



## The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Westerham

[www.westerhamparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.westerhamparishchurch.org.uk)

Newsletter: July 26<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>



**Our building is open for a 10.30am communion service on Sundays.**

The PCC has approved the Risk Assessment and we are open for a service following Church of England liturgy with confession, absolution, reading, sermon, prayers and communion.

Services will look different to how we remember them from March; details were in last week's newsletter and you can read what to expect – in detail – on our website so you can make an informed decision on attending.

NB Updated guidance from the Church of England.

***“We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.”***

For those who cannot attend we are planning to Livestream the service on [our Facebook page](#); the vicar's sermon is also available online – [“Thoughts on a Sunday...”](#)

There are also a number of national worship services available:

**Weekly Reflection** from Bishop James. He considers the Gospel readings for this coming Sunday (Matthew 13) [Youtube](#). [Transcript](#)

**National Church Service.** This Church of England national service premieres each week on the Church of England [Facebook page](#) at 9.00am on Sunday and [YouTube](#).

**Rochester Cathedral.** Livestreamed communion service at 11.30 premieres on [Facebook](#) and is then published on their [website](#) (links to Sunday reflections here)

**TV** BBC1: 1.15pm Songs of Praise.

**Radio** Radio 4: 8.10am - Sunday worship.

### **Individual Private Prayer**

We are continuing to open for private prayer on Wednesdays; come and go between 11am and noon.

**‘Virtual’ Morning Prayer...** livestreamed from the Vicarage ***Monday to Thursdays*** (Note change) at 8.30am. You can find the words we use - Morning Prayer (Contemporary) - on the Church of England site [here](#). You can also download the Daily Prayer app.

**“Worship From Home”** – Our [website page](#) is being updated regularly to help you worship at home. This page contains links to what our National Church and Diocese are doing. This includes videos, podcasts, audio feeds, documents, links to other websites etc for adults, families, and children to help us to worship, pray and study to build our faith.

**Beacons Of Hope** - Do follow these short Diocesan videos.... This week Rev Jane Winter, Assistant Director of Formation and Ministry, shares the hope she sees in the number of unique individuals who have taken up or completed courses on lay ministry or discipleship, during the pandemic. [Details here...](#)

**Managing feelings about lockdown easing.** Lockdown has been difficult for many people. But when we were in full lockdown, things might have felt more certain, as the rules were more clear. Now things might start feeling less clear, and there may be new challenges.

It can feel stressful when things are changing fast. The mental health charity, [Mind](#) has created some helpful materials to help you and others understand these feelings.

[Mind - managing feelings about lockdown easing](#)

The Diocesan recent [webinar on Trauma looked at the effect of trauma on ourselves and on communities](#)

[19 Prayers in Lockdown](#) - a set of prayers useful for all stages of the pandemic.

**New app to help tackle modern slavery in farming.** Raising awareness of the issue of modern slavery is a key concern for our Diocese. Rural slavery in particular often goes unreported and undetected.

With the help of their new [Farm Work Welfare App](#), [The Clewer Initiative](#), is hoping to tackle exploitation in the rural sector by helping people spot the signs of slavery.

**The Diocesan Office** is re-opening with a limited staff presence (currently not for visitors). The normal reception phone number is now back in use (01634 560 000) 9am – 5pm on weekdays. Other contact details [here](#).

[Our Church Website](#) is up to date with all we are doing; please check it regularly as this is the best method of keeping everyone informed, particularly as things are now changing.

*Revd Kevin Barnard*

01959 563127 [vicar.westerhamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.westerhamchurch@gmail.com)

***The vicar's day off has now reverted to Fridays***