

Parish Notices Sunday 5th July 2020

Please pray for:

Mon: The NHS, and those working in social care and in our local residential homes.

Tues: Our local schools and their staff teams, as children return and as further planning is done for September.

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

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

Dear friends,

This past week the Church celebrated the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, traditionally kept on June 29th. The two apostles are commemorated together because of their martyrdom in Rome during Emperor Nero's persecution around 64 AD. Each gave their all in their different ways in the mission of the early church, which they saw extended from Jerusalem to most of the major cities around the Mediterranean by the mid 1st Century. The ministries of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles and Peter, the apostle to the Jews, dominate the Acts of the Apostles - more than once they are in conflict (see Galatians 2: 11-14). But there is also affection and respect - see 2 Peter 3: 15-16. Eventually, both of them were in Rome, with Paul a prisoner of the authorities. At a time when Christians displayed different lifestyles and commitments, they became a convenient public scapegoat for problems in the city. According to tradition Peter was crucified head downwards but Paul, as a Roman citizen, was executed by the sword. Both were buried in Rome.

Petertide is traditionally a time when new deacons and priests are ordained by our bishops in the Church of England, and some of us have been reflecting on our 'anniversaries' this week. Among our parish staff team and church leadership teams we find people with different experiences, backgrounds and approaches. However, like Peter, the fisherman turned 'rock' of the church and Paul, the learned and devout Jewish scholar turned itinerant evangelist, a commitment to see God's kingdom realised, through words and deeds, draws us together. Our rich diversity is one of God's gifts to humanity and we do well to embrace and celebrate it in our life, worship and ministry together.

Please pray for our bishops Steven and Alan, and all clergy and authorised ministers who exercise leadership and pastoral care. Have a good week as we navigate some of the changes to 'lockdown', including in how we do church life together.

God of the new and the old, we praise you for Peter and Paul, for the Church their leadership has established, and for all we have received from them; grant that we, like them, may recognise our moment when it comes and choose for you. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

The Rev Simon Winn, Interim Team Vicar, Christ Church and St George's.