

Welcome to St. Nicholas' Church, Blundellsands

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Cancellation of church services

Further to the instructions given by the Archbishop of Canterbury and supported by Bishop Paul we at St Nicholas' have made the following decisions to help keep people safe during the Coronavirus pandemic. All services at St Nicholas' Blundellsands, with the exception of funerals (see below), are cancelled until further notice. This includes the Sunday services at 8.30am and 10.30am, Wednesday Eucharist at 10.15am and Thursday Prayer at 9am, Sanctuary at Seven and Toddler Church. Church@School is also cancelled. Funerals may be held in church but are limited to close family only and preferably should not include more than ten people. The Presiding Clergy has the final decision on the number allowed to attend but it must not be more than twenty.

Minimising risk when in church

Antibacterial gel and tissues are available at the back of church and you are advised to clean your hands on arrival and before leaving. When attending a funeral it is important that everyone sits about six feet away from the next person and does not sit immediately in front or behind another person. Although it is common practice to hold hands and hug to comfort each other it is recommended that there is no physical contact between people.

Arrangements for private prayer

As there are no church services we are working to provide a service of Morning Prayer which will be streamed on the church Facebook page. There will be more information on this when it is available but it is expected to be held at 10.30am on Sundays.

We will also open the church for private prayer at the following times:

Sunday 8.30am – 11.30am,

Wednesday 9.30am – 11.30am,

Thursday 9am – 10am.

These arrangements will commence on Sunday 22nd March. Please remember that when you attend you must respect anyone else in church and maintain a safe distance between you, six feet is advised and as a guide this means at least two arm lengths apart.

Digital resources

There is a wealth of information available on the Church of England website from streaming services to prayers to download at home. Visit www.churchofengland.org Please like our Facebook page to keep up to date with our church's latest announcements during this time. Search: [stnicholaschurchblundellsands](https://www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchblundellsands)

Foodbank appeal

The Foodbank are currently very short of tinned potatoes and dried mash potato (Smash), UHT milk, juice and tinned tomatoes. We appreciate these are very difficult times, if you are in position to help donations would be very greatly received. Thank you.

stnicholasblundellsands.org

Keeping in touch with each other

We are in the process of making arrangements for everyone in the congregation to receive a phone call from someone at St Nicholas'. This could be from one of the Churchwardens, a Sidesperson, a member of the PCC or someone else who has offered to help. Each person will have a small list of people to contact, usually by telephone, to check that you are alright and see if there's anything you need. If there is something you need, such as collecting some medicines from the chemist or you are running short of food they will pass your details on to a team from church who have offered their time to help and they will contact you to see what is needed. When they contact you they will introduce themselves so that when they come to your house you will know to expect them.

To keep yourself safe please do not open your door to people you do not know who may be offering to help you.

New Vicar

St Nicholas have appointed a new vicar and here is the announcement that was made at our church and the successful applicant's church on Sunday 15th March. From the Archdeacon of Knowsley and Sefton, Pete Spiers, "I am delighted to commend to you the appointment of Beth Anderson, currently curate in charge at St Helen's Parish Church as your next vicar. For nearly 30 years before ordination she was an English teacher with a particular interest in Special Educational Needs. She has also lived and worked in Zimbabwe. For 11 years she also helped to lead the youth group at her home church St Paul's Skelmersdale. She is married to Mike and they have 3 grown up children. She has a dog and enjoys the outdoors and wandering around art galleries. The interview panel felt that the gifts and skills Bev demonstrated would be of enormous benefit to the mission and ministry of St Nicholas and discerned that God was clearly calling her and were delighted when she felt the same. We don't have a date for institution at the moment but +Bev and I look forward to being with you on that occasion. Please pray for Beth and the family as she prepares to move and take on this new role."

A message from Beth

"Dear all, I am delighted to have this opportunity to come to St Nicholas Blundellsands and am very much looking forward to meeting you and us worshipping and serving God together. Beth"

I'm sure we all look forward to welcoming Beth to St Nicholas' in the coming months and as soon as we know when she will be starting it will be announced in church.

Prayer about the outbreak:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.