

# The parish of St André de la Pommeraye

[www.standrewschurchguernsey.org](http://www.standrewschurchguernsey.org)



## Newsletter for Pentecost, 31 May 2020

### The Rector writes ...

**Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**



Last weekend, I wrote about the news that we can resume congregational worship from today – the feast of Pentecost. I added, ‘There could not be a better day in the whole of the year for this to happen.’

Bank Holiday Monday saw me working on the bank above the rectory, cutting down low hanging branches on the many huge trees and working with a strimmer to cut

the exuberant growth of grass, nettles and cow parsley (or cow parsnip, as I understand it is known in Guernsey).

I’m pleased that I had the break because, suffice it to say, the last few days have been very busy. Working with my fellow church leaders in Guernsey, we thought that we understood ‘the direction of travel’ and what would be expected of us before we could resume public worship today. However, the guidance that was published on Thursday night contained a few surprises – and what appear to be some inconsistencies between different parts of the directions. I have written, seeking clarification on behalf of the Guernsey churches. Nobody is to blame for this – the various teams in the States have been working under huge pressure; it is hardly surprising that some inconsistencies have crept through as broad policies have been prepared to cover the needs of varied sectors. Nevertheless, I was a little surprised to be directed to the ‘takeaway food’ guidance in relation to the administration of Holy Communion.

For today, we must observe the following conditions:

- Given that we cannot exceed the limit of thirty people at any service or other gathering, Juliette (to whom I am most grateful for undertaking this task, on top of so much that she has done in recent weeks) has circulated as many people as possible, asking people to express their intentions for attending Sunday worship today. We have a list of 30 people who will be attending the 1000 service, *and can accommodate no more*. There is still some room at the 0800 service.
- Those attending must socially distance at a gap of 2 metres. Places where people can sit have been marked in the church.
- However, those in the same ‘household bubble’ may sit together. It would be helpful if couples could sit in the pews on the south side (the right, looking towards the altar) in alternate pews, as marked. *Please be patient if we ask you to move*. I can’t afford the fine for breaching the regulations.
- Please use the hand sanitiser provided when you enter the church.
- An order of service will be available at 0800.
- At 1000, we will use 30 copies of the ‘Easter to Trinity’ service books. These will be removed after the service and quarantined. A further set of 30 copies of the ‘Easter to Trinity’ service books will be used next Sunday. The hymns will be printed on a sheet which will be recycled after the service.

- As we have registered the church as a 'controlled environment', we can receive Holy Communion in accordance with the protocols the Dean has issued for the Deanery of Guernsey, standing 1 metre apart.
- Whilst it was necessary to register (my arms are not 2 metres long), we will need to sit 2 metres apart (except in household bubbles) so that we are allowed to sing. But because we have registered, we need to keep an attendance list with names and telephone numbers, in case contact tracing is required.
- Refreshments will *not* be served after the service.
- A consequence of registering the church as a 'controlled environment' is that it appears we would need to keep a list of all those entering the church during the week. As this is impractical, I will not be opening the church for private prayer on Monday, and until I receive clarification from the States.



That's a long list, for which I make no apology. We must do all that we can to keep each other safe and to ensure that the churches cannot be accused of doing anything that might increase the risk of people in Guernsey being infected with Covid-19.

*So, having written all that necessary guidance, I look forward more than I can say to leading worship on Sunday and to seeing you again. I expect that it will be an emotional time. Tissues will be available. I expect that I will need them.*

At the end of the 1000 service, we will mark the end of Eastertide. This will feel strange, as we have not been able to worship together during this season. But we are being launched into a new way of relating to each other and to being God's Church. I repeat what I wrote last week, 'One of the challenges is how we can hold on to what has been good and creative about our online worship and not simply return to how things were before we entered the strange experience of lockdown. I'd very much welcome your thoughts on this, and your ideas for how we might build on what has been good and creative in recent weeks.' We will continue to provide some worship that will be posted on the website each week, as some members of our community will not be able to come to public services because they need to 'shield' themselves. For this reason, we will try to keep the weekly telephone contact going for at least another week.

On the feast of Pentecost we, like the first disciples, are commissioned for service as God's people. It is the birthday of the Church. Whilst sharing champagne and cake is out of the question today, sadly, we go out into the world with a task to do – sharing the good news of God's love in a puzzled and different world.

**Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### **Worship today**

In addition to our 'physical' services, Juliette has produced our **Welcome to Worship** service for this week, which is available on the [church website](#).

There are many other **services** that will be broadcast or available online for Sunday. I list just a few, for those who are unable to come to services at St Andrew's church today ...

- 8.00 am, BBC Radio Guernsey: Sunday worship (broadcast across the UK local radio stations)
- 8.10 am, BBC Radio 4: Sunday worship – Pentecost. Stephen Gibson leads an Elim Pentecostal service from City Church Cardiff as Dominic and Catherine De Souza reflect on Pentecost hope during lockdown.
- 9.00 am: Church of England Sunday worship. Join our national Pentecost Sunday service with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, UK Church leaders and a message from His

Holiness Pope Francis. The service is available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

- 11.00 am, BBC 1 TV: The Bishop of Hereford leads a service for Pentecost Sunday from the city's historic cathedral, with hymns recorded by Songs of Praise in 2017. The service was filmed before the closure of all church buildings in England was announced.



### Our church finances

The churchwardens (Roddy Ray and Howard Roberts), the treasurer (Richard Shirley) and I are most grateful for the continuing contributions to the church through bank payments, cheques and special donations. Thank you for your care and your generosity.

As we resume Sunday worship, we will, of course, be welcoming your gifts through the collection plate. However this will be available near the door at the beginning and end of the service, so that we do not have to pass it from hand to hand in a very spread out congregation. We take this opportunity to encourage you to make your gift to the church by direct payment to our bank account (Rector and Churchwardens of St Andrew, at Lloyds Bank in Guernsey). The sort code is **30-93-73** and the account number is **35009268**.

You can send also cheques, payable to the *Rector and Churchwardens of St Andrew*, to Mr Richard Shirley, Hedgeway, Route de Pleinmont, Torteval, Guernsey, GY8 0RH.

### Prayers for the week

Our **parish 'prayer for the month'** for June:

*It takes wisdom to see beyond COVID and have confidence in a brighter future. How reassuring it is to have a friend we can call on each time we feel the need of a confidence boost. Whoever we are, whatever our circumstances, God calls us to trust him and he will direct us.*

Heavenly Father,  
give us the wisdom to trust you,  
so that our paths may be straight  
guiding us into the way of truth:  
we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Please continue to pray for those who have the responsibility in Guernsey for leading the response to coronavirus / COVID-19 – for Deputies Gavin St Pier and Heidi Soulsby, for Dr Nicola Brink and her team at Public Health, for all who work in the health and welfare services, and for those who maintain law and order, and border security.

Please pray for those who are unable to join us in our congregational services today.

We pray in the Guernsey church cycle of prayer for the Christian community in Guernsey, in our unity in Christ and our diversity in the expression of our faith.

We pray for all who live in the parish of St Andrew and for our church community.

And, by name, for Ruth Rich, Mike O'Hara, Stella Machon, Audrey Gollop, Jean Walpole, Chris & Cindy Kennedy, Gretl Davies, Georgina, Chris Lesbirel, Gwen Piesing, Ann Nicholson, Fletch O'Hara and Elisa Wales. We pray too for all who have died.

### Keeping in touch ...

As mentioned above, the Pastoral Contact Group, comprising Janet Iles, Judy Barker, Juliette Robilliard, Nicky McVean, John Lee and Terry Iles, will continue to call St Andrew's church people weekly for the immediate future.

Family and work commitments mean that Jo Osborne cannot continue – but we thank Jo for her contribution to this work.

Thanks again to **Jill Bishop** for preparing and circulating a ‘social newsletter’ for St Andrew’s church people. It has been a lovely way of keeping in touch – and so good to read messages from a wide variety of people in our church community, and enjoy the humour and the video clips



### Finally ...



Yesterday evening, because the weather was lovely and because my brain was suffering from overload, Judy and I walked around the parish (and over the border into Roddy Ray country on the edge of Castel). I enjoyed the perfect symmetry of the two calves in the evening sunlight. And, as ever, the tranquil beauty of the Talbot Valley.



The Bible readings for today are printed on the next page.

**Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

With my love and prayers,

*Tim*

**PS** Before you ask, when you see me, I have a booking for a hair cut – in ten days’ time.

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## Collect and readings for today ...

### Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



### New Testament reading: Acts 2 vv 1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

### Gospel: John 20 vv 19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to

them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'



Giotto di Bondone, *Scenes from the Life of Christ: 23. Pentecost*, 1304-06, fresco, Cappella Scrovegni (Arena Chapel), Padua

