



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

Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.



Dear Friends,

Monday 19th July was so-called 'freedom day'. The day when all legal Covid restrictions were lifted in England. But with the Government encouraging caution, Monday may have not had a huge impact on how you are carrying out day to day activities. I am still wearing a mask when I am in an indoor space and still keep sanitising my hands on a regular basis. I am usually a bit of a 'hugger' by nature, but 'virtual hugs' will have to suffice for the time being.

It was hoped that Monday would mean that we were near the end to the pandemic, but unfortunately, as you know, that isn't the case. Numbers of infections are rising exponentially, and hospitals are feeling the pressure of increased admissions. It is into this scenario that the church councils have been considering the Government and C of E guidance when updating our risk assessments for our churches.

The guidance from the Diocese has been '*a strong steer towards being cautious and encouraging your congregations to maintain as many as possible of the practices we have become used to in order to enable those who are vulnerable to be able to worship with us. We would suggest maintaining these until the end of August and then reviewing them when, hopefully, the level of infection may have reduced.*' (extract from a letter to clergy from Archdeacon Sue Field)

As part of our cautious approach locally, we have changed very little of our current risk assessment. The experience of visiting church, with the exception of now being allowed to sing hymns, will be similar to our current practice:

- Hand sanitiser will still be available at entrances and exits.
- A one-way system will remain in place and we will still offer the opportunity to record visits to church via the QR code or by a voluntary register.
- Face coverings will be encouraged when entering the building and whilst moving around the building. However, in line with restaurants and other public spaces, removing face coverings whilst seated in church will be allowed.
- And for the short-term face coverings will be worn when we sing in worship.
- We will also maintain social distancing between pews but there is no requirement for social distancing within the pew.
- We will look to re-start offering refreshments after services in September

All of these measures are voluntary, but we do hope that by bearing with these restrictions for a little while longer, we can reduce the risk of transmission of the Coronavirus in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.

Stop press
Services for
Sunday 18th July 2021
9:00am Fillongley
10:30am Corley
We still encourage you to
bring and wear a face
covering

In the meantime, I hope that the glorious summer weather that we have been experiencing continues for a while longer - giving us all the opportunity to enjoy being outdoors and maybe gathering safely for all those long-postponed events that we have been looking forward to. Or even enjoying a short break away to all those glorious places that make this beautiful island so unique. Or perhaps it is just enjoying a gentle stroll around our lovely communities. However you spend your summer, I do hope and pray that it will be a happy and healthy time for you and yours.

If, however, despite the sunshine, life seems dull and grey and a chat and a cup of coffee might help, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the team.

God bless you

Ali



CALLING ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS

RENOWNED METHODIST MODERN ART COLLECTION COMES TO FILLONGLEY - STORIES OF CHANGE: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

As part of the Coventry City of Culture celebrations the Coventry and Nuneaton Methodist Circuit will show this priceless collection in 5 Churches in the Coventry area over the 4 weekends in September and the 1st weekend of October.

St Mary and All Saints Anglican and Methodist Church are proud to have been chosen as one of the venues. More information to follow on the church website and Facebook page

We have arranged a number of activities to run alongside the Art Collection Exhibition – including a Flower Festival 10th -12th and 17th-20th September and Art workshops every weekend. There will also be an exhibition by Ansley Village Art Group following the exhibition theme.

HELP PLEASE – can you arrange flowers? Would you like to get involved in this community event? If you are interested and would like further information please phone Barbara Wood – 01676 471524 or 07368 504656

We would also truly appreciate sponsorship for the flowers. All sponsors will be publicly acknowledged. Please contact Celia Parker re sponsorship – celiaparker1@gmail.com or 07774 710837

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 25th July 2021 ~ Trinity 8

Collects

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings

2 Samuel 11: vs 1-15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3: vs 14-end

John 6: vs 1-21



Reflection

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

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

Here are the Hymns that we **WILL BE** singing in Church this Sunday:-

[Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father \(StF 51\)](#)

[Let love be real, in giving and receiving \(StF 615\)](#)

Just in case you are not in church with us this Sunday, here is a link to this beautiful worship song, sung to the tune ~ Londonderry Air.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=let+love+be+real+lyrics&docid=608037278975201341&mid=ABC63474EB3AA661F14DABC63474EB3AA661F14D&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

[God is love: let heaven adore him \(StF 103\)](#)

[Love divine, all loves excelling \(StF 503\)](#)

PRAYERS

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

Collect for the Feast of St James the Apostle 25th July

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; 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.**



Collect for the Feast of Mary Magdalene 22nd July

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Thought for the week

Prayer is more mysterious than we realise. Whatever words we eventually use in prayer actually come from God in the first place. God is enabling us to join with heaven in a continuous dialogue of prayer.

A Prayer of thankfulness & hope

God of every sparrow that falls, every hair on our head, every worry on our minds, thank you that nothing about us is unimportant to you. Safe in the assurance of your keeping, may we in our turn spend ourselves in the service of others, offering them the same attention and care, with which you love us. **Amen**

Bible Reading Fellowship

Poet's Corner CHURCH TIMES 16 JULY 2021

Malcolm Guite finds, in the words of another poet, a reflection of his feelings on moving house



AS WE prepare to leave the last of our vicarages and settle in a modest little house that is actually our own, I am minded of the frank confession with which Abraham Cowley opens the preface to his little poem "The Garden": "I never had any other desire so strong, and so like to covetousness, as that one which I have had always, that I might be master at last of a small house and large garden, with very moderate conveniences joined to them, and there dedicate the remainder of my life only to the culture of them and the study of nature. And there (with no design beyond my wall) whole and entire to lie, In no unactive ease, and no unglorious poverty."

I shall very soon be “the master of a small house, with very moderate conveniences”, but it does have a garden — not quite the “large garden” that Cowley coveted, but, like the conveniences, “moderate”. I hope, however, that it will be enough to give us some of the pleasures that Cowley went on to enumerate in that poem. Perhaps as July blazes into sweltering August we will be able to say with him, as we rest in our garden:

*Oh, blessèd shades! Oh, gentle, cool retreat
From all the immoderate heat,
In which the frantic world does burn and sweat!*

and sense with him, amid the shade of trees and the sound of birdsong:

*The birds that dance from bough to bough,
And sing above in every tree.
Are not from fears and cares more free,
Than we who lie, or sit, or walk below.*

These are, of course, pleasures that Cowley proposed to himself but had not yet achieved. Indeed, in that same preface, he expresses a frustration at sheer busyness and difficulty in his temporary “digs”, even though he is supposed to have retired — a frustration that seems just as current now as it was when Cowley described it, 355 years ago: “But several accidents of my ill fortune have disappointed me hitherto, and do still, of that felicity; for though I have made the first and hardest step to it, by abandoning all ambitions and hopes in this world, and by retiring from the noise of all business and almost company, yet I stick still in the inn of a hired house and garden, among weeds and rubbish, and without that pleasantest work of human industry — the improvement of something which we call (not very properly, but yet we call) our own.”

I can’t complain about my own pre-retirement digs, as they have for many years been capacious vicarages; but I entirely understand that yearning of which Cowley speaks: to live in, and gradually to improve, something that we call (not very properly) our own.

So, Norfolk beckons, and we are already moving the most important and precious things (boxes of books!) into the little semi that we can at last call our own. No one ever completely retires, of course, clergy least of all, and, given the writing and speaking in which I am still engaged, mine will be, like many retirements, fairly active — or, in Cowley’s immortal words: “No unactive ease and no unglorious poverty”.

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 included here each week for you to enjoy.

RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- ✚ A Reflection for Sunday 25th July 2021 ~ Trinity 8 from Revd Ali
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion at Corley Church
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion at Fillongley Church



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. ⁱ

ⁱ **Contact Details:**

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