



The Benefice of Epperstone, Gonalston,  
Oxton & Woodborough

# CHURCH NEWS

17th June 2020



## Bringing the good news to all people.

I bring 'Good News'!

I write this in good time for publication. In fact today is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. 'Non-essential' shops can now open provided appropriate precautions have been taken. Persons living alone can now visit one other household and even stay the night. I visited the dentist today. I needed a crown fixing back in. I might even have a tooth out next week. Oh joy. My dentist is in Sherwood. At 9.30a.m. there was little sign of excited shoppers waiting to invade their favourite store. But the opportunity is there.

I have booked a holiday too. A caravan holiday near Ludlow. We will need to be self-sufficient. No public toilet facilities, washrooms, showers, food preparation or washing up areas. But that is fine. We will cope.

Furlough ended for my eldest son today, just as he had planned to erect ten new fence panels this week. But, hey ho, life must go on.

These days we often hear it said that life will never be the same again. That is doubtless true. We are all having to adjust to new ways of doing things. We have to get used to social distancing, face masks, and a host of new regulations. But the good news is that life can go on, but not as we knew it (Jim\*)

Our Benefice has already adapted to 'new ways'. A weekly newsletter like this, Zoom meetings and WhatsApp groups. We can join together in worship via You Tube. It is true that we need to use modern technology, and we are reaching people who have never set foot in a church.

People like me grew up with valve radios. The transistor had not been invented. Microchips not even thought of. Television was for the wealthy. We did not have a telephone in our home. Mobile phones were in the distant

future. Computers, as we know them today, were the thing of science fiction.

When the disciples received the Holy Spirit in that upper room their lives were changed forever. Their fear turned to excitement. Their courage knew no bounds, they rose to the challenge they had been set. The challenge was to bring good news to all people.

Today we have the same opportunity. When our churches re-open and we are once more able to gather as God's people we must not forget. We must not forget the unknown people we have reached through modern communications technology.

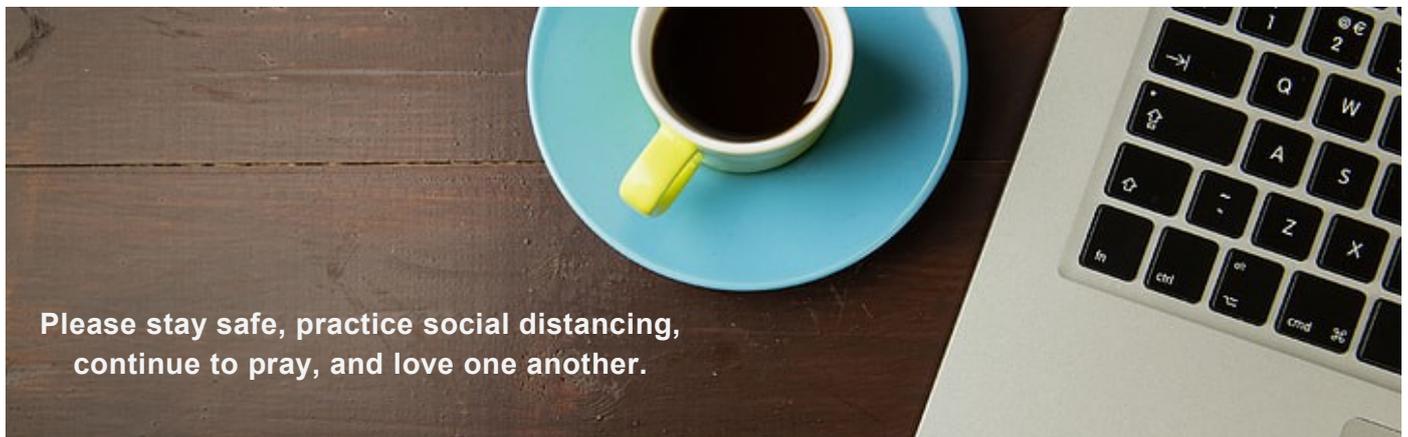
'Being' church is about committing ourselves – all of us - to bringing the good news of Jesus to all. 'Doing' church is about using the best resources available and adapting to ever changing times.

I see 'future' church progressing with gatherings in our buildings *alongside* what we have developed during the lockdown. Jesus did not spend his short life challenging people and turning their world upside down with an expectation that all would revert to the *status quo* when he was gone. Jesus prepared his disciples for a new world. He has been preparing us for a new world too. Let us not forget our great commission:

*'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age'* Matthew 28: 19 – end.

God bless you all  
Michael

(\* Star Trek reference for those who remember!)



Please stay safe, practice social distancing,  
continue to pray, and love one another.



## Join us on Facebook

[Benefice Churches of Epperstone,  
Gonalston, Oxton and Woodborough](#)

### Join Anthony for Sunday worship

Each Sunday Anthony will host a short act of worship on You Tube. We will include the relevant link via each [A Church Near You](#) website and [Facebook](#) available from Sunday morning.

### Church opening update

Many of you will have heard the recent Government announcement that places of worship can open for private prayer from 15th June.

Before that can happen, we need to ensure that our church buildings are safe places to access. They cannot open until appropriate measures have been put in place and we are looking at how that might be both practicable and possible.

We know that you miss coming into our churches, but please bear with us. We'll update you as soon as anything changes.

The latest statement from the Church of England can be found [here](#)

## Contact us...

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TEA/17/06

And the Lord said GO  
and I said Who me?  
And He said Yes, you,  
And I said  
But I'm not ready yet,  
and there's company coming  
and I can't leave my family.  
You know that there's no one to take my place.  
And He said You're stalling,

And the Lord said GO.  
I said I don't want to.  
And He said I didn't ask if you wanted to.  
And I said  
Listen, I'm not the kind of person  
to get involved in arguments.  
Besides my family won't like it  
and what will the neighbours think?  
And he said Baloney.

And yet a third time the Lord said GO.  
And I said Do I have to?  
And He said Do you love me?  
And I said  
Look, I'm scared.  
People are going to hate me  
And cut me into little pieces.  
And I can't take it all by myself.  
And He said Where do you think I'll be?

And the Lord said GO.  
And I sighed  
Here I am... send me

Anon

