

Next Sunday and the easing of restrictions

I am conscious next week we are no longer going to be governed by the current Covid-19 restrictions.

However there is a recognition the "lifting of legal restrictions will be both a relief and a cause of anxiety" and there will be a need to be sensitive to how each other is feeling.

The Church of England has produced guidelines throughout the pandemic in response to the announcements from the government. It will be doing so again after the latest changes were announced at the beginning of this

week, although as of Friday morning none has been issued.

But with what has been said from a number of sources, it is probable any decisions will need to be taken locally. They will also need to be sensitive to the different feelings that might be expressed within a congregation to foster understanding and unity.

We'll take things as they come and as we can and I'm sure we will be thoughtful towards one another. Please pray we may have the wisdom we need to glorify God in all we do.

Warwick Foodbank

We are still welcoming donations to the Warwick Foodbank.

Please put any toiletries and/or dry, non-perishable food in the Foodbank collection box which is near the welcome table.

If you need a voucher please email the office to arrange collection.

The Warwick Foodbank is open on Fridays

between 1pm and 3pm at Saltisford Church in Albert Street.



CTW events

This afternoon at 4pm, Father Edward Stewart will lead his Thanksgiving and Remembrance service in Warwick Cemetery.

It takes place outside under the trees on the entrance road in the cemetery. Please bring a chair.

There's no need to book, just turn up.

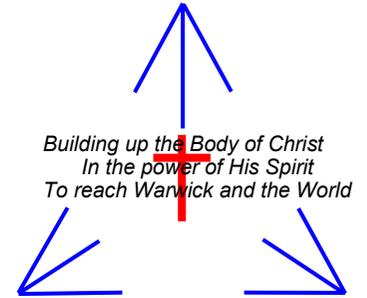
Thank you

Jo sends her thanks for the gift we sent to her. Thank you to all who contributed to the gift.

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St Paul's Church, Warwick



*Building up the Body of Christ
In the power of His Spirit
To reach Warwick and the World*

**July 18, 2021
Trinity 7**

Rev Jonathan Hearn

Today's 10am Service - Holy Communion

If you are a newcomer to our Church, or a visitor to the area, please introduce yourself to one of the welcomers, or to the clergy.

July 18

10am Holy Communion

2 Samuel 7: 1-14a
Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end

July 25

10am Holy Communion

2 Samuel 11: 1-15
John 6: 1-21

Our Bible verse for the year

**Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all.
Run to GOD! Run from evil!
Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life!**



Proverbs 3: 5-8 (from The Message)

Praying for the Persecuted Church

Three churches in the Oran area of Algeria have been closed after a long-running legal battle which began in 2017.

On Sunday July 4, the administrative court of Oran ordered the churches should be closed, and three days later each church building was sealed.

The churches – L'Oratoire church (also known as Oran city church), House of Hope in Ain Turk, and a church in El Ayaida – were first ordered to close by the governor of Oran Province in 2017 and 2018, but all had re-opened by the end of 2018. They are among at least 20 which have been closed since late 2017, most of which remain sealed.

The court decision is the result of a case filed by the governor in August 2019 seeking to force the churches' closure.

Committees of officials started regularly visiting churches in late 2017, with the declared aim of checking safety, but they also asked about permits to operate as churches, obtained from the National Commission for Non-Muslim Worship.

However, despite numerous requests from some churches the Commission has never issued a permit.

In May 2021, however, a historic church building in the port city of Mostaganem which had been appropriated by a local authority was returned to the Church.

Christians are a tiny minority in Muslim-majority Algeria. There are around 129,000 in a population of just over 43.3 million.

The majority are converts from Islam. They are most at risk of persecution, not just from their families, but from the wider community. This can involve threats, beatings and imprisonment, as well as pressure to adhere to Islamic customs. Pressure is also exerted by state officials receptive to the teachings of radical Islamic teachers. They use their influence to limit the freedoms of converts, including preventing them from expressing their views in public.

Those living in rural and religiously more conservative parts of Algeria – which acted as a stronghold for Islamist insurgents in the fight against the government in the 1990s – are particularly exposed to pressure and danger.

Laws regulating non-Muslim worship prohibit anything that would 'shake the faith of a Muslim' or be used as 'a means of seduction intending to convert a Muslim to another religion'.

And in the past three years, authorities in Algeria have engaged in a systematic campaign against EPA churches (Protestant Church of Algeria), which has seen 13 churches forcibly closed by the authorities. Others have received orders to cease all activities.

Algeria is now number 24 on the Open Doors World Watch List, having dropped seven places from last year's ranking. This is in large part due to a substantial reduction in incidents of violence against Christians.

However, this does not mean the effects of past persecution is over. In 2019 there were multiple church closures in Algeria. There were not as many this year, but the churches that were shutdown remain closed.

These closures are not included in this year's report, but nonetheless continue to affect the Christian community in Algeria.

Source: *Open Doors UK and Barnabas Fund*

Disappointment that football's not coming home

The Euros seem a long time ago now and perhaps for many there is a great sigh of relief.

But perhaps what has come home is the proof that however much we wish it otherwise, there are unfortunately still racist elements who, behind the anonymity of social media, feel it's acceptable to make vile comments. It's also sad to reflect too that Italian supporters and others were targeted as they made their way home and some supporters were quite happy to leave a mess for others to clean up. However, amongst some of the sad images that have accompanied the Euros, there have been others that point to a real humanity and care.

The reaction of people to the defacing of the mural to Marcus Rashford and the trolling of the young German girl are truly heartening and a reminder evil needs to be countered by good, and actions can speak volumes.

Jesus overcame evil on the cross and whilst it won't be eradicated until His return, He can inspire others to take their stand against all that is wrong. Paul writes in Romans: "17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord.

20 On the contrary: ... 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12 NIV)

Fortunately we may not be caught up in large scale events, but we can make a difference where we are, and may God enable us to do so with good grace, and in so doing, honour his name.

Jonathan.

Fire Unlocked - the final days

Just a few more days to go to do the Fire Unlocked initiative. If you have anything you'd like to share, please let me know.

A reminder, our Area Dean shared how he used the Lord's Prayer in his walk and offers it if it can help you think how to pray.

Our Father in Heaven. (I pray you will be known as father to the residents of this street.)

Hallowed be your name. (In hearts and lives here in this community.)

Your Kingdom come. (In the homes of

this street.) Your will be done (In the lives of those who live here.)

Give the residents of this street their daily bread.

Forgive them their sins. Grant them grace to live in harmony and where necessary, forgiveness with their neighbours. Let them be protected from falling into temptation and sin.

May your Kingdom come, your power and glory be experienced, now and forever in these homes. (May many of these homes become places and units of worship, prayer, witness and service.)

Amen.