



CHRIST CHURCH
FULWOOD, PRESTON

Connecting people to **Jesus Christ** and each other.

Vicar: Revd. Chris Boland

19 Vicarage Close, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs. PR2 8EG

Tel: 01772 715202 Email: cpboland@outlook.com

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Dear All,

As I write this, we are still in a local Lockdown and it looks like continuing as the situation changes across the country. We continue to make plans to both reach out in witness and support one another as a community. Please keep one another in your prayers and be responsible and safe in your actions.

Worship and Prayer in Church and Beyond

Our pattern for enabling worship and private prayer will continue as follows:

Sundays – 10:30am A simple said service in church following the online format

Thursdays – 10am – 12noon Open for Private Prayer

Online – Available Sunday from 8am on our YouTube channel “ChristChurch Preston”

Mailings – Our weekly email will continue to contain a reflection as well as news and items for prayer; our monthly letter (this one) is being sent to those not on email.

Daily Hope the free National line with music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services, is still available at the end of a telephone line. It is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044, just ring up, listen to the options and choose what you’d like to listen to. It’s free from landlines though do check first if using a mobile.

Our Sunday Service continues to evolve according to current guidance. Though congregational singing is still some way off we are now able to have a small singing group to lead our music. We have also **introduced Holy Communion**. We receive in one kind only and in our seats but it is good to celebrate one of the services at the heart of our Christian tradition.

We are moving back towards having Morning Worship on the 2nd Sunday and Communion on other Sundays, though practicalities may mean some changes to that pattern.

Finally, no one has asked for a **DVD of services** but it remains a possibility if it would be of help. Please do let me know if you or anyone you know would find this helpful.

A Reflection – What is the Church?

Through September our Sunday services are looking at what and who the church is called to be. We are thinking about some of the words the Bishop says to those about to be ordained Deacon. This is timely with Liz coming to the end of her (extended) Deacon’s year and it gives us pause to reflect.

When we think about the church we think of it in a number of ways. There is the church as an institution, such as the Church of England, Methodist Church or Roman Catholic Church. We say of people being ordained they are “going into the church”. This is not God’s church though, but a human organisation of God’s work. It is not a bad thing. In our organisation we give shape to what God calls us to be. However, we should not limit God’s church by the institution. Just as we

as individuals can get it wrong and not be all God calls us to be so the institution can fail. But also, just as individuals can gloriously reflect the love of God so can the institutional church when our organisation reflects the purposes and identity of God's Church.

Another way we think of the church is the building. This too, is not God's Church, but can be wonderful and glorious. No building can be the sole location of God's Church. But it can through its use and design be used for God's purposes and be a reminder of God's presence with us.

Thirdly we often say that the people are the church. This is closest to the biblical use of the word. But God's Church is not just a gathered people on a Sunday. It is a people with a purpose. In fact, the Bible uses lots of images for the church including a building and an organisation, because these are things with purpose. **God's church is God's people**, working together to share in God's mission of love to the world. And for more of what that means see our Sunday services, both in church and on 'YouTube'.

Liz's Ordination to the Priesthood

We have received the details of Liz's ordination to the priesthood. Due to the pandemic the ordinations in June were delayed and they will now happen in groups around the Diocese. Liz will be ordained priest on the 26th September at St Cuthbert's church at a small ceremony and **she will celebrate her first Communion the following day in Christ Church.**

Schools

As I write this schools have been back for a week and half and have been in the press a lot over the last month. With the chaos over exam grades, and university entrance through to rapidly changing guidance for teachers and pupils. Please keep all schools, teachers, support staff, pupils and parents in your prayers as they navigate the challenges of working at this time. Especially pray for the schools in our parish: Archbishop Temple and Kennington.

Also, a big congratulations to our Pathfinders who received their results in August. I am pleased to say they did themselves proud and are all able to go onto study what they had hoped for.

Bible Study

We have started an online Bible Study looking at the Bible Course material from the Bible Society. It is very good material giving an overview of the Bible story and how we fit into it. The current course is Thursday evenings but I expect to be able to re-run it either as a small group (depending on restrictions) or online once again. If you would be interested do let me know.

Stay Safe

Finally, as cases of Covid-19 rise across our region and nationally do stay safe. If there is any way we can be of help, practically or spiritually, please do ask.

Yours truly,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Boland', written in a cursive style.

Revd. Chris Boland