

## Parish Notices Sunday 30th August 2020

### Please pray for:

**Mon:** The NHS, and those working in social care and in our local residential homes; family and friends of Brian Toft, whose funeral will be led by Geoff Houston at Chiltern Crematorium this afternoon.

**Tues:** Our local schools and their staff teams, and all pupils returning or starting school this week, some after a long absence.

**Wed:** National and Local Government and all those with authority, making decisions about local lockdowns and economic support;

**Thu:** Volunteer organisations supporting the most vulnerable – FoodBank, CAP Debt counselling, Community Fridge, the FoodLife project, etc

**Fri:** Small business owners, and others facing redundancy or other particular financial challenges. .

**Sat:** Church leaders, nationally and locally - our witness in Chesham and the villages

### Clergy Contact Details

Revd John Shepherd- john@theshepherds.org.uk Tel 01494 784372

Revd Josh Bailey- associate@cheshamchurch.co.uk Tel 01494 783629

Revd Chris Gercke - curate@cheshamchurch.co.uk Tel 01494 783498

Revd Tim Yates - tim.yates3@btinternet.com Tel 01494 772914

Revd Simon Winn -rev.simon.winn@gmail.com Tel 01494 773318

The Parish Office remains operational, Lynette will be based there. Please contact by telephone or email but please do not come in person. The office will be closed on Monday 31st August.

Dear friends in the seven churches across the Parish of Great Chesham

Well done all you families - mums, dads, sons and daughters. It's been a very challenging few months, including the roller coaster experience of exam results, and now at last, school and college are re-starting. This Sunday we will have a 'Blessing of the Backpacks' at the Christ Church Eucharist and via our recorded Morning Worship for St John's, Ashley Green, St George's and Christ Church, when we will be praying for all involved in education - students, staff and teachers, from pre-school to university.

If relationships between children and their parents have been tested, and hopefully also strengthened, since the restrictions that began in March, two of last week's saints in the Church's calendar, remind us this is not a new scenario. Space doesn't allow me to tell you all about about St Monica, who we commemorated on Thursday and her wayward son Augustine, who is remembered on August 28th. Suffice to say, devout Monica prayed, unceasingly for her playboy son in 4th century north Africa, even pursuing him to Italy and eventually witnessing his baptism by his mentor Ambrose of Milan. Augustine, later Bishop of Hippo, became one of the outstanding early Christian thinkers whose teachings, including 'Confessions' and 'City of God' still have resonance today. It all began with a challenging relationship, a prayerful (if a bit pushy) mum and a son who left home, seeking meaning in his life.

May the new academic year, in spite of the challenges ahead, begin smoothly and be a fruitful and enriching one for us all.

*Gracious and loving God, as you rewarded Monica's continuing love and persevering prayers for her son Augustine, grant that we may learn to love without faltering and pray without ceasing, and leave the result to you; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

The Revd Simon Winn,  
Interim Team Vicar at Christ Church and St George's.

**Parish website address:** www.greatchesham.org.uk **Parish Office:** Tel: 01494 783629  
**e-mail:** parishoffice@greatchesham.org.uk Registered Charity No: 1129438  
**Address for Friday printing:** printers@greatchesham.org.uk