



St Peter & St Paul's Chaldon Newsletter



July 2021

'People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'

And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.'

Mark 10. v.13 - 16

Preparing children to receive communion and talking to families about baptism means that I've been thinking a lot these past few weeks about discipleship, about the ways in which we encourage people and draw them into a journey of faith. In this passage from Mark's gospel, we receive a very clear message from scripture, Jesus rebukes the disciples and puts the children centre stage.

By their very nature children are on a journey of faith, and as a church we must encourage and nurture them and provide them with a safe place to explore the 'Good News'.

Children are like sponges, ready to soak up ideas, experiences, words, music, and I think that circumstances have forced us to reclaim some of that childlike energy in the life of our church. Responding to major disruption as we have had to these past months interrupts our normal patterns and compels us to reconsider what we have taken for granted and why – just as a child's question can do, we have been challenged to re think.

By next month I hope to be able to present to you all a way forward for our patterns of worship that will incorporate some of the new things we have done while also retaining much that we treasure from the past. I hope that we can continue to grow, adapt and realise that we are 'building back a better church', because out of adversity can come renewal and regeneration.

Our church officers, congregation and choir have shown adaptability and courage in the face of adversity and we have come through the worst of it with greater numbers and a greater connection with the community than before.

We need to hold onto this strength and flexibility.....

As I write, the residents of Lytton in British Columbia are fleeing their small town because it is engulfed in flames, by the time you read this nothing will remain of their previous lives. These climate related disruptions and disasters, of which the pandemic is our first real experience, are a wake - up call to us. A stark reminder that the future is going to call upon us to 'live in love' in ways we can barely imagine.

Jesus called upon his disciples 2000 years ago to model a completely new way of being which they could barely imagine and they did so within the prevailing oppressive system. As 21st century disciples and witnesses we are called to do the same and the children who so inspire and encourage me need to be equipped to live well together in the face of climate breakdown. I hope that we can keep Jesus words in mind as we strive together to keep ourselves open to all possibilities and nurture and encourage young disciples who know that they are welcomed by a God with ever open arms.

It is to them that we look to continue to build a resilient community that will be able to hold the anchor of faith in this place.

Rev Helen

Mowers Required

If you have any free time and would like to volunteer to help cut the grass in the churchyard at Chaldon.

Please contact either Jane Edwards or Stella Fladgate.

The more volunteers we can get may mean you may only need to mow once a year.



Services at Chaldon Church in July

Sunday Services

8am BCP Indoor Service

Limited seating must be prebooked

10.30am Outdoor Sunday Service

All are welcome, please bring something to sit on.

Wednesday Service

8.30am Morning Prayer Caterham Churches Together

Outdoor Service and on zoom (link on website).

Thursday Service

10.30am Indoor Service

Limited seating must be prebooked

Please contact pa@chaldonchurch.co.uk to book Indoor services.



Christian Aid

**THANK YOU
£2017**

Great news both St Luke's and St Peter & St Paul's together raised over £2017 inc Gift Aid towards this years Christian Aid fund.

Community Singing in Chaldon Churchyard



**Sunday July 25th 2 - 4pm
Sunday August 29th 4 - 6pm**

Fun, Friendly & Accessible Singing Outdoors - all voices welcome - no experience necessary - everything will be taught by ear

Led by Katie Rose - Professional Singer & Conductor who loves singing and helping people sing.

www.therosewindow.org

Each session lasts 2 hours and costs £10.

If you would like to join us for both or either session please book now by emailing pa@chaldonchurch.co.uk

Payment can be made online via the PAY HERE LINK on the church website.

Evening and Night Prayer in July

**On Zoom at 6.30pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays & Fridays
Night Prayer on Zoom at 9.30pm Sundays**

Evening and Night Prayer with music will be offered on Zoom on each week for 30 mins

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82053753781>

Please email vicar@chaldonchurch.co.uk for password

The congregation taking part in a Christian Aid 'Wave of Hope' from Chaldon to Cornwall ahead of the G7 conference last month.

