

**Pastoral Letter #21 | 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**23 Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

**Hebrews 10:23-25 (NRSVA)**

Dear friends,

Over the last 3 weeks I've had the joy of leading our covenant services. After 18 months of pandemic, and all the uncertainty we've journeyed through, being reminded of the certainty and timelessness of God's covenantal faithfulness, love and grace to all people has been a great blessing.

It has also been a joy to continue to see more returning and new faces recently. I know some of you continue to be anxious about returning to onsite worship, and so while I encourage you to continue to do what feels best for your well-being - I also assure you we are maintaining reasonable mitigations in our buildings and are ready and waiting to welcome you onsite. If there are ever particular questions you have or ways we can help you to feel safer, please do speak to me or another church leader about them.

I've recently discovered a new Podcast series and have been stimulated in my thinking by one titled 'So what are we meeting for?'. It asks why we gather (onsite or online) for worship at all and I've found it helpful to think about in the period of emergence after we've encouraged and affirmed worship in all sorts of different ways including at home, by phone and online.

The video suggests that we meet together because the result is more than the sum of its parts - people, scripture, music, prayer - all coming together to glorify God and build each other up. That has been so true for me over the years, and I hope it is true for you now as we gather - online or onsite, to glorify God and build each other up - and know you are a welcome and valued part of the community.

Let us all build each other, glorify God - and play our part in nurturing a welcoming community. ***In love and grace, Rev Dan Balsdon***

**News & Updates**

**Worshipping Together Booklets, Prayer Guide**

Your Worshipping Together booklet for **October** is enclosed. This month uses the theme 'Frontlines of Harvest' focusing on various roles in the modern day harvest industry.

Also enclosed is a prayer guide for October. Our thanks again to Debbie Dean for preparing this for us.

## Worship in October

The below summarises the circuit plan for our section of the circuit for September. Felpham's 10:30am service will continue to also be available by phone and zoom on the Together Channel (access details on past mailings).

<b>October 2021</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Morning Worship @ 10:30am</b> Bognor Regis	Rev Tony Brazier <i>Harvest</i>	Rev Tony Brazier	Rev Dan Balsdon <i>Communion</i>	Wendy Corney	Rev Ian Couchman
<b>Morning Worship @ 10:30am</b> Streamed by zoom and phone + onsite @ Felpham	Rev Dan Balsdon <i>Harvest &amp; General Church Meeting</i>	Malcolm Lindo	Margaret Thompson	Rev Dan Balsdon <i>Communion</i>  <i>Also 3pm*</i>	Lynne James
<b>Morning Worship @ 10:30am</b> Westergate	Lynne James	Rev Dan Balsdon <i>Communion</i>	Geoff Craghill	Pam Frost	Rev Tony Brazier

\* at 3pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Bognor Regis MC will hold its annual service of remembrance and thanksgiving, this year also taking time to remember loved ones lost during the pandemic. All welcome. Names for our act of remembrance can be submitted in advance to Rev Dan Balsdon.

## COVID-19 - Ongoing Oversight & Starting Events and Groups

Through September all oversight teams have completed a review of current risk assessments and worked through the necessary guidance to reopen our kitchens for serving refreshments etc. Each local church will give guidance on how this is/will work. If you are willing to help with serving refreshments please speak to a church leader.

If you're a group leader looking to resume a group, considering resuming something in a different way, or looking to start something new, there will very likely be covid-risk mitigation work to undertake, and a conversation with a member of the TOT team or Rev Dan is advised as early as possible.

Please make sure any events/meetings are booked with church booking secretaries to ensure there is full awareness of building use.

## Dates for Church Meetings

A reminder of (and additional) coming dates for church meetings. Agendas and other relevant papers will be circulated closer to the time as we are able.



### Felpham

Church Council Meeting – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

\*NEW\* Pastoral Meeting – Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Oct, 11am (possibly followed by picnic lunch?)

### Westergate

Church Council meeting – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1:30 – 3:30pm  
(preceded by a bring your own picnic lunch from 12:30pm)