

OUR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.

“Praise the Lord ... praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Dear Friends,

We wanted to begin our February letter with these wonderful words of praise from Psalm 150 because our God is sovereign over our world and our lives and therefore worthy of all our praise.

However, they are also a very appropriate way of thanking our bell ringers who were, as you may have heard, able to play carols over Christmas and have been very busy praising God with our bells ever since. We thought you might like this picture of our “home team” of seven ringers. Did you know that, just before Covid, we were able to instal two extra bells and, of the 7775 church towers in the United Kingdom that have operational bells, we are one of only 274 that have ten bells. And did you hear the St. Paul’s Cathedral Guild of Change Ringers ring the first full peal of our augmented bells on the 15th January. If not, listen out on the 15th February when another peal is being rung. Maybe you would like to find out more about becoming a bell ringer. We definitely need to enlarge our team and full training is provided. If so, please email us on churchwardens@stpeters-woolton.org.uk and we will pass on your details to Nick Willasey who is our Tower Captain.



Listening to our bells is, of course, a very powerful reminder of our calling to “ring out” the good news of the Gospel to the community of Woolton and beyond and it has been lovely to see our church gradually returning to normal over the first few weeks of this new year. Numbers are gradually increasing at our Sunday services, most of our children’s groups are meeting again and the Hub doors are open as church encounters community and hopefully all of us encounter God. We continue to monitor Government and Diocesan guidance and will always seek to do what is safe but it’s great to be on the road back to normality.

One important step on this road is the publication of our notice sheet. The first post-Covid edition appears tomorrow and will be sent out by email, posted on our web site and available in hard copy at all of our services. Please “pick up” your copy, enjoy the contents and contact us if you have any news that you want to share. It’s particularly special that it is being published on the 70th anniversary of the accession of our Queen to the throne and therefore includes an “Accession Day” prayer.

Our notice sheet has been produced by Angela, who is the newest member of our staff team and has taken over the administrative role previously undertaken by Sue. Many of you will know Angela and David well and we encourage you to pop in to the Hub and say “hello”.



We have also welcomed Stephen as our new Treasurer. We are so grateful to Helen for all that she has done as our Treasurer and look forward to thanking her properly at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April. We are also very grateful to Stephen for picking up this baton and are sure that he will do an amazing job.



We mentioned, in our January letter, the process of appointing a new incumbent and said that we would keep you updated. There has been an unforeseen delay which is outside our control and therefore the first meeting between Archdeacon Mike McGurk and the PCC is no longer taking place on the 8th February. However, we are pressing on with our preparations and the PCC are having an “away morning” on Saturday, 26th February when we will be asking the question “what does God want St. Peter’s to be in the future?”. We believe that discerning God’s will on this question will help us to discern God’s will for our next incumbent.

Which brings us to two specific requests. First of all, please speak with us and with your PCC members about your vision for St. Peter’s before and after our morning away. We want to hear your views. Secondly, please pray for us, the PCC and all involved in the appointments process. As it says on tomorrow’s notice sheet, **“I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray”**. And, as the Psalmist continues, **“Show the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes. Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings...”**.

With love and best wishes to you all

Terry & Alistair.

Churchwardens.

5th February, 2022.