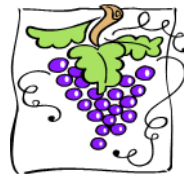


GRAPEVINE

18th October
2020

Our Vision:
Letting people know about the love of Jesus Christ



Pennies do not come from heaven. They have to be earned here on earth. Margaret Thatcher

Welcome to St Peter & St Mary's Church

Jesus was always banging on about money. He talked about it more than He said about prayer and faith combined

I think Jesus understood that it's the things we pay the most for that we attach most value to here and now. But, so often, He points out that our possessions can only last for a lifetime at the most. Which means it must be better to invest in things that are longer lasting than that.

Thinking about financial matters is a good thing because if you look at how you spend your money and how you invest your money it reveals how you live your life more generally and where your priorities are.

One of the major problems of the present pandemic isn't a health issue at all, it's one of economy and finance. If you can't go to work you don't earn money. If your income goes down you don't spend so much. If people aren't spending so much, fewer goods or services are required. If we don't need to provide so much stuff people lose their jobs. And so starts the downward spiral towards recession and economic meltdown. That's why Government want us to carry on working or why those who can't want the furlough scheme to be extended. But can we afford it?

If we are ruled by money we risk a massive loss of lives. If we are ruled by medical data we risk becoming economically bankrupt. Maybe, putting our trust elsewhere and being ruled by God, will give us the greatest assurance both for now and into eternity?

Michael

Vicar: The Revd Michael Eden - theedens@talk21.com Tel. 678623

Curate: The Revd Richard Stretch - richardstretch@btinternet.com Tel. 676219

Church Warden:

Mrs Marion Gray - churchwardens@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk 07835 246995

Church: Open Monday & Thursday 10am-noon **Church Office** CLOSED

office@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

 Stowmarket Parish Church

 @stowmarketcofe

Website: www.stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

Regd Charity Number 1132857

This Week's News

MOVING FORWARD

The Coronavirus has taught us that we need to be flexible as we move forward together. With that in mind we have agreed that starting this week, Sunday Worship in Church will begin at 10am and we will not be meeting on Zoom. The first Sunday of the month will be a Family Service and the last Sunday of the month will be Communion.

To view the 10am Service in Church



or watch later search online for Stowmarket Parish Church on Youtube or go to:

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCUih_zTFVjMe1XckXQ0II_A

Christmas Tree Festival – This year major adjustments have been made to the Christmas Tree Festival to ensure that we will be Covid 19 safe. Visitors will have to book a designated time-slot beforehand, via the website, and limited numbers will be allowed in Church at any one time.



All of the concerts and services that attract large crowds have been cancelled and we won't be serving refreshments. The Festival will be open 3 days each week for the local community.

If you feel able to welcome our visitors on a Monday, Thursday or a Saturday please speak to Marion, Charlotte or Judy for more details.

If anyone is able to help take some Christmas trees out of the loft in St. Peter's Hall with the help of a scissor-lift on Friday 6th or Saturday 7th November please speak to Judy, Marion or Martin.



Prayer Meeting – Prayer Meeting. All are invited to come and pray together for half an hour. Starting at 6:30pm, each Thursday via Zoom. Login details: <https://zoom.us/j/9658283398?pwd=SjN2V252VGxSSngrSnBOM1JETk1Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 965 828 3398 Password: 615182.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- At last week's meeting Marion Gray and Daniel Sparks were elected as Churchwardens, Gerald Barnett, Eugene Milne and Michael Munson were elected onto the PCC and Marion Gray and Matt Levett to Deanery Synod.



On Monday 19th October, at 7:30pm, the new PCC meet for the first time and high on the agenda is the appointment of Deputy Church Wardens and Treasurer. Please pray for us, at that meeting so that we make the best decisions for the good of the Church.



Stop the virus Test and Trace

If you have a smart phone please download the NHS Test and Trace App and always scan the QR code, inside the door, whenever you come into Church.

Shoe Box Appeal - This year the need is greater than ever after all the suffering in the world and the Shoebox Appeal is still running despite Covid. Last year we were thrilled to send 80 shoeboxes and went to Central Asia to some of the world's poorest children. It's wonderful to know that a child somewhere in the world is having such delight in a gift that you have prepared for them!



We plan to deliver the boxes to the warehouse the first week in November. Contact Sarah & Tony Ingham about dropping off your boxes to us. (678421).

Please get in touch with us if you would like a flat pack shoebox ready to fill! It is suggested that a £5 donation covers all transport and for a children's introductory course to Christianity. If you can, send a photo of yourselves in the box so the child can see who gave them this kind gift - often the only gift they have ever received and one they will remember for many years to come!

However, if you are avoiding shops, you can even pack a shoebox online!

If you would like to donate instead we can order a shoebox on-line for you. A full shoebox is £20 but all contributions would be very gratefully received. Below is the link to find out more and watch videos of children receiving the boxes!

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>