



News Sheet for Sunday 25 July 2021 Eighth Sunday after Trinity

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP, IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU WITH US.

I hope you are well and coping with these rapidly changing times.

'You, my brothers and sisters, were called to freedom. But do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."' [Galatians 5:13-14]

Last Monday was heralded (unwisely in my view) as 'Freedom Day'. All Covid related restrictions were lifted and in theory we are now allowed to go back to how things were before lockdown began. However, as St. Paul says in the quotation above, just because we are **allowed** to do something doesn't always mean that we **should**. We ought to be guided not by what pleases us, but by what is in the best interests of our Lord's command to love (and protect) our neighbour.

With this in mind, the wardens, PCC and I have agreed to move forward in our provision of Sunday worship in a way that is both bold and responsible – because that's how Christians ought to do things!

So this Sunday, if you come to worship at P&J you will find **The old chairs back in place**, but fewer of them so that those who wish to can still distance. **You do not need to book** in order to attend, so please do come – but please be patient with us and with others if we find ourselves overwhelmed by demand!

You will be allowed to sing hymns (led by our choir) but the number of hymns will still be few, and you are encouraged to still wear a mask for the sake of others.

You will be able to receive communion, in both kinds, but sensing that people will not yet be ready for the 'common cup', communion will still be brought to you in your seat with the wafer (Host) 'pre – intincted' – that is to say it will have a small amount of wine infused into it before it is given to you.

All this represents a big step forward for our worship and our life together, but please do continue to consider others, especially those who may be more vulnerable, or more wary of the changes than you are – 'Serve one another humbly in love'.

With this in mind we will endeavour as the weeks go by to provide some services where restrictions may still be a little tighter – (distancing, masks, no singing, communion in one kind) particularly at 8.00am and (for now) at FPCC. We hope by taking these cautious steps towards the 'new normal', whilst still providing for those who are more vulnerable in one way or another, we will make it possible for everyone to feel that they can come back to church for worship at some point in the weeks to come.

We will nevertheless **continue to Livestream** our service for those who cannot, or choose not to, join us in Church – including those many who have joined us online from other parts of the country!

One more bit of good news – the coffee bar at FPCC will be reopening for a few days each week from 3rd August! Look out for more details in the news sheet.

May God continue to bless you all and keep you safe.

Mark

THIS WEEK

Sunday 25 July - 10.00am Morning Service, Ss Philip & James Church livestreamed via [Facebook](#) followed by 'Zoom Coffee', [Meeting ID: 761 9820 6224](#), Passcode: 1eGHjT

Wednesday 28 July - 9.30am Midweek Communion Service, Ss Philip & James Church, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#) (no need to book to attend this service in person)

Sunday 1 August - 10.00am Morning Service, Ss Philip & James Church, livestreamed via [Facebook](#)
11.30am Morning Service, Fleet Parish Community Centre

Ss Philip & James Church is open for prayer Wednesdays 10.00am-3.00pm & Sundays 12noon-3.00pm.

PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 25 JULY - EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

TODAY'S COLLECT Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK . . .

Those in urgent need of our prayers including... Carol Beynon, Melanie Brant, Chris Butterfield, Angus Cairns, Phyllis McGowan, Carol Paton, Peter Rogers, Tyler Thompson.

Members of our extended church family in need of our continuing prayers... Matthew Allen, Gladys Barber, Alona Beauchamp, Marion Brown, Dilys Denney, David & Yvonne Dunk, Joan Hall, Alan Harvey, Dexter Heard, Michael Heard, Tony Holbeche, Sue Huddie, Garth Kellett, Bonnie Lewis, Roger Matcham, Sheila O'Connor, Gill Page, Matthew Parkes, John & Barbara Simson, Dee Stephenson, Eileen Taylor, Erica Taylor, Jean Thomas, John Tillyer and Molly Wilson.

Those who have died recently... Mary Stapeley.

Those from our two memorial books whose anniversaries fall at this time... Albert Hankard, John Anderson, Norman Nichol, Reginald Weare, Timothy Dashwood, Annie Tomalin, Doris Gulliver, Doreen Timms, Hilda Brind, Roy Riddle, Torrington (Tom) Pearce and Joan Meeres.

PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 26 JULY

Meditation 'Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be' *Thomas a Kempis*.

We for thank God for playfulness, humour and joy.

Please pray...

Mon - Parents and children during school holidays.

Tues – For all who suffer from spinal injuries or diseases.

Wed - For those who work in the ambulance service.

Thurs - (S. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order) For those who guide and inspire us in our prayer life.

Fri - (S. Alphonsus Liguori – Bishop, Moral Theologian) For those who work in the travel industry.

Sat – For communities in Europe devastated by extreme weather in recent weeks.

Sun - That we may see Christ – in our world, in one another, in ourselves.

ALL WEEK – For those who live Ramsdell Road, Ravelin Close, Reading Road North, Reading Road South, Regent Close, Regent Street.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Please note that items with headlines underlined are new this week.

COFFEE BAR - The Coffee Bar in FPCC will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesday & Fridays, 10am-12pm, from Tuesday 3rd August and we are looking forward to welcoming you back! However, we need more volunteers so please consider whether you could do one session a month – contact Ruth Waller, 01252 614846, for more information.

NEW HALLS MANAGER - Our new Halls Manager Sam Lord has joined our team. If you need to contact Sam about hiring either hall, contact details are: 07422 923584 halls@parishoffleet.org.uk

FPCC PARKING PERMITS - Parking permits are now available for Church Road car park on Sunday mornings for the 11.30am service at FPCC, please allow enough time to collect your permit on arrival.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE - The Parish Office will be closed during the school holidays and the 'phone redirected to either Mark/Cally. There will be a weekly news sheet produced by Sam Lord so please email newsheet@parishoffleet.org.uk with any items from inclusion.

AN HOUR OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN - Saturday 11 September, 7.30pm, Ss Philip & James Church. An hour of Gilbert and Sullivan including "Trial by Jury" in aid of All Saints Fund. Tickets £15 (to include refreshments) can be reserved, preferably by emailing anne.smith33@btinternet.com or ringing 01252 624171. Numbers will depend on regulations at the time.

JOB VACANCY - Part Time Cook/Kitchen Assistant - The Jackson Club, a Christian café based at the Gibraltar Barracks in Minley for more information email: jackson.club@sasra.org.uk

GIVING OPTION - You can now donate to Parish funds by scanning this QR code with any smart phone with a QR reader on it - it takes you directly to a web page where you can make a donation.



NOTES ON THE READINGS FOR SUNDAY 25 JULY

[2 Kings 4. 42-44](#)

Both Elijah then Elisha were prophets at time a time when the golden years of King Solomon had given way to a time of corrupt kings. Both prophets kept away from the courts of the bad rulers and made a point of setting an example by living a God-fearing existence.

[Psalm 145.10-19](#)

This psalm is a hymn of praise to Yahweh the King.

[Ephesians 3.14-21](#)

Paul makes play in the opening verses on the words "father" and "family" which in Greek are very similar (Patera and Patria respectively). Hence he implies we are all descended from the one being, namely God.

[John 6.1-21](#)

"But what are they among so many" could well voice our own feelings of doubt about the ineffectiveness of our acting within our own very limited resources and ability. And yet His will, nevertheless, can still be fulfilled – by faith.

PARISH CONTACTS

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