

News from the pews – 17 November 2020

Dear friends,

Communion and Chat after this Sunday's online service

It has been lovely to meet for "Coffee and Chat" following the last 2 Sunday services. This coming Sunday, it's going to be a little different. After the 10:30am online service (accessed by Facebook or YouTube), we are going to celebrate an informal Lord's Supper over Zoom at 11:15am. Although we cannot consecrate the bread and wine remotely, if it would help you to consume a piece of bread and wine/sherry/fruit juice at home, please do. Also you are welcome to stay on Zoom for a few minutes afterwards to say hi to each other. We do hope you can join us this Sunday.

Last Sunday's Service

If you missed last Sunday's service, you can access it here:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_43tdvRt6Q

Living in Love and Faith

You may be aware that the Church of England has just released a suite of resources called 'Living in Love and Faith.' The intention is to better equip us to have productive conversations around the human experiences of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

Much of the material has been produced well - it engages sensitively with the various opinions that have been voiced in this area. However, many have concerns. In particular, we are now getting close to the point where the Church of England has to make a decision about same-sex marriage and this is going to affect every parish.

One option for the future is that the Church accepts that a diverse range of views amongst its members exists and that we must learn to live with difference. However, this is no minor disputable matter. To fudge the issue like this is not going to work - it will simply cause confusion, ongoing tension and put church leaders under pressure to go against the teaching of the Bible.

The Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) has just produced a very helpful film called 'The Beautiful Story,' where a broad range of evangelical Anglican leaders explain why we should maintain the traditional Biblical standpoint. They speak about this issue sensitively using both the Bible and experiences to help local parishes engage with these issues.

It would be very helpful if members of St John's could watch this 30 minute film and then join in a church discussion over Zoom next Wednesday (25 November) at 8:00pm. The link to the film is below:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI8bb65vOiE>

Seeking a new treasurer

You may have heard that the Hall family will be moving away from Elmswell very soon. We will miss them greatly. We are also very grateful to Chris Hall who has been an excellent treasurer over the last few years. If you feel God is calling you into this role or have any suggestions, please let Peter or Mike know. Can I ask all of us please pray for God to raise up somebody to take on this important role in our church's life?

Coming up:

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| Tue 17 Nov 8:00pm | Compline Night Prayer online (Facebook only) |
| Wed 18 Nov | Church open (10:30am – 11:30am)
Various home groups meet using Zoom |
| Thu 19 Nov 8:00pm | Celtic Prayer online (Facebook only) |
| Sat 21 Nov 9:00am | Church prayer meeting (using Zoom) |
| Sat 21 Nov 10:30am | Coffee and Chat (using Zoom) |
| Sun 22 Nov 9:30am | Zoom Sunday School for primary school ages. Contact Lisa for details. |
| Sun 22 Nov 10:30am | Sunday Worship online – Facebook, YouTube and St John's web site.
followed by informal Lord's Supper (using Zoom) |

How to connect with us online:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell/live>

YouTube

Accessed from home page of St John's web site

St John's

<http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk/>

Zoom

Click <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6852951296> or, load Zoom and use Meeting ID: 685 295 1296 and Password: 816262

And this is my prayer: that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1.9-11

God bless,
Peter