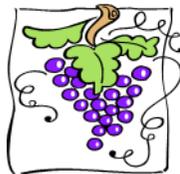


GRAPEVINE

22nd November
2020

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



I want there to be no peasant in my kingdom so poor that he cannot have a chicken in his pot every Sunday. Henry IV

Welcome to St Peter & St Mary's Church

If you switch on the TV news, if the main story isn't the Coronavirus, it has to be politics. This week we've had Boris, Brexit, Bullying and Biden.

As a Church, we can't ignore what's going on around us. I can't believe that Jesus would have done. Right from the very start of His ministry, Jesus came out proclaiming that the Kingdom of God was near. You have to understand that was a political statement.

To be a king and to be allowed to rule over a kingdom required the consent of the Emperor. If you didn't get permission from Rome you were in conflict with Rome and it wouldn't be long before you would be stamped out by the brutal Roman army.

Roman citizens would chant, "Caesar is Lord!" When the Emperor returned to the capital after a successful campaign extending the boundaries of the Empire he would come proclaiming the 'gospel', the 'good news' of victory over the enemy and bringing peace to all the world. It was the Emperor who held the title 'Prince of Peace.'

So when the first Christians said that Jesus is Lord, that the good news is that Jesus has won the victory over sin and death and that Jesus is the Prince of Peace it's no surprise that, as a political challenge, Jesus was stamped out. But darkness can't extinguish light, hatred can't destroy goodwill and fear can't eliminate love. That's why the Church and the Christian faith has survived long after the Roman Empire and many other empires since have all crumbled.

Michael

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Church Office CLOSED

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 Stowmarket Parish Church

 @stowmarketcofe

Website: www.stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

Regd Charity Number 1132857

This Week's News

Sunday Worship

As the Church building is closed under this second Lockdown, to join in with our Sunday Worship you need to go to Youtube https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCUjh_zTFVjMe1XckXQ0II_A Details can also be found on the Church Website along with the Service Sheet.

Sunday Coffee Morning

This week we have decided to meet up on Sunday Morning (22nd November) from 11am. If you are looking to meet socially via zoom for a chat and a cuppa come along using the login details below. You are invited to a get together online to talk about anything and everything. Come and go as you please. Details to log in are:

<https://zoom.us/j/9658283398?pwd=SjN2V252VGxSSngrSnBOM1JETk1Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 965 828 3398 - Passcode: 615182

Thank you - Ian Hooper would like to say thank you for all the cards, prayers and kind words he has received following the death of his wife Avril.

Christmas Tree Festival – As tighter Coronavirus restrictions are now in place, we can't set up the Christmas Tree Festival until after the present Lockdown. If Government Guidelines allow we still plan to go ahead and open later in December. The Church will then be open on a Monday, Thursday and Saturday. We will start setting up from Friday 4th December. If you are able to help set up please contact Judy (678623) or Marion (07835 246995)

Give as you Live – If you do any online shopping please consider going through 'Give as you Live'. By registering and an extra click, a percentage of what you spend can be donated to church. Each time you shop click on this website and select the shop you want [not Amazon] and shop as normal. It really is that easy and our church benefits too. Christmas shopping and weekly supermarket shopping online can count too. If you have any questions get in touch.

https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/stowmarketchurchrestorationfund/266484/0?utm_source=charitytoolkit&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=CTJoinLink



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.