

ACCESS TO CHURCHES The Government have said the churches are open for private prayer, however the Church of England requirements on PCCs to keep the building “covid” free are a bit demanding on small rural parishes so if anyone would like to enter one of the church buildings for prayer at the moment the best thing to ask them to contact me

DO MAKE USE OF OUR WEBSITE Our website is THE STODDEN CHURCHES. There you will find service information. It is somewhere you can suggest people look for information who are new to the area.

VIRTUAL COLLECTION PLATE: If you wish to be able to give electronically here are the Stodden Churches bank detail: Stodden account number 10842168 sort code 20-74-81

VIRTUAL CHURCH: If you want to “virtual worship” users can watch live streams of services from a range of churches and the Church of England will be improving ChurchNearYou.com in the days ahead to make this clearer. There is **Prayer for the day** - each day the Church of England publishes audio and text of the Prayer for the Day. There is the BBC daily service and Sunday worship also available on BBC Sounds.

PHONE CHURCH: *Daily Hope* offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**

The Stodden Churches

Prayers and Readings for the week beginning Sunday 21st June 2020 – 2nd Sunday after Trinity

Our Vision Statement: As the Stodden Churches we seek to move forward together in love and service, sharing the good news of Christ with our neighbours

From the Stodden Villages lease remember in your prayers : Teresa Allan, Pauline McManus, Steve Lemming, Trish Sizer, Frances Bratcher, Andy Langley, Andrew Seabrook, Rosemary Morgan, Anne Hauxwell. *If someone would like a visit or a prayer tell Stephen the Rector (709740)*

This week's Psalm: 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ **He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.**

The 1st Reading: Romans 6:1-11:

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The 2nd Reading: Matthew 10:24-39:

²⁴ 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

²⁹ 'Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷ 'Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

³⁹ 'Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

A Reflection from the Archdeacon of Bedford: