

**NORTH WEST**

**HAMPSHIRE**

**PASTORAL AREA**

Serving the Parishes of

ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE, HOOK,  
TADLEY AND BURGHFIELD COMMON



**St Michael's Parish, Tadley,  
Kingsclere,  
and St Oswald's Church,  
Burghfield Common**

**St Michael's Church**  
Bishopswood Road, Tadley  
RG26 4HG

**St Oswald's Church**  
Abbey Park, Burghfield Common,  
RG7 3HQ

**Parish Priest:**

Rev Fr Patrick Tansey  
0118 981 4572

**Safeguarding Officers:**

Mrs Kath Murtagh (Tadley)  
0118 981 4658  
Mrs Ellen Goodall (Burghfield Common)  
0118 983 3332

**Parish Secretary:**

Mrs Barbara Davis  
Email: [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Website: [www.stmandsto.org.uk](http://www.stmandsto.org.uk)

**Covenant to the People**

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Bill Reilly on (01189 813784) during June. And Gerry Penfold during July on (01189 811247)

**NEWSLETTER 28th June —5th July**

**2020 AD**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF STS PETER AND PAUL**

**and**

**THE 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

**OBLIGATORY COLLECTION** this weekend for Peter's Pence

**NEXT OBLIGATORY COLLECTION IS ON THE WEEK-END OF 11TH/12TH JULY FOR THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA**

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**DOUBLE ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER**

Over the last few weeks the Parish Office has experienced endless problems with the email system because of the introduction by the Diocese of Migration 365. This has resulted in loss of documents, large amounts of time wasted in seeking clarity and help from the Diocesan Office and considerable stress to our part-time Secretary Barbara. Others have experienced similar problems.

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June email users were informed that following the 'successful' migration to 365, in spite of problems, support for various areas needed to be clarified by the end of June. This gives Barbara less than a week to ensure that all is in order before the old system closes. On Tuesday Father Patrick decided that the Parish Office will close for the next two weeks to enable her not only to deal with the ongoing glitches in the new system, but also the constant information arriving about re-opening not only for Private Prayer, but also Masses in the Parish. Other work has piled-up, including Finance and the continuation of addressing maintenance problems - Father Patrick is still sleeping in the Guest Bedroom until his Bathroom and Bedroom are repaired after the water damage in 2019!

On behalf of the Parish he expresses thanks to Barbara for her remarkable commitment in enabling the Parish to function with some normality at this time. She is working more than her agreed hours and there will be a need to address this area for the future once things become less hectic, and there is clarity about our financial position and that of other Parishes. Accordingly, over the next two weeks the Office is closed except for urgent matters. Father Patrick can be contacted by telephone also for urgent matters. Emails will not be responded to if they are about matters that can wait. Thank you for your understanding.

**Days off during this time are Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July for Fr Patrick.**

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## REOPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

St Michael's Church, Tadley, will re-open for Private Prayer on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Please note the following guidelines in respect of Saturday openings - other opportunities for Private Prayer will be made available only if more volunteers can be found to steward the building and conduct regular disinfection of the premises. The move towards re-opening for Masses will not occur immediately, until Fr Patrick is clear about Diocesan Guidance and St Oswald's Church is ready to re-open. At the present moment, the community in Burghfield Common is comfortable with it remaining closed.

No person suffering from cold or flu symptoms should visit the church.

Those visiting are asked to give their names to the stewards on duty and to register their names and telephone numbers in the Mandatory Record Book which must be checked by Fr Patrick whenever the church is opened. There is a need to track and trace people if an outbreak of the virus is connected to any church. **Please bring your own pen for signing.**

Those visiting are asked to follow the signage for entry and exit and the instructions of the stewards. **The toilets will remain closed. Parishioners are asked to bring their own gloves and masks if they wish to wear these - they are not being provided by the Parish. The alcohol (70%) hand sanitiser provided at the entrance and exit must be used. If allergic to alcohol based sanitiser, please bring your own non-alcohol sanitiser. Stewards will advise about the cleaning of plastic chairs after you finish prayer. (Please sanitise your chair when you have finished. Disinfectant spray and towel will be provided by each chair for this purpose. Please spray and wipe over all of the chair including the legs. Please put the finished paper towel in the black bin by the exit door.**

Families and those over 70 may visit for prayer (for some reason there is a story going around that those of 70 onwards may not do so). However, those in this age group are reminded to check the guidance for vulnerable adults.

Parents need to ensure that children stay in the family group and do not wander around the church. The Diocese is retaining the 2 metre guidance, so the number attending for Private Prayer may not exceed 12. If the church is full, then those waiting are asked to be patient or to return at another time.

If you need to queue, please observe **the 2 metre distance rule outside as well.**

Private Prayer means that there can be no singing of hymns or praying aloud. Those present come to pray in silence before Jesus in The Blessed Sacrament, reserved in the Tabernacle.

These guidelines may appear to be somewhat 'heavy'. Please remember that we are still in a state of pandemic - the coronavirus has not gone away. At Prime Minister Boris Johnson's final public presentation for the nation, his medical advisers rightly stressed the need for all to remain vigilant and recognise that the virus will be with us for a long time. Certainly into Spring 2021, with the winter months still to come. Also, the use of 1 metre social distancing instead of 2 can only apply if accompanied by mitigating provisions. Continue to pray that there will be no further national 'spike' necessitating a further national lockdown. Pope Francis has stressed that the safety of human beings must be the first priority in this continuing pandemic situation.

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## VISIT OF DIOCESAN HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER TO TADLEY

As some parishioners know, Fr Patrick and Barbara have been in regular contact with the Diocesan Office over the last couple of weeks, attempting to clarify various matters in respect of the re-opening of our churches, especially the status of those parishioners of 70+ in respect of volunteering as stewards. At that stage, the Diocese was awaiting the appointment of a new Health and Safety Officer, which made things difficult for all.

Having made contact via email with the new Officer, Fr Patrick was delighted when only a few days in post, he suggested that he visit to discuss in more detail issues addressed in our emails. The meeting took place late morning/early afternoon in The Parish Room, (reordered for distancing meetings) on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Deacon Tony Darroch, our Parish Health and Safety Officer, was unable to attend because of work commitments. Barbara Davis took notes and contributed to the discussion.

The new Officer is Mr Steward Cripps. He began the meeting by saying that as we met there was a meeting of the Diocesan Crisis Team with Bishop Philip to consider issues raised, especially in respect of 70+ parishioners. Matters arising will be discussed as necessary with volunteers from Tadley and Burghfield Common when we meet for the re-opening of both our churches. However, the 2 metre rule should be retained as far as possible.

There was a discussion of the return to Masses and the position of priests of 70+, which includes Father Patrick, concerning their safety as vulnerable adults. Also, the maintenance of social distancing in the distribution of Holy Communion.

Bishop Philip has addressed the clergy issue. For the future, clergy in this area need to make a personal decision con-

cerning engagement in ministry and that which is desirable. He is certain that parishioners will respect any limitation of ministry in the present situation. Remember that your priests, unless there are health issues, do not retire until 75, when Canon Law obliges them to tender their resignation from active ministry. The Bishop may ask them to continue. However, Fr Patrick reassures you that he will continue to serve the Parish as best he can for the future.

Mr Cripps took the opportunity to address some outstanding matters in respect of Parish Maintenance, not completed because of our change of secretary at the end of 2019 and the subsequent lockdown. He was delighted with the new patio, which he wanted to view. A visit to St Michael's Church resulted in his general agreement about how it was organised for Private Prayer and photographs were taken of the chair arrangement. Unfortunately, he had no time to visit the St Oswald site, the Church being closed until the resumption of Masses. He hopes to address this once he is settled in post.

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### DIOCESAN UPDATE

The decision on 70+ parishioners following the Emergency Meeting is:

#### VULNERABLE PEOPLE:

It remains a person's own choice to come to pray or to act as a Steward.

HOWEVER: if you/or a member of your household are at high risk (clinically extremely vulnerable) you are recommended not to attend church or volunteer as a Steward.... There is a risk that by volunteering as a Steward that you could contract the disease from others and then unintentionally infect your family and loved ones with the virus by transferring the disease to your home environment.

Full details are on a Supplementary Assessment for Stewards. Stewards are asked to complete a short questionnaire for our records, after they have read the Supplementary Assessment for Stewards. This will be circulated by Gina Poulter for those volunteering as Stewards in Tadley for the times of Private Prayer and once completed should be returned to the Parish Office for safe-keeping. For the re-opening of St Oswald's Church and re-opening for Masses further copies will be available for completion by new volunteers.

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### BISHOP'S LETTER FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF STs PETER AND PAUL

Bishop Philip has asked his Pastoral Letter be made avail-

able to as many Parishioners as possible. **It can be found on the Parish Website.** (Unfortunately, we were unable to reproduce this in the Newsletter.) In a personal message to priests he states:

*'as with reopening in general, this will be dependent upon your own decision in the light of local circumstances and resources'*

Bishop Philip hopes to send out some updated guidance based on Guidelines for the Gradual Reintroduction of Public Liturgies of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020AD, taking into account previous feedback and current advice. Fr Patrick will update the parish as details about future celebration of Masses are clarified, with the necessary safety restrictions in place.

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### PARISH CONDOLENCES

(i)

Father Patrick was taken aback to learn of the death of Jane Sydenham after her operation in Basingstoke hospital recently. He celebrated Mass for her soul, at the request of Mary Lee, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, the Solemnity of The Nativity of St John the Baptist, and is grateful to Bill and Joy Reilly for sending out his request for prayers for her eternal rest last week-end. Our condolences to her husband Eric and family members. Fr Patrick is also grateful to Sue Elliot for letting him know this sad news once it had become public.

Eric has asked that Deacon Tony Darroch officiate at Jane's Cremation Service, and Fr Patrick as agreed to this. At the present moment there are no details of the Service, but do not hesitate to contact Deacon Tony for further information. (tel no. 01189 811105)

(ii)

It is with great sorrow that parishioners heard of the death of Alex and Tasha's baby, so soon after the hope that all might be well in a few weeks. Fr Patrick had a long conversation with Joan Curran, which was full of Christian hope that this human life is now embraced by God our Heavenly Father in eternal life. Please keep Alex and Natasha in prayer at this difficult time. They are greatly appreciative of the care and compassion shown by medical staff following the death.

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### IN PRAYER

- (1) Dennis Healey is recovering from his recent operation, and we continue to remember him and Liz.
- (2) Mark, a friend of Jenny Seaborn, is doing as well as possible with cancer, but would appreciate our prayers.
- (3) Malcolm is grateful for our prayers as he recovers from his nose cancer operation.

All Parishioners are remembered in Father Patrick's Pro Populo (For the People) Mass each week, known and unknown. Please keep him in your prayers.

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### TADLEY GARDENING RESUMES!

Brenda O'Donovan and her volunteer group gather at St Michael's Church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm. The work is to be done with social distancing, preferably 2 metres. There is no access to toilets or The Parish Room, and people should bring their own masks and gloves as required, as well as food and drink. All gardening implements must be removed after the work and personal sanitisers are recommended.

This was organised well before permission was given to re-open our churches, so those attending for Private Prayer are asked to take care when parking cars and respect that work may be taking place in the car park area. Gardeners will respect the fact that the church is open for prayer. Please contact Brenda O'Donovan on 01189 814269 if you wish to help.

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### CELEBRATE ONLINE CONFERENCE (27<sup>TH</sup>-28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020)

Member of the Parish used to attend CELEBRATE when things were normal, but obviously this is no longer the case. However, people may join the Online Conference. Details as follows:

All the content over the weekend will be hosted on our [CELEBRATE Facebook page](#) so make sure you 'Like' and 'Follow' us to not miss anything.

**Not a Facebook user? Not a problem!** You don't need to have an account to access our page. You can join the conference by simply following this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Celebratecommunity/>

If you have friends, family or members of your parish who might like to take part then why not invite them along and send them the details - all are welcome!

Please contact Bill and Joy Reilly (01189 813784)

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