

Longfield-Links



27th June 2021 - 4th Sunday of Trinity

Hi everyone and welcome to the current edition of the Longfield Links, we hope that you will enjoy the pictures and all the information regarding St. Mary Magdalene Church in Longfield this week.

Bishop James' Farewell Service to be live-streamed



Join the Diocese on-line as we livestream a Service of Farewell for Bishop James from Rochester Cathedral, at 3pm on Saturday 3rd July, on the [Diocesan Facebook page](#)

The Bishop of Rochester The Right Reverend James Langstaff retires from his role of Diocesan Bishop of Rochester on the 3rd July and a special service saying farewell to Bishop James after 10 years of dedicated service to Rochester Diocese takes place at Rochester Cathedral on the same day. The service is invitation only so is being live streamed directly from the Cathedral. The service starts at 3.00pm and you should be able to link in shortly before that time.



With the continuing restrictions around gatherings, Bishop James and Bridget are not able to welcome guests from around the Diocese to a Garden Party at Bishops Court. With Bishop James' retirement so close, it would have been so good to have been able to do so.

They have, however, recently opened the garden at Bishops Court under the auspices of the National Garden Scheme, raising funds for nursing charities. We were able to do this by following the NGS guidance for Covid-compliant opening, which is similar to that which enables National Trust and other such properties to be open. Cancelling the garden parties means that we are now able to extend the programme of openings in support of the National Garden Scheme, and hope, therefore, that many of you will wish to visit us in this way, thereby also helping to support some excellent charities.

If you are able to visit, please note the following information:

- Entrance to the garden will be free, but we will invite you to make a donation to the charities: this will be possible in cash or by card;
- Light refreshments will be available without charge, which will be served to you at tables in accordance with current guidance;
- We are all asked to observe social distancing, which will necessarily limit the scope for socialising with others who visit at the same time;
- Where distancing is maintained, mask wearing is not obligatory, but people may of course choose to do so.

The times for these garden openings will be:

- Wednesday 23rd June 3.45pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm and 7.15pm
- Friday 25th June 10am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 5pm, 5.45pm and 6.30pm
- Wednesday 30th June 2pm, 3.30pm, 5pm, 5.45pm and 6.30pm
- Thursday 1st July 2pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm, 5pm, 5.45pm and 6.30pm

To help manage numbers and make other arrangements, please book your visit online:

Wednesday 23rd June <https://bit.ly/3gFd6A3>

Friday 25th June <https://bit.ly/3vAZV8N>

Wednesday 30th June <https://bit.ly/3vzKaic>

Thursday 1st July <https://bit.ly/35skeKP>

The form which you complete there will also ask you for contact details for Track and Trace purposes, and for any dietary requirements for the refreshments. If you have any difficulties booking online or have other queries, please e-mail bishopscourt@rochester.anglican.org or call 01634 842721 during normal office hours.

The gardens at Bishopscourt are looking lovely at the moment as well as being a safe space for a visit. We do want to share them with as many as possible before Bishop James and Bridget leave next month. We also hope to forward a substantial sum to the NGS charities at a time when many will have lost income – details of the charities are at <https://ngs.org.uk/help-support-our-nurses/>.

Church Opening

The booking line is open from Monday morning to Friday afternoon (4pm). Please listen to the message and leave your name, telephone number and the names of the people who would like to attend the service.

Regrettably, we are unable to take block bookings for any future services or for anyone not in your household or bubble group.

At the end of the week after the booking line closes, Gill Horner, one of our Churchwardens, will contact you and confirm whether we have space, and if so, the seat number. Longfield Booking Line number is 01474 630321



Monday Bible Study

You are very welcome to the Monday Evening Bible Study: On Zoom at 7.30pm

The next session of the Bible study will be on Monday 28th June with a look at the book of Revelation. Please contact Anne Philpott [philptanne@gmail.com] or Lawrie Townson for details; [lawrencetownson@btinternet.com] Please contact Paul Thomas at paulthomas@outlook.com for the Zoom link and a copy of the weekly notes.

Thursday Bible Study Group, Study @1.30pm



Alan and Revd. Helen Reeves are running a Bible study group on Thursdays at 1.30pm via Zoom.

The Thursday Bible study group will be taking a break this week but we return on Thursday 1st July with a new study Topic on 1 and 2 Peter, looking at some of the greatest words written in the Bible and the life of St. Peter. Contact Alan or Helen for more details or the link to Zoom.

Link address is as follows - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83194076977>

Believing that this is God's world, entrusted to our responsible use and care, and that living sustainably is part of Christian worship and mission.

Please keep yourself informed about what is happening to our world and how you could help care for it in our own local environment.

Talk to members of the RNWK Green Matters group about your ideas to make a difference in our environment. (St. Mary Magdalene representatives - Alan Strachan or Pat Dixon)

Celebrate and pray about what is happening locally and in the world regarding our environment.

Monthly ECO Challenge JUNE/JULY

**Things you can do to help reduce your carbon footprint
Promote recycling and provide easy access to the right facilities
Actively compost waste and use it to make things grow**

**Collect rainwater for use in the garden and other nature areas
Switch off all electrical equipment when not in use**

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