**St Stephen’s in Fradley Bulletin 11th July 2021**

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**St Stephen’s Church is open 10am-3pm daily for private prayer but we urge you to observe** **the hygiene rules and keeping social distancing whilst there.**

**St Stephen’s now has the official NHS COVID19 App for Track & Trace.**

**Please log in when in the building if you have the app downloaded on your phone**.

**The Diary**

**Local residents will know that there are road restrictions adjacent to St Stephen’s Church because of ongoing maintenance works in the village. Graham Ward has very kindly made parking available at the end of his field adjacent to Church Lane.**

**Please access by the gate at the corner of Fradley Lane/ Church Lane, keep right and drive to the end also that you can exit by the gate nearer to the junction of Old Hall Lane.**

**We are really grateful to Graham for this.**

**Sunday 11th July 10.30am Family Communion** in Church

**Wednesday 14th July 10am-12 noon Churchyard Gang** working in the Churchyard

**2-4pm Wednesday Welcome –** our very own Places of Welcome drop –in resumes! Do join us for tea and cake, chat and hospitality **in church**.

**Sunday 18th July 10.30am Family Communion** in Church

**Tuesday 20th July** **7pm Fradley Community Choir** resume rehearsals (tbc)

**Saturday 24th July 2.30-4.30pm Garden Party/ Strawberry Tea**

If you can help with the Garden Party (and we certainly need help, both in setting up and on the day!) please speak to Elizabeth (01543 254891)

**Wednesday 28th July 7pm PCC Meeting** in church (tbc)

**A Prayer for the 6th Sunday after Trinity**

Creator God,

you made us all in your image:

may we discern you in all that we see,

and serve you in all that we do;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Readings: Amos 7. 7-15 Ephesians 1. 3-14 Mark 6. 14-29**

**Thought for the week….**

What a week! I am not usually a football fan but I was gripped by the England-Denmark match. The commentator said more than once that it was very stressful! I expect he meant for the players and manager but no doubt also for the fans, for all involved and for the nation. The Bishop of Burnley tweeted that he had just eaten twice his body weight in Maltesers out of nervous tension!

Were you able to watch whilst the penalty was taken? We will, of course, have to wait until Sunday night before we know the end result; can we bear the suspense?!

The uncertainty of how it is all going to end echoes, perhaps, how I feel about Covid and the pandemic. With the UK government's announcement that all legal COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted on Monday 19 July in England, we are clearly moving into yet another new phase of life with COVID.  We wait with hope that restrictions will lift after July 19th but are we really ready for the change as we see cases rising. Some words from a bulletin I received this week resonated with me.

“This is the task that lies before us: to discern God’s will for ourselves, whilst remembering that the answer for me may not be the answer for someone else. It’s going to get complicated, and perhaps easy to pass judgment on others for the choices they make. However you and your family, are feeling about the announcement, we can hold on - as we have done so many times over the last seventeen months - to the reminder in the book of Hebrews that 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever' (13:8).”

So… a prayer…

Loving God,

help me, as I face choices each day,

to seek your will and do your bidding.

When I see the choices made by others

let me be filled with kindness and compassion.

May I remember that judgment is yours, not mine.

In Jesus’ name, Amen. Arthur Rank Centre

**Elizabeth**

 Please do contact us if you have any prayer requests. Morning Prayer (said privately by the clergy) and Sunday Services all include prayers, for the world, for the church, for the community and for individuals. If you would like us to pray for anyone please get in touch.

**Wednesday Welcome **

Our weekly ‘drop-in’ for tea and cake and chat restarted very successfully on Wednesday 7th July after closing for 15 months because of Covid.

We are part of the ‘Places of Welcome’ scheme and refreshments are completely free – we would like your company so do join us!

**Several have asked what events are planned as restrictions ease.**

**This is what we hope to offer…. Save the dates!**

**St Stephen’s Church Fradley**

**Upcoming Events ……….for your Diary**

(all subject to lifting of further restrictions!)

**Saturday 24th July 2.30-4.30pm Garden Party/ Strawberry Tea**

**Saturday 9th October 7-10pm Harvest Supper with Licensed Bar**

**Saturday 6th November 9.30-11.30am Bonfire Big Breakfast**

**Sunday 28th November 1pm Christmas Dinner**

**at Darnford Moors Golf Club (TBC)**

**Sunday 19th December 4pm Lessons and Carols**

**with Fradley Community Choir (TBC)**

***Food Bank***

### *We continue to support the Food bank. There is a constant need. Thank you to all who keep donating. Urgently needed food items -*

* **Snack bars/Cereal bars**
* **Long-life milk**
* **Tinned rice pudding**
* **Tinned custard**
* **Chocolate**

**All donations may be left in the box at the back of Church.**

**Can you help to support St Stephens Church?**

**St Stephens Church is heavily dependent on voluntary donations and income from events in order to fulfil its ministry to the local and wider communities. The continuing pandemic is having a material impact on our income. If you feel able, and would like to support us at this time, donations can be made via our Just Giving page or by text. With our huge thanks and appreciation!**

[**https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ststephensfradley**](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ststephensfradley)

**Text - 21FRADLEY to 70085 followed by an amount,**

**e.g. to donate £10 – text 21FRADLEY10**

**Texts cost the amount of your donation plus one standard rate message.**

EAW 10th July 2021