



## Useful Contact Details

### People at St Joe's

Minister	Tim Eady	01902 569625
		tim@pennfieldsparish.co.uk
Associate Minister	Graham Hartnell	01902 593086
Wardens	Chris Strange	Treasurer Hilary Bannister
	Steve Perry	Hall Bookings Andy Wynter
	Brenda Swatman	
	Jenny Green	

### And in the wider parish

Vicar	Peter Smith	01902 332749.	peter@pennfieldsparish.co.uk
Curate	Treena Larkin	07368423748	treena@pennfieldsparish.co.uk
Parish Office		01902 341943	office@pennfieldsparish.co.uk

**Regular at St Joe's:** *You are warmly invited to all of our activities (when they start up again).*

**Adventurers:** for Primary School age. Every Wednesday, 4pm - 5.30pm. Come and have fun, be creative, find out more about following Jesus.

**Joe's Cafe:** every Saturday morning, 10am - 1pm. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast - a range of options - and meet friends.

**Place of Welcome:** every Tuesday afternoon. Drop in for a cup of tea and a chance to chat with friends. 2pm - 4pm.

**Stay and Play:** every Wednesday morning during term time, from 9.30am-11am, for parents and 'tinies'. Just turn up.

**St Joseph's Playgroup:** Tuesday and Thursday mornings during term time for children 2 - 4 years. Contact Caroline or Jayne for more details.

**Wednesday Circle:** twice a month at 2.00pm on Wednesday afternoons.

**Five Ways Lunch:** Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday 8th January 12.30pm. Please tell Rose Brettell if you wish to come.

**Time Out: Tea and Coffee Afternoon,** Mondays 1pm-2.30pm for parents, grandparents, carers. Informal chat with tea/coffee and cake.

**Carpet bowls:** Friday afternoons at 12.45pm.

[www.saintjosephs.co.uk](http://www.saintjosephs.co.uk) for more details.



## Joe's Prose October 2020

News from St Joseph's Church

**In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ....**

## A Warm Welcome to Everyone!



**We will know we have the perfect church when we hear:**

*Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.  
Personally, I find witnessing so much more enjoyable than playing golf.  
I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the junior Sunday school class.  
I love it when we sing hymns that I've never heard before.  
Since we're all here, let's start the service early.  
Nothing inspires and strengthens my commitment more than our annual stewardship campaign.*

I used to be a School Inspector – visiting church schools to look at the Christian ethos: how well Christian values were applied - in assemblies, relationships, codes of conduct; how the Christian faith was expressed in daily activities.

When I went on the training course before taking up this role, the most important thing to be impressed upon me was that whatever I wrote in the report must be backed up by evidence. I must never write opinion or conjecture. Genuine evidence had to justify every statement. I gathered this evidence, then made

recommendations and commendations. Commend the good practice; recommend where I thought there could be improvements.

Perhaps John had similar feelings about the seven churches in the Book of Revelation.

Revelation is not an easy book. It consists of a series of visions, given by God whilst John was in exile on the island of Patmos. They are on an epic scale, offering, in picture language, understanding of the history of the world, culminating in the end of time and the return of Christ to rule as King.

The book begins with seven letters to seven churches. They offer a progress report - evidence, followed by commendations and recommendations. Asia Minor was amongst the first Gentile lands to receive the gospel. Here was a church that had taken root and grown. The early apostles brought a terrific sense of purpose. But by the time that Revelation was written, towards the end of the 1st century, there were issues that needed to be addressed.

The constant refrain in these letters is: *'He who has an ear, let him listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.'* Although the message is addressed to seven churches in Asia Minor, it is intended for all Christians. *'He who has an ear'* stresses the continuous nature of the Spirit's work. It is similar to Jesus' call in his parables, *'He who has ears, let him hear'*. It is a personal challenge, for all believers to heed.

How do we live as members of God's family today? What is there about our spiritual life that is worthy of commendation? What warnings or recommendations do we need?

Each letter begins with a significant statement: *'I know...'*

- We have no secrets from God. He knows us through and through.

- God understands us. Christ himself has become human. He knows what it's like. He can empathise with our position. He's been there before us.
- God cares for us. His love is with us. *Psalms 139: O God you have searched me and you know me.....*

Pray that God will help us to stay faithful, in all that we do.

**We are now in church for regular services every Sunday at 9.00am and 10.30am. The 10.30am service is being live-streamed on our Facebook page. Do join us. Mid-week Communion is held at 11.30am on Wednesdays.**

**Daily Prayers** can be found on St Joseph's Facebook page every morning. Our weekly sermon is normally available on Facebook and on our website.

- **Please contact Tim** if you need help, we have people who are willing to go shopping or just phone you for a chat.
- **Make sure that Tim** has your email address. He is sending out information as and when appropriate.
- **St. Joseph's WhatsApp Group** shares prayer requests and morale lifting news. Please contact Tracey: 07718 791169.
- **The August Prayer Diary** is available now on St Joseph's website.
- **Keep up to date** with information on our website: [www.saintjosephs.co.uk](http://www.saintjosephs.co.uk). Activities are beginning to start up again, as we are able to do so.
- **Mid-week Zoom.** Join Tim at 7.30pm every Wednesday on Zoom for an open teaching/prayer/discussion time. Everyone is welcome. The Zoom link will be advertised before the meeting.