

FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020



Don't forget - Praise and Play will continue online all Summer!



On Sunday 19th July we said farewell to the wonderful Gibson Family.

The very first Holy Eucharist Service in St Alphege Church after lockdown, was the last one in the Parish for Sam and Charlotte. Even with all the restrictions in place and limited numbers in Church, the majority of people watching via livestream, it was a most wonderful service and the bells rang out over Solihull. Their contribution to Parish life was exceptional and they will be greatly missed by all. It is with great joy that we heard Sam will become Vicar of St George's in Edgbaston. His licensing service will take place on Friday 4th September at 7.30pm. It is very much hoped this will take place in St George's but depending on restrictions may be video link.



WONDERFUL NEWS!

On the 15th July at 7pm the Revd Sue Chandler was licensed as an Associate Priest for Solihull Parish. Unfortunately this had to take place via Zoom and numbers were very restricted. Sue would have loved if everyone could have joined her.

REOPENING CHURCHES

There has been much joy as we have been able to carefully reopen churches in the Solihull Parish. Numbers are limited and booking necessary. A service will be livestreamed to the Parish Facebook page every Sunday morning so we can all be involved. How to book, all the latest information and a link to watch the Sunday Service at a later time if you are unable to livestream, can be found on the parish homepage <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>

ST ALPHEGE TRAIL

Looking for a free, interactive activity to do with the children this summer? We are delighted to share that local business Mrs History, as part of our 800 Acts of Kindness initiative, have designed a **St Alphege Family Walking Trail** for us. We are incredibly grateful to them and hope you enjoy the trail! Available to download from our homepage at: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>

PARISH YOUTH

Remember Joe Minall will continue to meet on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday with the Parish Youth between 4-5pm. There will be a mix of games, bible discussions and chat. Everyone is welcome. They also have a vibrant Instagram page @solihullparishyouth.

LIMITLESS FESTIVAL 7-8 AUGUST

They will also be connecting with the online Limitless Festival, a mix of worship, topic talk and prayer time. Interested? Contact joe.minall@solihullparish.org.uk or via instagram

Life

Online Holiday Club

by the Revd Sue Chandler

It all started during one of our weekly online staff meetings, as so many good things often do! Chris Carrington told us that he had heard of a children's holiday club which was being organised by the diocese, to be held over three days on the 21st -23rd July.

It all sounded very exciting, so we investigated further. Before we knew it, Solihull Parish was signed up and my friend and colleague Linda Hicks was on the case! Contacting families, liaising with Emma Sargeant at the diocese and our team in Solihull. We soon had quite a number of families signing up, so no turning back! It was something new, it was going to be done via the internet and lots of people were involved. What could possibly go wrong?!! Well as it turned out, nothing!!

On Tuesday the 21st July Sarah Marshall, Revd Helen Greenham, Chris Carrington and I, logged into the first day (it took me a while, but I got there in the end). Before we knew it, we were part of an exciting and colourful experience. We heard a bible story, beautifully told, we played Listening Lions, we did silly things like trying to balance a spoon on our nose! And we learned to 'zoom around the room', and I still cannot get that song out of my head!

"We all learned to zoom around the room!"

The online Life Holiday Club took place between the 21-23 July 2020



Loving God, bless my family today. Amen

continued

After some time together we were put into 'breakout' rooms. There were two groups for Solihull Parish. Chris and I were leaders for one group and Sarah and Helen for the other. The diocese had supplied activity packs for each day, as well as lots of suggestions for fun things to do as a family during the afternoon.

Together with the children and their grown ups we had a snack and compared biscuits each day. Then we recapped the bible story. **The children were great, they remembered so much.** Then we did some creative work, trying to put into pictures or words what the story had meant to us, what God had said to us through it. We remembered that with paper, paints, felt tips and Lego. We made our own Filler and Spiller (two characters who accompanied us throughout the week). We jumbled up sentences from one story and then had to put them back in the right order. And we made a bible memory verse, and so much more. **The children got excited, they enjoyed themselves and we had fun, lots and lots of fun. It was a delight beyond measure to be able to be back with some of our children again, and with their Moms and Dads** (who entered into the learning and fun with their children). Families were given the chance to send their artwork, writing and pictures of their Lego creations into the diocese.

Huge thanks goes to Emma and her team at the diocese, for their creativity, their IT skills, their hard work and their sheer courage in taking on such a huge venture! To Sarah, Helen and Chris, who I think had as much fun as I did. And of course Linda Hicks who did so much liaising with families and the diocese. I would also like to thank Isabel Baumber who volunteered as a standby leader and for her, as ever, calm advice.

And finally and most importantly, a huge thank-you to the parents who juggled their day so that their children could take part. It was a wonderful experience to spend time with you, our lovely families.

The Choirs of St Alphege

If you are taking part in their Summer activities we hope you have a wonderful time making new friends and learning new skills. For information about the wonderful opportunities that being part of a Choir can offer your children please get in touch with Isabel Baumber: Isabel@solihullparish.org.uk

"It was a wonderful experience to spend time with you, our lovely families".



Loving God, bless my family today. Amen