



# THE DOVETALE

## St. David's Episcopal Church



### Two Invitations During Quarantine

Living during a pandemic is challenging, even for those of us who are well. I miss our routine of worshipping and studying together. I pray that the pandemic will pass quickly, that the quarantine will end as soon as it is safe, and that we can resume something like our normal life together.

But, as Bishop Scruton often reminds me, there is an invitation to us from God in every situation. In this situation, I see at least two invitations.

The first is for each of us as individuals and families to develop a healthy practice of prayer and study at home. The early Christians didn't have dedicated buildings for worship and prayer. They gathered in each other's homes. And, although they were faithful in their attendance at communal worship, they supplemented their common prayer with a strict regime of prayer at specified hours. Even under quarantine, not many of us could follow their example in detail. But the busiest of us can surely find at least a few minutes each day to pray or read a bit of the Bible.

The second invitation in this moment is to us as a group. Last fall, we began a conversation about what in our common life sustains us and enhances our relationship with God and with each other. We also asked, what do we need to let go? What has become a drain on our spirit?

I anticipated that our conversation would extend over a year, and that we would make gradual adjustments based on what we decided. In fact, virtually everything about our common life has been upended by pandemic and quarantine. We are being forced to ask hard questions about what is most essential to us as God's people in this time. How can we continue to grow in our relationship with God? How can we share in God's mission to our world? And are there areas of our common life that we don't really miss, things that may not be worth resuming?

These questions are always important. But it is easy to neglect them when times are good, and it is tempting to avoid them when times are bad. Now the questions are inevitable. And, painful as this time is, that inevitability is a gift.

Please join me in praying for Saint David's. Pray first that we will all be safe and healthy. But pray also for guidance about what God is calling us to do and who God is calling us to be. We have never needed God's guidance more than now!

God's peace and all good to you all!!

In the name of the one who invites us to ever-new life,

Fr. Harvey Hill



#### Inside this issue:

Church Closed	2
Saint David's Online Getting Connected	
Our New Facebook Page	
Online Directory	
Community Bulletin Board	
Virtual Pastoral Care	
Parish Life	3
Holy Week Summary	
Lent Madness	
Visioning Potluck	
Replacing Church Carpet	
The Auction	
Outreach during Pandemic	4
Agawam Easter Project	
Church without Walls	
Building Bridges	
Prison Ministry	
Community Solar	
Senior Farm Shares	5
Food for the Poor	
Expanding Veggie Gardens	
Maintaining Flower Garden	
Memorial Trees	
Creation Care	6
Creation Care Kids Corner	
Friday Healing Eucharist	7
Boissonneau Scholarship	
Prayer Shawls	
Vestry Minutes	
Dovetale Deadline	
The Financial Picture	8
Good Financial News	
Stewardship	
Beloved Community	9
Contemplative Prayer	
Book of Common Prayer	
Reading New Testament	
Prayer Cycles	10
Prayer Requests	
Mutual Ministry Review	
May Calendar	11
Inspirational Quotes	12
Mission Statement	

# COVID-19 IMPACTS

## Church is Closed

At the Bishop's direction, we are closed at least through May 18. Governor Baker has already announced that public schools will not reopen before summer. I suspect our closure will also be extended. We will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, please continue to assume that the building is closed and that all our events are online.

## Saint David's Online Getting Connected

In an effort to support our common life, we are using technology more aggressively than ever. Each morning (Monday through Saturday), Fr. Harvey livestreams Morning Prayer on our Facebook page. Each evening, someone from the Diocese leads a service of Compline on Zoom. On Sundays we are doing some combination of livestreaming and Zoom, with a possible shot at "drive-in" Church. Our Bible Studies continue to meet, just now on Zoom. And so on. If you are having trouble getting connected to participate in any of this, please contact Father Harvey. Hopefully he can help to get you started. If so, we know that God's grace must truly be at work!

## Our New Facebook Page, by Fr. Harvey

One result of closing our building has been our effort to up our technology game. We are now livestreaming the 10:00 service on Facebook, without people during our closure, but we will almost certainly continue after we reopen. During our closure, I have also been livestreaming services of Morning Prayer at 8:00 every day but Sundays. That may or may not continue, depending on interest. Going forward, we hope to keep our Facebook page updated. Please like us at <https://www.facebook.com/StDavidsFeedingHillsMA/>, and help spread the word!

## Online Directory

Thanks to the hard work of Laurie Littlefield, we now have a password-protected online directory on our webpage! We have done our best to make sure the listings are correct, and to omit those who prefer to remain unlisted. We don't want to print the password, but please contact Father Harvey if you would like it. If you do have a chance to use the new directory, please take a moment to check your listing (or to make sure you are unlisted). If you need to make a correction, please contact Father Harvey or Laurie Littlefield. And thanks again to Laurie for making this happen!

## Community Bulletin Board by Fr. Harvey

We have also created a "community bulletin board" on our webpage. The idea is that people can list things they would like to give away or sell, skills they have, etc. In another place on the bulletin board, people can request help or make prayer requests. Now we just need content. If you would like to advertise or offer anything, please let Laurie know. I want to add a note of profound gratitude for all the work Laurie Littlefield regularly puts into our webpage!!!

## Virtual Pastoral Care

Now more than ever it is important that we be sensitive to each other's needs. Isolation can be as harmful as the covid-19 virus! Please stay in touch with your brothers and sisters at Saint David's. Reach out by phone or e-mail or in whatever other way seems appropriate. And if you are struggling, emotionally, financially, or logistically, please let Fr. Harvey know. He should be able to connect you with parishioners who are ready to help.

## **Parish Life**

As we settle in to our new (but hopefully short-lived!!) normal, we are pondering ways to stay connected beyond online worship and Bible Study. If you have any ideas for fun events that would still be safe, please let Father Harvey know. One likely possibility is a kind of virtual movie night. Making sure the film is generally available is tricky, but possible. Then we could gather on Zoom to chat about it. No doubt there are lots of other possibilities. We just have to use our imaginations.....

## **Holy Week Summary**, by Fr. Harvey

What a strange Holy Week it was!! No palms. No ecumenical services. No crowds. On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, I gathered with a few worship leaders to livestream services for two of the holiest days of the year. On Easter Sunday, we were did the same for what is usually our biggest day.

But we did what we could. We donated our palms to local nursing homes, and received a very gracious thank you note saying just how much that meant. On Good Friday, Anne Berry led a zoom children's program. Lots of people cooperated to set up a driving version of Stations of the Cross for our children, complete with a bag of stuffed Easter Eggs at the end. We worshiped Christ, even if through the ether and the power lines. Those services are still available on our Facebook page if you missed them.

More importantly, the good news that we celebrate in Holy Week and on Easter remains true. Christ lives! Christ died for our salvation, and then Christ rose again, defeating sin and death. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!!

## **Lent Madness**

The winner of the Golden Halo was...Harriet Tubman!!

## **Visioning Potluck**

We had hoped to schedule another Visioning Potluck in April. Sigh.... Whenever we can gather, we will talk in a more concrete way about who we are, who we want to be, and what we need to do to get there. In the meantime, a typed copy of every written comment from our first potluck, along with a summary of some of the things that were said, is available on our webpage.

## **Replacing the Church Carpet**

The vestry planned to make a final decision on when to replace the rug in the Church, and with what, at our April meeting. We also planned to have raised more money by now, positioning us to make a final push on the fund-raising and get started as early as this summer. Given our cancelled and postponed fundraisers as well as the current uncertain financial picture, we regretfully decided to postpone the decision once again. Sigh....Reinforcing that decision was the fact that Mercier is not open and so declined to give us estimates or consider scheduling a date to begin service. More sighs.....We will revisit this issue as soon as things settle down, and then we will move promptly. We are all ready to get this done and put it behind us!!

## **The Auction**

Our auction was originally scheduled for Saturday, March 21. That being the middle of the lockdown, we decided to postpone the auction until next September. We'll provide full information as plans take shape and as we get closer to the day. In the meantime, thanks to everyone who donated auction items. Special thanks to Scott Seabury and his team for their leadership and hard work so far. We'll get it done!! And in the meantime, this period of quarantine would be a great time to create homemade auction items!

## **OUTREACH**

### **Outreach during a Pandemic**, by Father Harvey

For the first few weeks of the quarantine, my focus was on learning new technologies and establishing a regular routine of worship and Bible Study. That remains a work in progress. But in the meantime, we cannot forget those of our neighbors who are being hardest hit. Service providers are working heroically to continue to help people with housing, food, and addiction issues. But the problems are escalating at the same time that familiar ways of helping are becoming impossible. We are in conversation with Martha about ways to support the Parish Cupboard. The Vestry is also having conversations about other ways we as a parish could be helpful. If you have any ideas, please be in touch with me, Jim Shields, or any other member of the vestry. As our Bishop sometimes says, the Church was instituted for times like these. Our job is to be the best Church we can be, with God's help!

### **Agawam Easter Project Postponed?**

With great regret, we had to cancel the Easter project this year. But if you already have a basket and don't have another good use for it, we might still be able to offer them to area children as a kind of delayed Easter treat. That will depend on how many baskets we have and when it is safe to have social contact, of course. But if you are interested in the possibility of a summer Easter project, please be in touch with Ted and Roxanne Zern. Thanks!!

### **Church Without Walls by Father Harvey**

We were not able to hold our April or May Church without Walls services. That was a particular shame in April because we would have joined with our people on Easter morning, which is always both fun and meaningful. We'll resume as soon as we can. In the meantime, the Parish Cupboard is accepting canned goods and boxed meals. You can drop them at the Cupboard, as long as someone is there to receive them. We have also put out a collection basket at our parking lot entrance. We'll get anything donated there to the Cupboard.

### **Building Bridges Veterans Ministry**

Like Church without walls, our April and May Veterans' lunches have been cancelled. Again like Church without walls, we hope to resume as soon as we safely can. In June that would be Tuesday the 2nd. Stay tuned....

### **Prison Ministry**

Like so much else, this ministry is on hold. We had hoped to begin on April 26, but are not yet allowed in the Correctional Center. When the WCC reopens to visiting volunteers, we'll resume our efforts to get this program started. Currently our first Sunday would be June 14. We'll see. Here, too, we'll keep everyone posted.....

### **Community Solar**

We have entered into a contract with a company called Nexamp to save some money and do something good for the environment at the same time. When it takes effect, we will continue to receive power bills from Eversource. But, and here is where it gets a little complicated, Eversource will also credit us the full amount of the bill, and then charge Nexamp for the power we have used. Nexamp pays Eversource, and then bills us for the same electricity. Since the electricity is generated by solar panels, and so earns tax credits, they can offer us a 15% discount on the power we have used. Originally we expected to be up and running around June (or whenever panels in our area become available). Of course, the pandemic is likely to have an impact on this, as on everything else.....

## **Senior Farm Shares for Lent**

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has supported local farms for many years, in part by encouraging consumers to buy food directly from farmers through programs like farm shares. People with farm shares pay a certain amount of money to a farmer up front, and then receive vegetables or other farm products every week or so for a season. Recently CISA began subsidizing farm shares for needy seniors, and they have asked Churches for help.

Making a parish donation was tricky this year since we couldn't be together. I suspect that some people made Lent donations directly to CISA or other worthy causes. But I am proud to say that we were able to donate over \$1200!!!! That money will be put to particularly good use in this challenging time!

## **Food for the Poor Project: Jim Shields**

. Through your generous donations, we were able raise \$759.50 towards the building of a \$3800 home for a destitute family in the Caribbean or Latin America. The \$759.50 was backed by philanthropic matching funds, so the total donation was \$1519, or 40% of the cost of the house, which was our original goal. Thank you to all of you who were able to make this Outreach donation in these difficult times.

## **OUR GROUNDS**

### **Expanding Our Vegetable Gardens**

Last year, we had a small vegetable garden in the lawn at the far side of the parking lot. We hoped to expand the garden this summer, with help from a diocesan grant. The Diocese understandably decided against awarding any grants this year. Probably we will apply again next year. In the meantime, we plan to continue with the two raised beds we created last year. We also invite parishioners to maintain their own small vegetable gardens on our property. If you are interested, please let Father Harvey know. He, Jim Shields, Bob Rendrick, and hopefully Larry Dutton will mark out a plot for you. We don't want to create more raised beds during this experimental year, but we'd love to devote more land to growing food.

### **Maintaining our Flower Gardens**

Our practice for the last few years has been to put out a chart of our various garden plots and invite people to volunteer to maintain one or more. That has gotten considerably more complicated this year! But we still want to maintain our grounds, both for the larger community and or our own members. Among other things, the beautiful flowers are a wonderful frame for our outdoor labyrinth. If you were not involved in our gardens last year but would like to volunteer this year, please let Father Harvey know. If you were involved, we are hoping you will consider continuing with your plot(!). But if that is not possible, please let Father Harvey know that, too. Thanks!!

### **Memorial Trees**

Last fall, we cleared out the overgrown area on the street side of our property, in anticipation of planting two or more memorial trees. Carol Fabrycki is now working on getting those trees planted. We won't be able to have a public dedication of them until we can again safely gather. But be on the lookout for the new trees as you drive by. We'll schedule the formal dedication as soon as we can.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good!

Genesis 1:31

## Creation Care by Mary Moore

Because of the coronavirus, many of us have taken up more walking or the occasional car ride as ways not to go stir crazy. If you are out and about, here are a few of the things you might look and listen for during the month of May.

Amphibians: wood frog egg masses in ponds; spring peepers singing dusk and nighttime

Birds returning: male rose-breasted grosbeaks followed a few weeks later by the females; warblers; hatchlings of: red-tailed hawks, broad-winged hawks, cliff swallows, tree swallows, brown creepers, bald eagles, hairy woodpeckers, and black-capped chickadees. Also look for ruby throated hummingbirds' arrival to coincide with the flowering of wild columbine. Their ranges are nearly the same, as this hummingbird is one of the primary pollinators of these flowers.

Other flowers: trillium, jack-in-the-pulpits, blue-eyed grass (which is really a small iris), and yellow lady slippers.

Insects: bumble bees, red admiral butterflies, eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies, whirligig beetles, beaver pond baskettail dragonflies, and mayflies.

### Creation Care, Kids' Corner

The month of May and flowers go hand in hand. Let's take a look at why flowers are important and explore their major parts.

Flowers are where the seeds for new plants get formed. After the petals fall off, the base of the flower keeps growing the seeds inside it. Inside each seed is a complete baby plant! No seeds, no brand new baby plants. That is why flowers are so important.

Let's look at the parts of a flower. Get a magnifying glass to see things close up if you have one. If not, that's okay too. Now go outside and find a flower. You don't have to pick it!

What helped you notice the flower so quickly was probably the color of the **petals**. These are so colorful in order to help bees and other animals find the flowers. Why this is important is explained later.

Now let's look at the inside of the flower. Do you see long, skinny stalks with yellow fuzzy stuff near the top? Those are the **stamens** and the fuzzy stuff is **pollen**. If you touch the pollen, it will rub off like dust. There is another long, but thicker stalk coming up in the center of the flower. Its top is a little sticky. This is the **pistil**. (Note, in some plants the stamens and the pistil are in separate flowers. Hollies are an example.) The reason the top of the pistil is sticky is so that pollen will stick to it.

Where do the seeds come from? If a grain of pollen lands on the pistil of the same kind of plant, it can become a seed by joining with a part that is inside the pistil. For every seed, there is one grain of pollen. The bees and other animals are how the pollen gets from one flower to another. When a bee visits a flower, some pollen will stick to its body. When the bee goes to another flower, some of that pollen might rub off onto the pistil in that flower. If you keep an eye on the flower after the petals fall off, you will notice that the base (the bottom) of it starts to grow fatter. This is because the seeds are being made inside there.

**Note to parents:** This Kids' Corner is being added to the **Dovetale** on an experimental basis. It is meant to help children connect with the natural world. I hope to include easy activities on anything that happens outside - plants, animals, the sky, etc. Any feedback you can give me, including ideas for topics your children might be interested in, will be appreciated. You can send your comments to Mary Moore at [burrenmead@gmail.com](mailto:burrenmead@gmail.com).

Answer to April question: d, the right whale

## **Friday Healing Eucharist Still On Hold**

When Church reopens, we will continue to offer our healing service every Friday at 12:00. But like so much else, it is on hold for now.....

## **Boissonneault Memorial Scholarship**

Applications are now available for the Boissonneault Memorial Scholarship, in honor of Albert Boissonneault and Ellie Van Valkenburgh. Contact Fr. Harvey if you would like one. To be eligible, the applicant must be a graduating senior from high school, accepted at a four-year college, and a confirmed member of Saint David's for at least five years. Completed applications should be submitted to the parish office by May 15. The Boissonneault family will communicate the final decision to the applicant sometime after June 1.

## **Prayer Shawls**

This is a great time to make, use, or give someone a prayer shawl. Of course, picking one up or handing one out is also a little complicated under the circumstances. So is dedicating new ones. If you have one to be dedicated, let Father Harvey know and he can include a prayer of dedication as part of our livestreamed Sunday Eucharists. If you would like to pick one up from the Church, please let the office know and we'll try to make appropriate arrangements. Prayer shawls can be a great comfort to people who need a little boost, and that is a lot of us these days! Thanks to everyone who participates in this wonderful ministry!!!

## **Minutes from 4/22/20 Vestry meeting: by Jim Shields**

Due to the effects of the virus, we are not our usual busy selves. These were the topics we discussed at our virtual meeting:

1. Budget: Is in reasonably good shape considering our pledging is down, undoubtedly due to the virus. Parishioners are urged to mail in pledge checks or send digitally via Tithe.ly, as our bills are still coming in.
2. Worship services: we all agreed Lent/Holy Week were quite strange this season as services were by Zoom/Facebook; but that is certainly better than the alternative. We will continue to try new things, such as perhaps having the service in the parking lot, if the weather cooperates.
3. Garden plans: all Diocesan grant money has been pulled off the table, so our plans to expand the garden are on hold. At the least, we plan to do plantings in the existing beds, headed up by Denise Noyes. We discussed the possibility of allowing our members to cultivate new, small plots in the back area.
4. Carpeting update: This project is still on hold, as Mercier Carpet cannot come in to give us estimates because of the virus. We are also lacking the funds we were counting on from the auction.
5. Outreach: we discussed what more we should be doing during the pandemic. Raising food for the Parish Cupboard is one possibility. We need to determine their protocol for safe food donation.

## **DOVETALE Deadline by Esther Nunn**

The deadline for the June 2020 Dovetale is May 20, 2020.  
Please submit your articles early to [estar00@winning.com](mailto:estar00@winning.com). Thanks

## **FINANCES**

### **The Financial Picture**

At the April Vestry meeting, your Vestry reviewed our financial situation with relative relief. As of March 31, we had a shortfall of roughly \$4000. That is typical for this time of year. The winter is always our toughest financial time, and all of our 2020 shortfall came in January. In February and March we actually made up some ground. Given our reduced costs for the next two months (see below), we are in remarkably good financial shape. Much depends on how long the quarantine lasts, of course. But if we can resume our normal operations this summer, we are likely to be positioned about like any other year. For that, we can all give thanks!!

### **Good Financial News**

We have done what we can to cut costs while we are not able to gather. Thankfully we have had help. The Diocese has waived the assessments of all parishes for two months. That means that we will not be sending the Diocese \$1600 that we budgeted. Even more helpful financially, the federal government's aid package covers our personnel costs (mostly me, but also Virginia Ventulett and Lenny Scott) for two months. The Diocese handled the application for funds for all parishes and will help us use them appropriately. That will save us another \$8000 or so.

### **Stewardship**

None of us yet know the full economic impact of the covid virus, but some of us will doubtless be hit pretty hard. If you need to adjust your pledge in light of what is happening, please let Pledge Secretary Ted Zern know. We all understand that people are making some difficult decisions these days!!

### **Please Maintain Pledges and Other Donations**

Despite our strong financial position and our ongoing efforts to cut costs, we still need donations from those who can afford to make them. Inevitably many of our expenses continue, and we have already had to cancel or postpone several fund-raisers. You can mail donations to the Church (people are picking up mail and making deposits), donate through our homepage, or donate through an online program called tithely. We include instructions for using tithely in our weekly email messages. You can also contact Father Harvey if you would like him to send the instructions to you. Thanks for your faithfulness!!

### **Rector's Discretionary Fund**, by Father Harvey

This is my regular reminder that I have a small discretionary fund which is intended to give people a little financial boost when necessary. If you get in a bind, please talk to me. I should add that our conversation and any help from my discretionary fund will be fully confidential.

Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn....

1 Corinthians 16:1



## **PRAYER AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

### **Beloved Community in our Diocese**

The Beloved Community Team of the Diocese of Western MA invites all people and parishes in the Diocese to read and discuss Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited* in 2020. A mentor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Howard Thurman anticipated many of the themes of liberation theology, including Black Theology. But Thurman's focus was not direct activism so much as cultivating a liberated spirit. The result is a short, inspiring work of pastoral theology.

To prepare for these conversations, you may stream a 57 min. video about Thurman called "[Backs Against the Wall](#)". Diocesan Clergy watched this video together at the 2019 Clergy Conference. If there is interest, we can schedule a time to discuss the film and/or the book. Individuals are also invited to join members of the Beloved Community Team in a pair of diocesan Zoom conversations about the book. The first group is already full, but there will be a second later in May at a time to be determined. If interested, please contact Lee Cheek at [belovedcommunitywma@gmail.com](mailto:belovedcommunitywma@gmail.com). For more information, please contact Father Harvey.

### **Contemplative Prayer and Lectio Divina**

"Lectio Divina" is a prayerful reading of a Bible passage, interspersed with short periods of silence. The basic question we ask ourselves is, what is God saying to me through this passage? We had our first session of contemplative prayer online on May 3, and it was good. Our next session will be Sunday, May 17 at 11:45 on Zoom. Please join us. This is a good time for any calming practice!!

### **The Book of Common Prayer and The Daily Office**

One the great, and often neglected, resources of our tradition is the Prayerbook. Now more than ever we all need to be cultivating a regular practice of prayer at home, and the Prayerbook can help. The four Daily Offices—Morning Prayer (pg. 75); Noonday Prayer (pg. 103); Evening Prayer (pg. 115); and Compline (pg. 127)—are designed for use at home. There are also shorter "Daily Devotions" for morning (pg. 137); Noon (pg. 138); early evening (pg. 139); and the close of the day (pg. 140), as well as helpful prayers and thanksgivings (pg. 810).

In an effort to help, Father Harvey is livestreaming a service of Morning Prayer, complete with a short homily, Monday through Saturday. His weekly e-mail updates include a link to a zoom service of Compline organized by the Diocese.

We can make Prayerbooks available at Saint David's, but picking one up is a little tricky. Contact the office if you would like to try to make arrangements. You can also order one for yourself, of course. And an easy-to-navigate online version is available at <https://cccspfld.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=10f10dae2c4ce7f4d1558fe5d&id=d90f4699bc&e=20849a06d8>. You should be able simply to click on this link. You might find it helpful to print the pages most relevant for your use.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### **Reading the New Testament**

We are still working our way through the New Testament, and there has never been a better time to join us than now! For most of May we will be reading the Acts of the Apostles, which is also the source for our New Testament readings on Sunday mornings. In his e-mail updates, Father Harvey announces the chapters for the week and attaches a link to a helpful video on the material for that week. We also gather once a month for conversation—on Zoom for the duration of the quarantine). In May, our conversation will be Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. Spending time with Scripture is one of the best ways to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. And that's what it is all about!

## **Prayer Cycles**

We have two monthly prayer cycles, both of which are available on our homepage under the “Worship” tab (and in the narthex, for what that is worth). One lists all the nations of the world, and the other lists the people and the ministries of Saint David’s. Please give the prayer cycles a try if you are not already doing so. It takes just a few minutes each day, and over the course of a month, you pray by name for every nation in the world, and every member and ministry here at Saint David’s. We could all use more prayers these days! Also, if you notice any missing people or ministries, please let the office know. It’s easy to correct, and we don’t want to leave anyone out!

## **Prayer Requests**

We typically list prayer requests in the bulletin each week, but we can’t do that now. Thankfully we also have an online prayer chain. If you would like to make a prayer request, please contact Father Harvey or Kathy Glista. Do the same if you’d like to receive the prayer requests. If you are requesting prayers for someone other than yourself, please first confirm that the person would like to be on the list. And don’t forget thanksgivings. It’s good to offer those, too!

## **Mutual Ministry Review**

The Diocese encourages every Church to do a Mutual Ministry Review every few years. The basic idea is that the priest and the vestry meet together with an outside facilitator to discuss how things are going at the Church. The conversation focuses on how we do ministry together. At Saint David’s, we have done our own informal versions of a review in-house. But this year will be the first time we have done a formal review in Father Harvey’s time. We set a date before the pandemic shut everything down. After a little soul-searching, the vestry and a representative from the Diocese decided to go ahead with the review despite the quarantine. We’ll do it on zoom, like so much else. The review will be May 12. We’ll report on how it went in the next issue of the Dovetale.

## **Parish Audit**

We recently submitted our Parish Audit. Last year we hired an external auditor just to be on the safe side. (The Diocese recommends that every parish hire an outside auditor every few years.) This year we returned to our normal practice of an in-house audit. Penny Miller led a team that included Eric Noyes and Diane Seaver. Thanks to them for their hard work! Our treasurer Jude O’Hare received his usual excellent review. Thanks to him as well!!

## **Sunday School**, by Father Harvey

Thanks to Ellen Scott and a heroic team of Zoom Sunday School teachers, we are offering Sunday School for our children pretty much every week. We gather on Zoom at 11:00 on Sunday mornings for a story and/or activity and a prayer. I don’t normally get to participate in Sunday School, so it has been a treat for me to watch our children in action! Please have any children in your life join us. I include the log-in information in my Thursday message each week, but can send it to anyone individually if that would be easier. And if you are willing to consider leading a session, please contact Ellen Scott. Thanks!!

## **Virtual Choir**

The Diocese is organizing a “virtual choir” for Pentecost (May 31). If you are interested in participating, please contact the Diocese directly or else let Father Harvey know. The plan is to have a livestream a diocese-wide service that day, which should be a treat.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory....

Gloria in excelsis, BCP 94-95



# MAY 2020



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	Church closed at least Until May 18	Morning Prayer Livestreaming @ 8am Mon–Sat			<b>1</b> Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> RITE II 10AM Live Stream	<b>4</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Mother's Day! RITE II 10AM livestreamed	<b>11</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	<b>12</b> Mutual Ministry Review 7-9	<b>13</b> Film Conversation at 5	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> RITE II 10AM livestreamed Cont. Prayer at 11:45	<b>18</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	<b>19</b> Vestry 7PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	<b>22</b> Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> RITE I 8AM? RITE II 10AM	<b>25</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	<b>26</b> OA 9:30AM NT Conver 2PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

—John 16:33

***St. David's Episcopal  
Church***

**699 SPRINGFIELD STREET  
FEEDING HILLS, MA 01030**

**PHONE: (413) 786-6133**

**FAX: (413) 786-4682**

**EMAIL:**

**saintdavids@comcast.net**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB @  
[WWW.STDAVIDSAGAWAM.ORG](http://WWW.STDAVIDSAGAWAM.ORG)**

**Mission Statement**

***As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to love God and community, committing ourselves to lives of joyful worship, prayer, and the teaching of scripture.***