

# GRAPEVINE

11th July  
2021

Letting people know about the love of Jesus Christ



The devil doesn't persecute those who aren't making a godly difference in the world. Paul Chappell

## Welcome to St Peter & St Mary's Church

The first persecution of the Church took place in the year 67CE, under Nero, the sixth emperor of Rome and has continued ever since. But why?

Today, this persecution happens most in countries where Christians are in a minority and among the poorer sections of society. This is especially true where oppressive, authoritarian governments are in control as Christianity is seen to challenge loyalty to their country's rulers.

But there's more to it than that. Some countries see Christianity as the religion of the rich western world and oppose it because it doesn't fit into their history, lifestyle or culture.

To follow Christ gives you a new identity where you are adopted into a family that's bigger than any tribe or country. In places where national identity is fanatical, Christianity is bound to be treated with suspicion.

There is also something at the very heart of Christianity that will always make us the target for confrontation. That's because doing good means opposing bad and standing up for what is right inevitable means speaking out against that which is wrong.

The mad behaviour of football supporters in their enthusiasm to celebrate the victory of the England football team is causing the increased spread of Coronavirus and people will die as a consequence. It won't make you popular to say that, but protecting vulnerable people and saving lives is more important than getting drunk after a football match. So whilst I do wish England all the best in tonight's cup final, I will also continue to pray for those around the world whose lives are daily put at risk because their goal in life is supporting Jesus.

*Michael*

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

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

**Church Wardens** - churchwardens@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

Dan Sparks 07702 196268; Michelle Sparks 07590 524668

**Church Office** CLOSED office@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

 Stowmarket Parish Church  @stowmarketcofe

**Website:** www.stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk **Regd Charity Number 1132857**

### ZOOM LOGIN DETAILS

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

Meeting ID: 965 828 3398 - Passcode: 615182

## Today - Back in Church

The Morning Worship starts at 10am. We are meeting in our Church building again. Please take extra care as the reordering work continues at the back of the building and Covid restrictions are still in place with handwashing, mask wearing, social distancing and only singing in your head.

If you can't get to Church you can join with us in worship from 10am on Sunday, on YouTube: [https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCUih\\_zTFVjMe1XckXQ0ll\\_A](https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCUih_zTFVjMe1XckXQ0ll_A) A link can also be found on the Church Website along with the Service Sheet. A DVD of the Service is also available, contact the Vicarage (678623) if you would like one.

## 4 Tips For Effective Prayer

1. Pray to God.
2. Pray together.
3. Pray specifically.
4. Pray earnestly.

Why not join others on the Church Zoom at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings for half an hour. The first 15 minutes focus on a specific subject then opening up for other areas of concern or thanksgiving.

When you come along. There is no pressure to pray out loud, just the desire to pray with others. To make a difference



If you don't have the computer technology you can also join on even the most basic of phones. Just call 02039 663 809 and follow the instructions. Meeting ID which is 965 828 3398 # and if asked, dial in with meeting password 615182.

## Christmas Tree Festival

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July we opened our Eventbrite registration system to apply to decorate a Christmas tree this year. To access the system just go to the church website, click on **Events** and then go to **Christmas Tree Festival**. You will then come to the page and you just click on the red **Eventbrite** word and it will take you directly to the registration site. If you find using computers a challenge, then please ask Charlotte or contact the church office and we will give you a paper copy.

The theme this year is The Nativity. Due to the building work, we are initially going for 80 trees this year. In the first 24 hours the site was open, we had 5 decorators sign up, so make sure you book your place.

## David Last's Funeral

David Last's funeral will be in Church on 28th July at 12:15pm . If you would like to attend the service please speak to Richard Stretch: 676219.

## **Are you Organized?**

**As Geoff Marchant steps down as Church Treasurer we have tried to work out what we need to have in place to make sure everything carries on smoothly in the future. There is already a team of people who deal with many of the money matters in Church and we now need someone who is able to be encouraging in managing that team.**

**Here is the description of what will be asked of the person who will be our new Finance Co-ordinator.**

The main requirement is for someone who is willing to be the main point of contact for financial matters and who can act as a co-ordinator of the various people who carry out most of the day-to-day banking.

### **The essential requirements are:**

The ability to attend PCC meetings (10 evenings a year) and Buildings & Finance Committee meetings, currently 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month (evening).

The ability to work positively with other volunteers, assisting them with any queries and generally ensuring that things which need to be done are done.

Ability to use emails in order to monitor the Treasurer email address and respond as necessary.

Being reasonably comfortable with numbers e.g. being able to check that your personal bank account statements are correct each month, or that your shopping receipts are correct.

### **The following would be helpful:**

Knowledge of Microsoft Office products – Outlook for emails, Word for documents and Excel spreadsheets which help to monitor certain lists of donations/payments etc.

Familiarity with using a computer/tablet/smartphone to browse the internet and access applications – examples of this in normal life might be using Facebook or the Covid19 app.

### **The following are not necessary:**

Any knowledge of accounting – aspects of this which might be helpful can be picked up whilst doing the job, and there are 3 qualified accountants in the church plus our retained external accountant and Geoff, all of whom are available to help with any technical query which might arise.

Time to carry out the day-to-day transactions – these are almost all

done by other people:

Cash/cheque income is counted and banked either by nominated counters after each service or by the church office. Other income is largely handled automatically.

Cheque payments are usually raised by Heather Baker. Where possible, automatic payments are made by Standing Order or Direct Debit.

Recording transactions in the Accounting System – this is done on a monthly basis by Chloe May, who also enters data into the recording spreadsheet which produces the monthly reporting data for PCC. David Last

**Geoff has offered to support and help anyone who takes on this role. If you think this is something you can do, please contact Michael.**

## Global Hunger Appeal

Sadly, the world is beset with many problems, and right now more than 30 million people in 20 countries are teetering on the brink of famine in what is now a global hunger emergency. The Covid-19 pandemic, violent conflict and the climate crisis have all increased global hunger. People in countries including South Sudan, Afghanistan and Burkina Faso are facing the very real threat of starvation.



Can you help? Christian Aid is making a special appeal to Christians in the UK, asking us to help them and their local partners to work with communities to prevent famine and build resilience by delivering life-saving food and support to people who need them most.

Please consider giving a donation. This can be done easily online via the Christian Aid website: [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) or, if you prefer, put cash or a cheque made payable to Christian Aid into a clearly marked envelope and leave it in the collection plate at church.

God has blessed us; let us be a blessing to others.

# Diary

## **Sunday 11th July**

10am Morning Worship - In Church  
To be broadcast later on YouTube

## **Monday 12th July**

2:30pm Monday Afternoon Homegroup on Zoom  
7:30pm Ministry & Worship Meeting on Zoom

## **Tuesday 13th July**

6pm Boys Brigade & Girls Assoc. meet  
7:30pm Café Management Planning Meeting in Church

## **Wednesday 14th July**

6:30pm Prayer Meeting on Zoom

## **Saturday 17h July**

9am-noon Outdoor Sale on St. Mary's Hall grass

## **Sunday 18h July**

10am Morning Worship - in Church  
To be broadcast later on YouTube

## **Sunday 19th September**

Battle of Britain Sunday

## **Sunday 3rd October**

Harvest Festival

## **Sunday 7th November**

3pm Bereavement Service

## **Sunday 14th November**

Remembrance Sunday

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

26th November 1st January