



**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY PARISH  
CHURCH & ST MARY & ALL SAINTS  
CHURCH, FILLONGLEY WITH  
FILLONGLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

*Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.*



Dear Friends,

The Prime Minister's announcement on Monday about lifting Covid restrictions was not wholly unexpected. There had been speculation about exactly how many of the legal restrictions that have been in place during the pandemic would be removed but until we heard it from 'the horse's mouth' it was just that, speculation.

The impact of the removal of restrictions will have different effects on us depending on our circumstances. Many will be delighted and be keen to resume 'business as usual'. Others will be anxious about the impact that lack of social distancing and mask wearing will have on them. Most of us, I am sure, will be worried about the impact on the transmission rate of the virus, hospital admissions and unfortunately, the death rate too. So, there is a level of anxiety around what life will be like after July 19<sup>th</sup>.

It is into this scenario that the Church councils need to consider how we respond. All through the pandemic we have been guided by information from the Church of England and responded as and when guidance changed. At the moment, the latest news is that the Church of England is waiting for the Government's Places of Worship taskforce to meet to draw up guidelines, before it can then apply the guidelines to our churches. That is going to take time so until we have received the C of E guidance and then had time to work out how the amended guidance impacts on our risk assessments it will be 'business as usual' in our churches. We will still ask everyone to wear a face covering, unless exempt. We will still have hand sanitiser and social distancing as well as recording attendance for NHS Track and Trace. Our current arrangement for receiving Communion will also continue – only offered to the congregation in one kind with the priest consuming the wine on everyone's behalf. We will of course, communicate changes as soon as decisions have been made but please, in the meantime, be patient and continue to take such good care of each other during our services.

The one change to our services that I can announce is that the Sunday afternoon Zoom service will be taking a break for the summer. It will give us time to evaluate the impact of the service and whether it is still useful as we have returned to in-person worship. If you have any suggestions or comments about the worship offered in the Benefice, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

On a lighter note, Bishop John has recently written to me inviting us to an event planned for 25<sup>th</sup> September at Coventry Cathedral. Entitled 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' it is an event for us all to explore and reflect on God's faithfulness in these extraordinarily challenging times. There will be spaces in the ruins as well as the new cathedral for reflection on God's faithfulness in prayer,

*Stop press*  
*Services for*  
*Sunday 18th July 2021*  
*10:30am Fillongley*  
*9:00am Corley*  
*Please bring and wear a*  
*face covering*

An illustration of two people wearing face coverings. On the left is a woman with short grey hair wearing a pink floral face mask. On the right is a man with brown hair wearing a green patterned face mask. They are set against a blue background with a city skyline and a yellow sun or moon.

lament and praise. The event starts at 12 noon with the Litany of Reconciliation, followed by a welcome and introduction to the event. Attendees are invited to bring a picnic lunch and the event will finish at 2.30pm. So, a date for your diary perhaps? I will circulate fuller details as soon as they are available.

Anyway, the weather forecast is set fair for this weekend, so I do hope and pray that you are able to enjoy the sunshine, and now that Wimbledon and the Euros are over, take a breath before the amazing feast of sport that will be the Olympics which starts in about 10 days' time.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email if I can be of any help and support

God bless you and yours

Ali



### **Coventry Litany of Reconciliation**

*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,  
FATHER FORGIVE

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,  
FATHER FORGIVE

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,  
FATHER FORGIVE

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,  
FATHER FORGIVE

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,  
FATHER FORGIVE

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,  
FATHER FORGIVE

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,  
FATHER FORGIVE

*Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

## **Readings and Prayers for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 ~ Trinity 7**

### **Collects**

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Readings

2 Samuel 7: vs 1-14a

Psalm 89 vs 20-37

Ephesians 2: vs 11-end

Mark 6: vs 30-30, 54 – end



## Reflection

This week's reflection from Revd Ali is attached to this bulletin

## HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

*Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church this Sunday:-*

Let us build a house where love can dwell (StF 409)

Lord of life, we come to you (StF 651)

Heaven shall not wait (StF 701)

This will, almost certainly, be a new worship song to many of you. Here is a link for you to sing along with :-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOHOMQ9LU1M>

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want (StF 481)

## PRAYERS

*We continue to pray for all those affected by the global pandemic in any way.*

### Eco Prayers from the Bible Reading Fellowship

Lord, we pray 'Thy kingdom come', and this is a bigger prayer than we realise: not just for your reign in our hearts; not just for your rule in our world; not just for the reunion of heaven and earth; but also for the restoration of harmony between created and creator. Lord, we want to work with you for this, each and every day, because we recognise that Christ in our hearts must also mean Christ at the heart of the way we care for Planet Earth.

**Amen**

Lord, our future is being taken from us; our world is being destroyed; and our inheritance squandered. Lord, you are the God for whom all things are possible. Please waken us all - not just the young – so that we might change course while there is still hope. **Amen**



## Prayers from World Vision

Dear Lord, thank you for the freedom unlocking is bringing to the UK. As we each choose how little or much feels right for us help us to live responsibly for others as well as ourselves. Heavenly Father, we pray for places where conflict has forced families to search for safety, with many living in temporary accommodation. As hunger continues to threaten lives in many parts of the world, we pray that food will be urgently provided for all those who are vulnerable. Lord Jesus, as we each seek You and Your lasting legacies for our lives, help us not only look to our families, friends, and communities – but beyond to help the most fragile in our world. **Amen.**

## Poet's Corner CHURCH TIMES 09 JULY 2021

*Malcolm Guite* discovers another childhood treasure on his dusty bookshelf



I MENTIONED in my last piece that I had found an old childhood favourite on a dusty shelf — the Puffin Story Book edition of the tales of King Arthur — and I went on to tell of how I was taking up the Arthurian tales myself, and quoted a little prelude poem I was writing for my retelling (Poet's Corner, 2 July).

Well, the Puffin was not the only treasure on that dusty shelf of half-forgotten children's books; for just beside it was my lovely, well-worn copy of *Puck of Pook's Hill* in the handsome Macmillan's Pocket Kipling series: the very copy that my mother had when she was a child, and from which she read to me when I was the age she had been when she first heard these stories. This book, and its sequel, *Rewards and Fairies*, is set in a little valley in Sussex. and tells of how two children, Dan and Una, accidentally summon Puck himself as they play at *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a "fairy ring" one midsummer morn. Suddenly, Puck steps in and takes up the lines that Shakespeare gave him: "What hempen homespuns have we swaggering here, so near the cradle of the fairy queen?"

In return for summoning him, Puck gives the children "seizing" of Old England, and, in his company, they find they can encounter all the characters, natural and supernatural, who have been part of their little valley's story these past 3000 years; for time, in Kipling's story, is not like an arrow that flies past you, but more like a series of rich layers, accumulating slowly over the same patch of ground, accruing year by year, like layers in a cake, or the rich layers of loam in the little pieces of turf that Puck cuts out and gives to the children as a token that they have received the gift of England herself.

As Puck says in the song that precedes the story, and which I echoed in my own poem:

*She is not any common Earth,  
Water or wood or air,  
But Merlin's Isle of Gramarye,  
Where you and I will fare.*

But, when I reread that story this week, it was not the opening poem, but the closing "Tree Song" that really struck home — the one that begins:

*Of all the trees that grow so fair,  
Old England to adorn,  
Greater are none beneath the Sun,  
Than Oak and Ash and Thorn.*

There's a lovely moment in the story when Puck says "I came into England with Oak, Ash, and Thorn, and when Oak, Ash and Thorn are gone, I shall go, too," and Dan looks round to reassure

himself that he can still see all three, and says to Puck, "It's all right, I'm planting a lot of acorns this autumn, too." It's wonderful that here, in this little book, first published more than 100 years ago, there is kindled in the children a care for conservation, for tree-planting, for kindly and reciprocal relations with our environment. I am happy to say that, notwithstanding ash dieback, I can still pass by Oak and Ash and Thorn on every one of my daily walks round Linton, and sometimes, as I walk, Puck's lovely Tree Song is sounding its chimes in my mind:

*Sing Oak and Ash and Thorn, good Sirs  
(All of a Midsummer's morn)!  
England shall bide till Judgement Tide,  
By Oak and Ash and Thorn!*

*Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest and singer-songwriter. He is a Chaplain of Girton College and Associate Chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr in Cambridge, and is the author of many anthologies of poetry. He is a weekly columnist in the Church Times where he writes the very popular 'Poet's Corner' which is now included here each week for you to enjoy.*

## RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- ✚ A Reflection for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 ~ Trinity 7 from Revd Ali
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion at Corley Church
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion at Fillongley Church .
- ✚ Celebrations of human worth ~ *An abridged version of the sermon given at this year's Shakespeare service, in Holy Trinity, Stratford-upon-Avon, by Canon Mark Oakley, Dean of St John's College, Cambridge.*

THE SWORDFISH HAS FEW PREDATORS  
TO WORRY ABOUT IN THE WILD,



EXCEPT FOR THE SELDOM SEEN PENFISH  
WHICH IS SAID TO BE EVEN MIGHTIER.

## AND FINALLY DON'T FORGET .....

If there is anything that you need or know of someone who would appreciate being contacted or added to the mailing list for this weekly e-bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact Revd Ali, Revd Jane or any of the Churchwardens and Church Stewards listed below. <sup>i</sup>

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