

# WHEATHILL PRIORY BENEFICE

*"Jesus Lives: Follow Him"*

*Sunday 17 January 2021*

Welcome to this week's newsheet and details. The benefice council met on Thursday 14 January and (unsurprisingly) have decided that whilst we are in lockdown, with the strong encouragement from the government not to move around too much, make unnecessary journeys or interact with too many households we will continue to hold all our worship online. Any return to in-person worship will be slow and measured as restrictions lift, but the ending of lockdown will not automatically mean the immediate resumption of in-person services.

In the light of that Psalm 139, today's Psalm comes as an encouragement. We come to worship a God who knows us intimately. He knows the things that bring us joy and the things that bring sorrow. Sometimes this intimate knowledge may feel like there is a removal of our 'freedom' and ownership of our thoughts, words and actions. I don't think that is what the Psalmist is referring to. I think that it is a sense of reassurance and hope about God's love, care and concern for us.

We see this understanding in action in Jesus' words to Nathanael in the Gospel reading, he saw where he was and knew where Nathanael was, in this case to demonstrate something of himself to Nathanael.

But what does this mean for us?

I think it means we can know that we are loved and known. On the good days and the days when it all feels just too difficult and hard, when the isolation, cold, restrictions and struggle threaten to overwhelm us.

It also encourages us to marvel in our makeup and the abilities of many, particularly our health professionals and researchers. We are known and valued and so are they. So let's start this week in hope and certainty.

## **Morning Prayer Readings etc**

Sunday 17 January Psalm 139, 1-5, 12018, 1 Samuel 3:1-10, John 1:43-51



Monday 18 January Psalm 146, Amos 6, 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Tuesday 19 January Psalm 132, Amos 7, 1 Corinthians 6:12-end

Wednesday 20 January Psalm 81, Amos 8, 1 Corinthians 7:1-24

Thursday 21 January Psalm 76, Amos 9, 1 Corinthians 7:25-end

## **9am Morning Prayer on Zoom**

Friday 22 January Psalm 27, Hosea 1:1-2:1, 1 Corinthians 8

Saturday 23 January Psalm 122, Hosea 2:2-17, 1 Corinthians 9:1-14

**Sunday coffee at 10:00am continues, details on Zoom sheet attached.**

## **Phone Church?**

If you do not have access to YouTube would you like to be able to phone for a recording of a reading, the reflection and intercessions? Please phone or email Jane to let her know, preferably within the next week.

## **Parish Magazine**

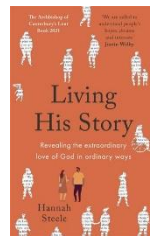
The parish magazine will be produced in print and online, the deadline for submission of articles is Friday 22 January.

## **Bible Book Club**

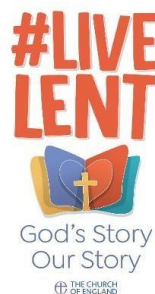
After an abeyance, Bible Book club will meet on Wednesday 10 February 7:30pm on Zoom and we're discussion the Gospel of Luke. If you can please read it before coming, but the information sheet attached to the email gives you some pointers if there isn't time to read all of it.

## Lent

Lent begins on 17 February; our Ash Wednesday service will be on YouTube. For our Lent course this year we're going to use the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent materials. There are several ways that you can join in:



1. By reading the book '[Living His Story](#)' by [Hannah Steele](#) (costs between £8-10 depending on where you buy it!), which has 6 chapters encouraging us to think about how we can better tell our and God's story.
2. By using the #LiveLent materials. These are available as both a booklet, costing about £1.99 or as an App that will be available nearer the time. If you would like this [booklet](#) please let Jane know by Sunday 31 January so that there is time to order for everyone.
3. By joining in the weekly discussion on Zoom, this will happen on a Wednesday evening at 7:30pm starting on Wednesday 24 February and running until Wednesday 31 March.



The book and #LiveLent will form the basis of the Lent group but it is not essential to have read either to join the group.

## Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ♦  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place ♦  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue, ♦  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You encompass me behind and before ♦  
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ♦  
so high that I cannot attain it.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; ♦  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; ♦  
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

14 My frame was not hidden from you, ♦  
when I was made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; ♦  
already in your book were all my members written,

16 As day by day they were fashioned ♦  
when as yet there was none of them.

17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God! ♦  
How great is the sum of them!

18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, ♦  
and at the end, I am still in your presence.