

**Weekly update**

**31st August 2020**

Dear friends,

I recently read an appreciation of Jim Packer, an Anglican writer and theologian who died on July 17th this year. He wrote prodigiously and had a huge influence on the growth of Christianity in the second half of the 20th century. Perhaps his best-known book is Knowing God, and perhaps the best known line of that book is this:

"If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father."

For Jim Packer, despite his great theological learning and his desire to teach the Bible clearly, if Christianity is true and real it is about a living relationship with God. It is not merely a collection of thoughts about God or a moral code to live by. The God of the Bible, made known in Jesus Christ, honoured and revealed by Paul and the other Bible writers, is a God we can know, a Father to all who trust him.

In this present time, where our relationships have contracted in many ways, we have perhaps become more aware of our need for connection. And chiefly we need a connection with the God in whose image we are made. How wonderful to know that when we pray "our Father..." we can mean what we say! And if our experience of a human father makes this hard to grasp, God has gone even further: "God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father". (Galatians 4:6). So, let's take a moment to stop and consider ourselves, and our grasp and experience of this life shaping truth, that by faith in Jesus we are children of the living God and he is our Father.

Many blessings to you.

Peter

### **News of the week.**

**APCM.** Please come if you can, on September 13th at 10.30am and let Cecelia know if you would like paper copies of the reports or the accounts in advance of the meeting. Similarly, you will need to let Cecelia know if you would like to come so we can prepare the space. There will be a chance to ask questions.

So far, the following have indicated their willingness to stand for these roles:

Church Warden:

Bob Fiddaman

Rob Moots

Deanery Synod:

Linda Edward

Graham Hill

David Mann

Sue Orman

David Reed

PCC:

Roy Edward

Eleanor Haslam

Paul Irons

Bob Jarvis

Carol Jordan

Colin Leeman

Zoe Putman

Paul Tolley

David Williams

Thank you for all being willing to stand. If you would like to nominate someone please ask for a form from the Parish Office.

### **Sunday services**

We continue with our intention to develop services on September 20th. On that day we currently intend to have an 8.30am Communion service at Christ Church and a morning service at 9.30am at St Michael's, with groups for children. Again, it will be helpful if you can let us know that you intend to come.

Do join us as we **pray** this week

### **To join in Morning Prayers**

From Tuesday 1st September to Friday 4th September from 9.00 to 9.20.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82968016191?pwd=Zjhlem15aElRWVQzb25zOU5OTkhPZz09>

and enter meeting key 829 6801 6191

### **To join in Pray at Home**

We will pray on Thursday 3rd September from 7.00pm till 7.30pm.

To join us

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85239438154>

This week will include prayers for our Mission partners, Barnabas Fund

Our **Book Group** will conclude on September 3rd - come along for the finale of God's Big Picture. Thank you to those who have led the sessions over the past few weeks. If you would like to come

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85239438154>

**One more thing...** Thank you very much for kind words, prayers and numerous offers of practical help to Shelly, Ruth, me and Scott and Ella. It has been a huge blessing to us. Shelly is doing well and should be back out and about in a few days.

Peter