

ALL SAINTS'



This week's Newsbulletin

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Services/events for this week

Eighth Sunday after Trinity 25th July

10.00 Family Eucharist "St James the Greater"
in All Saints, with choral and organ music by
Bach, Tye, Palestrina & Leighton.

Thursday 22nd July

11.00 Holy Communion in Church

It could be you!

Dear Friends,

Well, the NHS app that pings and asks you to self isolate if you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid is really working zealously! The Revd Alan Stewart in our own team ministry, has been told to self-isolate as he was pinged and so I am off to take his services this weekend and Doug will be with All Saints. The high incidence of the virus shows that we need to continue to be careful so we are asking everyone to be keep everyone safe by continuing to wear masks and being mindful of our distance from one another to protect everyone.

St James and his brother, whose day we will celebrate on Sunday, were also keen to know 'it could be you' in a different way. They were looking for power and prestige in Jesus's kingdom and so asked their mother to request top places for them! Jesus has to tell them that they have completely misunderstood the Kingdom and that it is not a place of power but a culture of serving others.

This week, in the news, we have become only too aware of people who want to be at the top, to have power and lord it over others, with the world's richest person spending his money on selfish pursuits and launching into space, a disenchanting former political advisor who had enjoyed so much power in the past now spilling the beans /making

unsubstantiated accusations about such power.

God's Kingdom is about love, compassion, generosity and service. Like James we need to learn this challenging lesson, to become true disciples of Jesus, putting aside our inclination to put ourselves first. So we pray the prayer of St Ignatius Loyola:

*Teach us, good Lord,
to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will.
Amen.*

Love and prayers, Jo

Changes to arrangements in church from 19th July

The Church of England and the RSCM issued new guidelines circa 17.00 on Friday 16th. These were considered over the weekend and our conclusions formally reviewed by the Standing Committee and then the PCC on Tuesday 20th.

The change in the law re Covid restrictions is passing the responsibility onto us to keep ourselves and other safe. The virus is still present locally (812 new infections in East Herts between 16th & 22nd July) and it seems that anyone can catch it even if fully vaccinated. So we have decided to relax things very carefully and slowly.

Key points are:

- the one-way system continues except for those with mobility issues. So please enter via the West Door and leave through the South Porch if you are able to do so.

- We will only sanitise your hands on entry to Church. If you wish to sanitise your hands before communion and/or on departure, please bring your own small bottle of sanitiser - readily available at chemists and supermarkets.
- The wearing of masks is primarily to protect everyone else so we ask that you do continue to wear a mask whilst in church if at all possible.
- Please continue to use every other pew and observe the distancing marked on the floor.
- Lateral flow test kits will be available upon request, especially for younger people who are not fully vaccinated or are too young to qualify. Regular testing helps keep us all safe.
- More QR codes will be posted on walls for checking in.
- The choir will revert to the arrangements that were in place last October – viz two groups of up to six adults, socially distanced, plus as many children as are available.
- We are introducing a short, gentle offertory hymn for you to sing. Please explore with or without mask as you find comfortable. You might want to just check that you are not standing directly in front of or behind someone within 3 metres.
- The final hymn will be as before, outside by the West Door.
- Names will only be recorded of visitors and those attending at weddings and funerals.

These changes will be monitored over the next few weeks and further relaxation will occur when deemed safe.

You can read the full guidance (and more) at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance>

<https://www.rscm.org.uk/covid-19-resources-for-churches/>

The Pilgrim Way

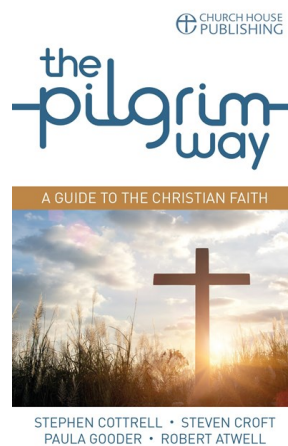
Christians believe that in Jesus, God has walked this earth before us, and that with Jesus as our companion and guide we can travel through life differently.

We can live and travel as pilgrims. We set our sights on God's kingdom of justice and peace; and our journey home to God becomes more meaningful and joyful, and the world a better place.

Pilgrim, what do you seek?
To follow in the way of Jesus Christ.

What is the way of Jesus Christ?
To live in God's love and enjoy God for ever.

Pilgrim, who is God?
God is the source of all being, the one for whom we exist.



The Pilgrim Way is a new guide to the core beliefs of the Christian faith. Set out in a question and answer format, it follows one of the Church's very earliest ways of teaching and training disciples.

You can explore this on-line via a series of short podcasts and/or via the award-winning booklet.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/pilgrim-way>

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