

## Parish Notices Sunday 14th June 2020

### Please pray for:

**Mon:** The NHS and amazing Health Care Workers.

**Tue** Teachers who are continuing to keep schools open, and will have to continue through school holidays.

**Wed:** National and Local Government and all those with authority; .

**Thu:** Shop workers, suppliers and all involved in the distribution of food and basic supplies; .

**Fri:** Small business owners, those facing particular economic challenges.

**Sat:** Church leaders, nationally and locally - our witness in Chesham and the villages.

### Clergy Contact Details

Revd John Shepherd- [john@theshepherds.org.uk](mailto:john@theshepherds.org.uk) Tel 01494 784372

Revd Josh Bailey- [associate@cheshamchurch.co.uk](mailto:associate@cheshamchurch.co.uk) Tel 01494 783629

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Revd Simon Winn -[rev.simon.winn@gmail.com](mailto:rev.simon.winn@gmail.com) Tel 01494 773318

The Parish Office remains operational. Lynette will be based there. Please contact by telephone or email but please do not come in person.

### Restore Hope- Gap Year Internship Programme

if you are an enthusiastic, servant-hearted and adaptable person in a gap year, career break or want a year of change please get in touch at [www.restorehopelatimer.org](http://www.restorehopelatimer.org) or email [jo.clare@restorehopelatimer.org](mailto:jo.clare@restorehopelatimer.org)

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*Dear friends in the seven churches across the Parish of Great Chesham*

At one point in the ordination service for deacons (the official title for curates and ministers in their first year in post) each candidate has to commit themselves to be faithful in private prayer and public worship. Like many commitments the practice is much more demanding than the simple words that are spoken, particularly the 'private prayer'! At the ordination service the questions is directed to the candidate but the same could be asked of each of us as we make our Christian journeys through the world. We are all called to be faithfully in our prayers and in our worship.

In the weeks since 'lockdown' and 'isolation' became part of our everyday language whilst our private prayer may have remained much as before, our public worship has been very different, less public and more private as we gather for 'church at home'. But hopefully we've been faithful in both our 'private prayer' and our 'private public worship' whilst we've waited for our church buildings to reopen.

Now, as I'm sure you know, after 14 weeks the government and the bishops have agreed that our churches can be open for 'private prayer' – but not as yet for 'public worship'. So we find ourselves with possibility of private prayer in church and public worship at home when our tradition was the opposite – public worship in church and private prayer at home! But even the change to private prayer in our church buildings must, of necessity, be gradual to make sure we all stay safe. No flinging open the doors on Monday morning but a measured assessment of what we can do and how to do it. Each church will decide what is right for them and for you as part of God's family here in Chesham. It'll be a slow and patient start back to the familiar as over the next few weeks we find the doors of our buildings starting to open, as we see more of our familiar worship areas in our on line services, and, in time, as we are able to gather together for public worship. But until then we can still be faithful in our private prayer in our homes, praying faithfully for our world, our leaders, for justice and peace, for our friends and families and ourselves. And as we pray, we are assured that God is faithful to us and is listening to our prayers and hearing our worship.

As we pray and worship in these strange, confusing and ever-changing times, it is good to remember Paul's instruction to the Christians in Rome and continue to:

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."* (Romans 12:12-13).

Tim Yates