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2nd October 2020

Dear Friends

Closure of our church and buildings during October

It's with a heavy heart that I have made the decision for the church to remain closed during the month of October. All our buildings will only be open for individual staff to carry out their roles and responsibilities.

As I wrote in my letter of 17th September, I am very grateful for the full support of the wardens and standing committee on behalf of the PCC, as well as Derek Dottie and Gill Chambers for their ongoing advice and expertise in areas of health and safety and compliance.

I hope that this decision is part of protecting the most vulnerable, preventing the wider spread of the virus and the implementing of measures to stop the situation escalating and getting worse, as we join in with much of our city to help this happen.

Let's add to these efforts our ongoing prayers for an end to this virus, for a vaccine, and for us to continue to be church while away from the building. Let's support each other by staying in touch, worshipping and reaching out in love to our neighbours.

Graham Paisley's retirement

We had so hoped to be able to celebrate Graham's 19 years as verger in church this Sunday and to present him with all the cards and gifts from the church family. Thanks to your wonderful response, we have collected well over £1000, and gifts are still coming in. The good news is that we have been able to film Graham receiving his gifts and it will be shown during our Sunday YouTube service this week. If you are able, do watch and raise a glass to the great man supported by Sandie.

Harvest Celebration – Sunday 11th October

The Harvest Festival parade service is usually one of our largest services of the year, with the church beautifully decorated and donations of money and items for the Foodbank being brought to the services. This year will be different. We have learnt that South Liverpool Foodbank is not short of food items at present but that they are struggling with storage. Instead of food items they would be really grateful for donations of money to help towards urgently acquiring new warehouse space.

So, this Harvest, can I ask you to do two things:

(1) If you can donate generously by going online below and clicking on the red button.

<https://southliverpool.foodbank.org.uk>

If you want to write a cheque please make it payable to South Liverpool Foodbank and post it through the Rectory door (no cash please).

(2) pray that a suitable warehouse becomes available soon.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) Wednesday 21st October

Due to Covid our APCM has been delayed for a number of months but we legally must hold it before the end of October. We will be meeting online via Zoom, and details of how to join the meeting, along with all the papers and necessary information will be on the church website early next week. Please do try and join us if you can, and pray for the meeting.

Alpha online

Alpha started this Thursday evening and I have heard from Dot and Julia who are facilitating the course that it went really well, was very relaxed, worthwhile and had a great feeling of warmth and of being friends on a faith journey together. It's not too late to join, so contact Julia if you're interested: curate@stpeters-woolton.org.uk

A prayer

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you for all your support, encouragement and prayers.

This comes with my love and prayers as ever.

God bless.

KIP