as a church community make an impression on others?

Discuss one change that could make a difference

### Affirmation of Commitment

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,  
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example  
the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**



Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,  
by prayer for the world and its leaders,  
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?  
**With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,  
that you may be rooted and grounded in love  
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to witness  
that in Christ you were reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be reconciled to you  
through him who died for us and rose again  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Prayers:**

for shops opening for the first time this week  
for national unity and patience with one another  
for the church to grow in devotion to God's word, prayers and fellowship

*Collect for the first Sunday after Trinity*

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
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.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:**

May the mind of Christ my Saviour  
Live in me from day to day  
By His love and power controlling  
All I do and say

May the word of God enrich me  
With His truth from hour to hour  
So that all may see I triumph  
Only through His power

May the peace of God my Father  
In my life for ever reign  
That I may be calm to comfort  
Those in grief and pain

May the love of Jesus fill me  
As the waters fill the sea  
Him exalting self abasing  
This is victory

May I run the race before me  
Strong and brave to face the foe  
Looking only unto Jesus  
As I onward go

May His beauty rest upon me  
As I seek to make Him known  
So that all may look to Jesus  
Seeing Him alone

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