

St John's Church, Neville's Cross

Parish Office email: parish.smxg.sjnx@gmail.com

As of today, weekly Sunday and Wednesday services are resuming in St John's Church; all are welcome. Please see below for details of dates/services. If you are planning to come to church, please familiarise yourself once more with the protocols for Covid protection and prevention (copied below).

This Sunday (18th April) the following services are taking place in church and online:

- **8.45 am: Holy Communion** in church (using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer); led by Nicky Chater.
- **10.30 am: Cafe Church** online (via zoom); led by Abby C and Mike Chater. (The zoom link will be circulated by email nearer the time).

Every Wednesday evening (starting this Wednesday) there will be a celebration of Holy Communion in church at 6pm. It will be a quiet, reflective service lasting just over half an hour.

Sunday services up until the end of May are then scheduled to take place as follows:

- **Sunday 25th April:** Service of the Word in church and online, **10.30 am**
- **Sunday 2nd May:** Holy Communion in church and online, **10.30 am**

- **Sunday 9th May:** Service of the Word in church and online, **10.30 am**
- **Sunday 16th May:** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) in church at **8.45 am**; Cafe Church online (via 'zoom') at **10.30 am**
- **Whit Sunday, 23rd May:** Holy Communion in church and online, **10.30 am**
- **Trinity Sunday, 30th May:** Service of the Word in church and online, **10.30 am**

Livestreaming of services: Sunday services in church will be live-streamed (with pictures and sound simultaneously broadcast) via the St John's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchNevillescross>. (A recording will also be available afterwards on our YouTube channel: [SJNX Online - YouTube](#)). Children and others who may wish to sit out of view of the cameras can do so by sitting in the wooden pews, avoiding the front two rows (and/or ask the stewards for guidance). NB no one will be filmed coming forward for Communion.

Under data protection legislation, those attending the service will be presumed, having read this notice, to have given consent to appearing in the broadcast. (Even so, we will aim to avoid any close-up filming of members of the general congregation).

Please equally be aware that conversations in church (including while the organist is playing before/after the service) may be inadvertently picked up by the microphones and broadcast; it would be good practice to keep this as a time of quiet reflection instead.

Ventilation: the latest covid-prevention advice stresses the importance of good ventilation of interior spaces. Please be aware that, following government guidance, we will keep the doors to the church open during services (unless the weather is especially cold); please be prepared for this. NB prior to the start of the service the building will have been well heated.

Covid protection and prevention: We are continuing to follow government regulations and guidance designed to ensure that the Church remains a COVID-secure environment. For your and others' safety, please abide by the following:

- ❖ Symptoms: If you display any of these symptoms please do not enter our building and return home immediately:
 - persistent coughing
 - high temperature
 - loss of taste or smell
- ❖ Face coverings: You are required to wear a face covering when in the building (unless you cannot do so for medical reasons).
- ❖ Contact details: We will ask for your name and contact details to support The NHS's Test and Protect System.
- ❖ Moving around: We may ask you to sit in a particular seat and move in a particular direction around our building.
- ❖ Hand hygiene: Please wash hands regularly and use hand sanitiser when entering or exiting our building.

- ❖ Physical contact: Please avoid physical contact with people outside of your own household.
- ❖ Distancing: Please maintain appropriate physical distancing based on current guidelines.

For more information please see: [churchofengland.org/coronavirus](https://www.churchofengland.org/coronavirus)

Singing in church: Congregational singing is still not permitted inside the church building; we are, however, exploring the possibility of allowing a small group of singers (in line with current government advice) to sing at services in church beginning next month. This will only happen in line with our usual risk assessment procedures; please speak to the Rector or churchwardens for more information.

Revision of the Church Electoral Roll: the annual revision of the St John's Church Electoral Roll is being undertaken over the next few weeks. If you are not currently on the electoral roll, and would like to be, please fill out an [electoral roll form](#) and return it by 25th April 2021 either to the electoral roll officer (Tom Shanks) or to the parish office (contact details below). Membership of the church electoral roll means that you will be kept in regular touch and gives you the right to vote in church elections.

Music at the 10.30 service: while Amy is off work, Caroline Friswell has kindly agreed to cover some of her duties in relation to co-ordinating musicians and choosing music for each Sunday. She was already working with Amy in this area and will be drawing on the 'archive' of

musical videos and the directory of regular songs and hymns that we have built up over the past year or more.

PCC Minute Taker for St Edmunds, Bearpark: St Edmunds, Bearpark, is in urgent need of someone to volunteer to take the minutes for their PCC meetings (the next meeting is on 21st April at 6.00 pm) and the APCM (which takes place after the 9 am service on Sunday 25th April). If you can help, please contact Alan Bartlett Alan.Bartlett@durham.anglican.org

Giving thanks for the job: Many people from St John's have now received their first vaccination with a great feeling of relief. Durham Diocese and Christian Aid have come together to enable people to give thanks and pass on the blessing to other parts of the world by making a donation to Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal. If you would like to join in go to the Durham Diocese website or you can click through directly from the News page in the Church Life section of St John's website (www.sjnx.org).

The Church Commissioners have prepared a Draft Pastoral Scheme to formally bring the three churches of St Margaret's Durham, St John's Neville's Cross and St Edmund's Bearpark together into a United Benefice. Notices will be posted on the church doors and announcements made at services. There is an objection period until the 14th June. The announcement will be as follows:

"A Notice giving the objects of proposed pastoral reorganisation affecting this parish has or will be

displayed near the main door and on the Church of England website. The Notice includes the last date by which representations regarding the proposed reorganisation may be made to the Church Commissioners.”

A copy of the full notice (which summarises the contents of the draft scheme) is attached to this news sheet.

Please note: only one of the five bullet points on the full notice (namely the fourth) directly affects this parish.

Please feel free to contact the Rector for further information.

Please visit St John's Website at www.sjnx.org

Feedback or suggestions can be made by selecting 'website team' on the contact form.

We now have a Facebook group for our parent/carer and toddler group Play People, Please join us and spread the word: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1310563349289055/>

Morning Prayer (via Zoom) is said on Mondays at 9.30 am, following the Order of Service in Common Worship. More details from the Rector, Rev Barnaby Huish rector.smxg.sjnx@gmail.com

'Daily Hope': a free phone line offering hymns, prayers and reflections 24 hours a day while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus. 'Daily Hope' is a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes during the lockdown period. The line

- which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** - has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services in mind.

Members of the Pastoral Links Group are aiming to keep in touch by phone with everyone on the church Electoral Roll. Please feel free to share any requests for prayer or particular needs. Please feel free to phone the Rector at any time (see contact details below) or to contact the pastoral team via pastorallinks.sjnx@gmail.com (emails are received initially by Barney Huish and Nicky Chater, and shared as appropriate with other members of the team).

The Pastoral Links Group also meets once a month (via zoom) to keep one another in touch with people's needs and wellbeing, and to share together in prayer. Membership of the group includes Sarah C, Mike & Nicky Chater, Jo C, Caroline Friswell, Andy & Jill H, Barney Huish, Margaret J, Margaret O, Loraine R, Debbie R-C, Joan Twomey.

For national and diocesan church resources including those relating to worship, mission and prayer through the covid-19 situation, please see <https://www.churchofengland.org/> and <https://durhamdiocese.org/>

**PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR THIS WEEK :
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER: 18TH APRIL**

Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the
sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen
life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and
reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and
fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with
your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Readings:

- Acts 3.12-19
- 1 John 3.1-7
- Luke 24.36b-48

Post Communion

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples in the
breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his
redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

- Acts 4.5-12
- 1 John 3.16-24
- John 10.11-18