**St Alfege Church newsletter 23 July 2021**

 **Sunday 25 July 2021 James the Apostle**

Revd Simon Winn is presiding at 8am and 10am and David McEvoy, Reader, is preaching at 8am and 10am.

James the Apostle, like the other Apostles, often got things wrong and was constantly misunderstanding Jesus. He and his brother John asked Jesus to call down fire on a Samaritan village that hadn't welcomed them and in today's reading we hear how they (through their mother) asked Jesus for a seat at his right and left hand when he comes into his kingdom. Jesus soon put them right on both counts! Jesus's reign isn't about violence and power but about love and service. But despite all his failings, James was faithful to Jesus to the very end and was the first of the twelve apostles to face death for following Jesus. We can take heart from James' example and pray that, like James, despite all our weaknesses and misunderstandings, we may be true followers of Christ.

The [readings, music and prayers](http://st-alfege.org.uk/Articles/517136/Readings_and_Prayers_this.aspx) for this Sunday. If you would like someone's name to be included in the online prayer list please email David McEvoy.

**St Alfege Church Survey on broadcasting/streaming church services**

For the last sixteen months St Alfege Church has been using video and streaming technology (usually ‘Zoom’) to stream church services. Since the church reopened in January we have been continuing to broadcast our services to give people the choice to attend in person or join in online. We would very much appreciate your views on whether or how we should continue to stream our services as part of our ongoing ministry and mission. Please could you complete this [online survey](http://www.opinionstage.com/alison-wood/st-alfege-survey-on-broadcasting-streaming-church-services). It shouldn’t take you more than three or four minutes.

**Heart of Greenwich fun family gardening workshops**

We are inviting children and families to join the Heart of Greenwich fun family gardening workshops outside in the South Courtyard at St Alfege Church, Greenwich on 1 and 2 August. If you have children and young people visiting they are very welcome too but pre booking vital - see below.

Horticulturist Graeme Maynard will be running the session and offering advice on planting techniques, as well as information on the different plants. The plants will all be laid out in their positions, ready for planting according to the memorial garden design.

Workshops are being held on 1 and 2 August and will be held outside with small pre-booked groups to ensure we are socially distanced in-line with our Covid-19 safety protocols. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL[here.](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-garden-childrens-planting-workshop-plus-accompanying-adults-tickets-163342906029)

**A cuppa at the Vicarage**

We won't be re-starting tea and coffee in the hall after the 10am service until the autumn, but on Sundays August 1, 8, 15 and 22, you are invited for a cuppa at the Vicarage (and hopefully in the garden), 33 Park Vista, after the conclusion of the 10am service.
a during August

**8am Holy Communion services paused during August**

We have paused Holy Communion on Thursdays and Sundays at 8am during August. We will reconvene on Thursday 2 September and Sunday 5 September.

If you are away from Greenwich on a summer holiday please take the greetings of St Alfege Church to whichever churches you visit for worship.

**Update from the St Alfege Church Covid-19 working group**

Members of the Covid group meet earlier this week and (after taking into account the Church of England's Guidance for Step 4 of the Roadmap out of Lockdown which takes a cautious approach) agreed the following:

We will

* keep the signs up on the pews and encourage people to continue sitting in those places, distanced
* continue to have the track and trace signs up and ask people to use the app, but discontinue the 'paper' list for Sunday services (this is not a compulsory requirement)
* retain hand sanitiser and mask wearing in the building
* keep north, west and south doors open for ventilation during services
* not re-introduce congregational singing yet but review at the end of August.

A small group of choir singers will sing three hymns during the 10am service over the summer period.

**Dates for the diary and looking forward**

Sunday 29 August Blessing of the Backpacks: At our 10am Eucharist we will offer prayers to mark the beginning of the new academic year. All teachers, school staff and students (from Nursery to post graduate) are invited to bring a symbol of your education with you (such as a backpack, pencil case, textbook, laptop or tablet) and we all join in prayer for you, led by Revd Simon.

Coming up in September: 'Living in Love and Faith': five interactive sessions with the C of E's new course to help us explore Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Led by Revd Pat Mann and Revd Simon Winn, alternating between St Alfege Church and the Old Royal Naval College Chapel, starting Wednesday September 22 at 7pm.

**The Bridge**

The July/August edition of [The Bridge](https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/the-bridge-newspaper/)

**Newsletter**

The next newsletter will be published on 6 August.  Please email Wendy with any suggested contributions by 6pm on Thursday evening.

Best wishes,



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