



## HOLY TRINITY PRESTWOOD

---

# MONTHLY HERALD

## JULY 2018

**Rector: The Reverend Deiniol Heywood BA, MPhil**  
140 Wycombe Road  
Prestwood HP16 0HJ  
01494 866530 [rector@htprestwood.org.uk](mailto:rector@htprestwood.org.uk)

**Associate Priest: The Reverend Teresia Derlén M Theol**  
01494 866974 [teresia@htprestwood.org.uk](mailto:teresia@htprestwood.org.uk)

**Parish Office:** 134 Wycombe Road  
01494 863805 [secretary@htprestwood.org.uk](mailto:secretary@htprestwood.org.uk)

[www.htprestwood.org.uk](http://www.htprestwood.org.uk)

## July Services

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

*Wisdom of Solomon 1.13-15; 2.23,24; 2 Corinthians 8.7-end;  
Mark 5.21-end*

8.00am

**BCP Holy Communion**

9.30am

**Parish Eucharist**

Ministry team – Parthians

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

*Ezekiel 2.1-5; 2 Corinthians 12.2-10; Mark 6.1-13*

8.00am

**BCP Holy Communion**

9.30am

**Parish Eucharist**

Ministry team – Medes

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

*Amos 7.7-15; Ephesians 1.3-14; Mark 6.14-29*

8.00am

**BCP Holy Communion**

9.30am

**Parish Eucharist**

Ministry team – Elamites

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity/St Mary Magdelene**

*Song of Solomon 3.1-4; 2 Corinthians 5.14-17;  
John 20.1-2,11-18*

8.00am

**BCP Holy Communion**

9.30am

**NO SERVICE AT PRESTWOOD**

11.00am

Family Patronal Festival at Great Hampden

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

*2 Kings 4.42-end; John 6.1-21*

8.00am

**BCP Holy Communion**

9.30am

**Family Eucharist**

Ministry team – Mesopotamians

## Midweek services

**Mondays at 11.45am**

**Monday Prayers**

**Tuesdays at 9.30am**

**Informal Holy Communion & coffee**

**Wednesdays at 10.00am**

**BCP Holy Communion & coffee**

**Thursdays at 9.30-11.30am**

**Toddler Thursdays! (during term time)**

## **Nigel's New Role**

There are still one or two places on the coach for Nigel's ordination, if you'd like to come. As you know, Nigel is being ordained deacon in Christ Church by the Bishop of Oxford. This means that Nigel will cease to be our ordinand in training and will become our Assistant Curate. As our curate Nigel is serving what is known as his title with us, and we expect this phase of his ministry here to last about four years. He will also begin preparing for his ordination to the priesthood this time next year. The main difference we will see is that Nigel will be wearing a clerical collar. There will be other new, visible roles in ministry for him as well. Nigel will be writing more about both the process and meaning to all of this in the next few months. But for now please pray for Nigel and Irene as he prepares for this significant milestone in his life, and for his work as a minister of God's grace amongst us.

### **From Ordinand to Deacon: The Journey Continues**

*So, what happens next?* That's a question that we all ask from time to time in different situations. It's a question that Irene & I have been asked several times over the past few weeks, usually along the lines of: *What's Nigel going to do once he's ordained? Where will he be going?* Let me answer the easy part first. The good news for me (and I hope this is good news for you too!) is that I'll be staying at Prestwood & Great Hampden as Assistant Curate as I continue my ministerial training with Deiniol. I shall be a Self-Supporting Minister (or SSM) which means that I won't be paid and I shall not be working full-time. I have, after all, reached that certain age when the state starts to pay me a retirement pension and I think I am entitled to start taking life just a little bit more easily!

By the time you some of you read this, the Bishop of Oxford will have laid hands on me in Christ Church Cathedral and ordained me for the ministry of a deacon. During that service, the Bishop read out the following declaration:

*Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the*

*gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.*

*Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.*

*Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.*

That's quite a daunting commission! So let me try and summarise what being a deacon actually means, what I'll be doing from now on and the changes you might notice:

- My formal designation will change from Mr Nigel Spoor to The Reverend Nigel Spoor (but I shall be extremely cross if anyone at church addresses me as anything other than 'Nigel').
- I shall be wearing a clerical collar when 'on duty'. I happen to believe that this is important, not because I want to be placed on a pedestal (I certainly don't!), but because it is a sign to those inside and outside the church of the ministry to which God has called me.
- In Eucharistic services I shall be wearing a stole over my alb, but to indicate that I am a Deacon and not yet a Priest, the stole will be worn diagonally across the body. The stole worn in this way represents the towel that Jesus wrapped around him as he washed his disciples' feet and is a reminder that my primary role as Deacon is to serve - the clergy, the people and the whole community.

‘Service’ is at the heart of being a Deacon; the word derives from the Greek word *diakonos*, meaning ‘servant’.

- I shall continue to read the Gospel and preach, and assist the priest at the Eucharist.
- I shall be able to conduct funerals and baptisms.
- I shall be seeking opportunities to share God’s love with everyone in the community, whether regular church attenders or not.

So what does happen next? My training continues, both at Diocesan level and in the parish with Deiniol as my Training Incumbent. Assuming that I don’t misbehave too much (or at least don’t get caught!), I shall be ordained Priest in a year’s time, which means that I shall also be able to preside at the Eucharist and consecrate the bread and wine, pronounce absolution (forgiveness of sins), give Blessings and anoint with holy oil for healing and the last rites, and conduct weddings.

Over the years my faith journey has led me along some surprising paths. I was certainly not expecting ordination to feature this late in my life, but God often does unexpected things! I could not have got to this point without the prayers and support of others, and my heartfelt thanks go to everyone at Holy Trinity and St Mary Magdalene for all the encouragement you have shown me since I came in October 2016. You have been very gracious in overlooking my mistakes and I’m sure there will be plenty more of those to come! My especial thanks go to Deiniol and Teresia for trying to keep me on the straight and narrow, and above all to my long-suffering wife, Irene, who has had to put up with a great deal as I have gone through ordination training. It has been a time of discovery for me, discovery about myself, discovery about the Church of England(!), and discovery about the love and faithfulness of God. *To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3: 21)*

Nigel Spoor

## Thought for the Month

Sometimes you can smell change in the air. It seems to me that we are approaching a period of change at Holy Trinity. That might unnerve some of us—generally speaking, I’m not a fan myself, but the truth is all living things change. “To live is to change,” wrote Cardinal Newman, “and to be perfect is to have changed often.”

Perfection might be beyond us, but life is not. There are three areas of change in the air. Firstly, we are welcoming Nigel, whose pre-ordination training has come to an end, as our new Assistant Curate in July. Nigel’s ordination as a deacon is a clear sign of God’s grace and favour. We welcome this new phase of his ministry amongst us, and we must hold Nigel and Irene prayerfully in our hearts. This is a significant event in their lives, and one that will mean many changes.

Secondly, the Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) is shifting up a gear. We are beginning an interviewing and listening process which will attempt to help us understand exactly who we are and how we relate to the parish we serve. This is an essential part of us becoming a more missional church: less of the ‘Sunday morning club’ and more of a community that is trying to build the Kingdom of God. Look around the village. Do we see the people we don’t recognise? Do we understand the nature of the community in which we live? Or do we only see the people we want to see—the people who shop in the Co op at the same time of day as we do; the people we meet in the Post Office; the people who go to our lunch club.

And thirdly, the PCC and the Finance Committee are committing serious resources to a new role: that of Family Support Worker. This is a significant step change for us in the way we hope to engage with families. As you look around the church you can see the age profile, and you can, I hope, see that it is not the same as the age profile of the village. We need to be a church that is serious about engaging with families. The time when people would just roll up to church has passed. We need to change.

These three things have three things in common. Firstly, they are about mission. A new deacon is a powerful symbol of God’s desire to

reach out to his people and draw them to himself. The Partnership for Missional Church is about changing our culture to look outward and not inwards, so that we see clearly that we are on a mission to bring God out of the church. The Family Support Worker role is about reaching out specifically to families, the largest group of people in Prestwood after the elderly.

Secondly, they are about the Kingdom of God. At Nigel’s ordination as deacon the Bishop says: *Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ’s kingdom... They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.* That is Nigel’s role now, one in which he makes the Kingdom of God real. How will you help him with that? The PMC process is about seeing God at work and joining in, making the Kingdom visible to us and the parish we serve. And our Family Support Worker, if we are successful at hiring one, will be a vital tool in allowing families in this village to say, “The Kingdom of God has come near us!”

Lastly, they are about prayer. None of these things will be successful without prayer—your prayer. Please pray for Nigel and Irene. Please pray for the PMC process and all those involved with it. Please pray for our new Family Support Worker role, that we will get the job description right and that God will send us the right person at the right time.

Whatever else might change, our desire to pray and our faith in God should remain.

## Deiniol

### More dates for your diary

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>4.00-7.00pm</b>	<b>The Rock Project</b>
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Table Tennis – Church Hall</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1.15pm</b>	<b>Pot Luck Lunch</b>

**Prestwood on Sea** will be held this year on Thursdays 16, 23 and 30 August in the Methodist Church/Halls High Street Prestwood from 11am-3.15pm. Please come and join other local older residents for a sociable day of good food, entertainment and friendship. Transport can be arranged from Prestwood & Great Kingshill and special diets catered for, if notified in advance. Please book your place by contacting Mary Wiles (866783) or Mary Spooner (862431)

**"You are nearer to God in a garden..."** The roses in the church yard are looking lovely, but the ground underneath them is full of weeds. If anyone has spare half hour or so, please take your little fork and dig some out, either taking the weeds home for your green bin or putting them on the compost heap behind the Ashes Garden.

### **Ninebarrow Concert**

Following the success of last month's Moonrakers concert, we are looking forward to welcoming award-winning folk duo, Ninebarrow to the church on Thursday 15th November. Tickets are now on sale at [ninebarrowathtprestwood.brownpapertickets.com](http://ninebarrowathtprestwood.brownpapertickets.com). Book early to take advantage of our Early Bird Discount tickets - only £11 until 15th October, a saving of £1.50 per ticket.

### **Summer Venue Hire**

Searching for a venue to hold your summer workshop, class, children's party or event? Or are you celebrating a special birthday or anniversary? Do bear in mind our beautiful church hall. With space for up to 60 guests, kitchen facilities, a lovely secure outdoor play area and plenty of parking, it could be just what you're looking for. And from just £10 an hour, it's great value too. To book or for more information, email [marketing@htprestwood.org.uk](mailto:marketing@htprestwood.org.uk)

**PLEASE SEND COPY FOR AUGUST MONTHLY HERALD  
to Judith McBride ([judithmcb@btinternet.com](mailto:judithmcb@btinternet.com))  
by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**