



THE DOVETALE

St. David's Episcopal Church



2020

A Phased Reopening

As I write this, some of the more detailed guidelines for our reopening are still forthcoming. But the Diocese has already issued a first set of guidelines that offer us clarity in a confusing (and sometimes politicized) situation. It comes in a document called "A Journey by Stages," produced by our Diocese in conjunction with the Diocese of (Eastern) Massachusetts.

Through June, we remain in "Stage One: Stay at Home." This is just continuing what we have been doing for the last several weeks. Our building remains closed and all events are virtual.

Beginning on July 2 (although this could still get pushed back if the number of new infections begins to rise again), we can move to "Stage Two: Cautious." This will not yet be anything like life as normal. Our building will be open, but with strict limits on how many people can be inside at any given time. During worship, we won't be able to sing, share Holy Communion, touch, offer in-person children's programs, or have coffee hour. We will remain at Stage Two until we reach specific public health indicators. The main indication is "near-zero community transmission of the virus."

Even in "Stage Three: Vigilant," we will stick with pretty strict precautions. We can sing and share Communion (bread only), and have coffee hour. But we will still maintain social distancing, which means, among other things, no in-person programs for young children. Those restrictions will remain in place until we

get to "Stage Four: New Normal" with the development of an effective vaccine and the lifting of most restrictions.

Throughout this process, our vestry will decide when we believe the criteria for moving to the next stage have been met. But we can only do so after the Diocese gives us permission.

I take away two things from the current guidelines. First, I am happy to say that our Diocese has provided us wise leadership and clear criteria for the difficult decisions ahead of us as we reopen.



Second, I am sorry to say that we will probably not return to "normal" for several months. In the meantime, we continue to offer what we can through Facebook, our homepage, and Zoom. We continue to reach out to parishioners who are not connected to the internet as best we can. We continue to pray and to serve God's mission,

which is more important than ever.

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:

Drive-In Church	2
Church Building Closed	
Virtual Pastoral Care	
Friday Healing Eucharist	
Getting Connected	
Online Directory	
Community Bulletin Board	3
Our New Facebook Page	
Parish Life	
Morning Prayer	
Sunday School	
Community Solar	
Outreach during Pandemic	4
Donations Parish Cupboard	
Young Scholars Program	
Building Bridges and	
Prison Ministry	
Expanding Veggie Gardens	
Maintaining Flower Garden	5
Memorial Trees	
Prayer Shawls	
The Financial Picture	
Good Financial News	
Stewardship	
Maintaining Pledges	6
Discretionary Fund	
Reimbursements	
Creation Care Kids Corner	
Creative Care	7
Contemplative Prayer	
Prayer Cycles	
Prayer Requests	
Dovetale Deadline	
Book of Common Prayer	8
Reading New Testament	
June Calendar	9
Inspirational Quotes	10
Mission Statement	

Drive in Church

Our plan is to offer “drive-in” services at 10:00 every Sunday in June (weather permitting). The service leaders will be seated at the parking lot entrance. We’ll have an outdoor sound system that works well (during a test, it appeared to work even better than the sound system in the Church!) or an FM Transmitter so you can listen on your car radio. The idea is that people will park and stay in their cars for the service. We’ll do what we have been doing every Sunday. We still won’t be able to touch or even to talk in person. But at least we can be together and see each other! Please join us in the parking lot on Sundays at 10:00, and help spread the word!

COVID-19 IMPACTS

Church Building Still Closed

At the Bishop’s direction, we are closed at least through July 1. 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.

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.

Friday Healing Eucharist Still On Hold

When Church reopens, we will resume our healing service every Friday at 12:00. The good news is, the numbers are small enough that the logistics will be easy. But like so much else, it remains on hold for now....

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 through 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, hopefully with the addition of “drive-in” Church in June. 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!

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!

We also plan to put out a 2021 version of the Book of Names as soon as we can return to our building.

Community Bulletin Board by Fr. Harvey

We have 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!!!

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!

Parish Life

We continue to ponder 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. We’ve tried a movie night and will probably do another. We are hoping to have some Kind of Quarantine Show and Tell in which we gather on Zoom to chat about what we have been doing during this time of isolation. No doubt there are lots of other possibilities. We just have to use our imaginations.....

Morning Prayer

We have been livestreaming Morning Prayer each morning (Monday through Saturday) at 8:00 AM on our Facebook page. Our plan is to continue through the summer and until we have reopened, except on announced days. Please join us, and help spread the word!

Sunday School

Episcopal Churches in our Diocese will not be offering in-person Sunday School classes until we can safely do so. As of right now, that means not until “Stage Four” of our reopening, when an effective vaccine is readily available. Until then, we will continue to offer Sunday School sessions each week on Zoom, immediately following the Sunday Eucharist. In June, that will be at 11:15 (to give families and our teachers time to get home after the Drive-In services). We are also considering possible outdoor activities that would be safe. If you have ideas for appropriate events, please let Father Harvey or Ellen Scott know. And please join us, and help spread the word!

Community Solar

We 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 about now, and it will happen whenever panels in our area become available. Of course, the pandemic may well delay this too....

God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light! (Genesis 1:3)

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!

Donations to the Parish Cupboard

Church without Walls remains on hold for the foreseeable future. But the Parish Cupboard continues to hand out groceries, and for that they continue to need donations of boxed and canned goods. You can donate directly to the Cupboard, of course. But we have also put a donation bin at the parking lot Entrance to the Church. We'll get anything we find in the bin over to the Cupboard. Thanks for your help in helping our neediest neighbors!

Young Scholars Program, by Fr. Harvey

This program offers college scholarships to elementary school students. You read that right—elementary students. The idea is that at-risk children benefit from early interventions. The children come from the MLK Charter School and the White Street School, both in Springfield. The schools nominate promising children. The Young Scholars Program promises money if/when the children actually go to college. In the meantime, the schools and the program combine to offer enrichment and support.

If you would like to join this effort, please talk to me. I have served on the Board of the Program for the last few years, and I strongly recommend their work. You can also check them out online at www.youngscholarsfund.org. The Program can always use money, but the single greatest need is for "scholar partners." Each partner tracks one or more students. At a minimum, that means getting their report card each summer. For people with more time, partners are invited to school events and field trips. I have not been able to do much of that myself, but it is the most rewarding part of the work since it means getting to know the children and their families.

Building Bridges Veterans Ministry and the Prison Bible Study

Both of these ministries remain on hold. As soon as we get the go-ahead to resume from the Building Bridges Program, we will do so. The same is true when the Women's Correctional Center allows volunteers to enter the prison. But in both cases that may be several months.....

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 for 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!! And everyone should at least drive through the parking lot. Our grounds are looking really good!!

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 has been hard at work, and those trees are now planted. We won't be able to have a public dedication of them until we can again safely gather. But check out the new trees as you drive by. We'll schedule the formal dedication as soon as we can.

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!!!

FINANCES

The Financial Picture

At the May Vestry meeting, your Vestry reviewed our financial situation with relief. We are in remarkably good financial shape. As of January 31, we had a shortfall of roughly \$4600, which is typical for that time of year. The winter is always our toughest financial time. Since then, we have made up most of that deficit, despite the pandemic. As of May 31, we our deficit for this year is about \$500, which would be good in any year. That good news is due in part to federal grant money and the Diocese waiving some of our diocesan obligations. It is due even more to the faithfulness and generosity of so many of our people!! We are certainly not out of the financial woods. The quarantine drags on, the federal grant money ends in June, and our diocesan obligations resume at the same time. But we have much for which to be grateful!

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 waived the assessments of all parishes for two months. That meant we did not send the Diocese \$1600 that we had budgeted. Even more helpful financially, the federal government's aid package covered 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 saved 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. (You can contact Father Harvey if you would like him to send the Tithely 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.

Reimbursements

Across from the office are forms for receiving reimbursements for expenses people incur on behalf of Saint David's, as well as a list of which vestry member is in charge of which budget line. But of course no one can get to them! If you need to spend the Church's money, please be in touch with Father Harvey or Treasurer Jude O'Hare. One of them can fill out the form for you. Please first get approval from the relevant vestry person. You can see who is in charge of which budget area on our [webpage at https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html](https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html). Thanks!!

“O taste and see that the Lord is good;
Happy are those who take refuge in Him!”
(Psalm 34:8)

“The heavens are telling the glory of God;
And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork!”
(Psalm 19:1)

Creation Care, Kids' Corner by Mary Moore

Last month we talked about flowers. Now let's look at the other parts of these. There are three basic parts to all flowering plants, the root, the stem, and the leaves. The **root** anchors the plant in the soil and absorbs water and minerals for the plant. Moving up, the next part is the **stem**. It holds up the leaves so that they can get sunlight, but also contains skinny tubes that bring water and other materials up to those leaves. Also, food that the plant makes can be stored in the stem. The job of the **leaves** is to make this food. Using energy from the sun or other kind of light, special microscopic (very small) parts inside the leaves take carbon dioxide (an invisible gas that we breathe out) and mixes it with water to make sugar, the main food for the plant. This process is kind of like taking cake batter and turning it into a cake, using heat energy from the oven. In both cases, energy is used to change the ingredients into something different.

Activity: loosely wrap some bean seeds in a wet paper towel and keep them moist until you see a little root poking out the bottom and the two halves of the seed start to pull apart from each other. Gently separate the two halves of the seed. On one half you should see a complete tiny plant. You may need a magnifying glass, but if you look closely you can see the root, the stem, and small leaves. And if you plant the seeds, those two halves of the seed will feed the baby plant until the leaves are big enough to take over making the food. You will see those two halves of the seed shrink as the food inside them is used up by your new bean plant.



plants.
leaves.
plant.
enough

Creation Care by Mary Moore

Because of pandemic, as in May, a lot of our activities may be centered around our yards and neighborhoods. Here are some things to look for in June.

Flowering plants: purple flowering raspberry and black raspberry, red clover, buttercups, cow vetch, and bunchberry

Insects and other little critters: sphinx moths, rosy maple moth, white admiral butterfly, and jumping spiders

Amphibians & Reptiles: mud puppies - large nocturnal strictly aquatic salamanders - and snapping turtles laying their eggs

Nesting birds: cliff, barn, and bank swallows, scarlet tanager, and bobolink

Mammals: red fox kits are becoming more independent and will be tagging along with their parents on hunting trips now

And for the gardeners among you, if you want to keep pests such as fleas, ticks, or mosquitos out of your yard, visit the website, worstroom.com, for all kinds of suggestions on what to plant. Just click on the "Lawn and Garden" heading and scroll down the list of topics.

PRAYER AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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 have now had a couple of sessions on Zoom, and they work surprisingly well. We typically meet on Zoom after the Sunday service for about twenty minutes. As I write this, we have not scheduled our June sessions. But stay tuned!

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!!

DOVETALE Deadline by Esther Nunn

The deadline for the July 2020 Dovetale is June 20, 2020.
Please submit your articles early to estar00@winning.com. Thanks

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 by clicking this link: [Online BCP](#). You might find it helpful to print the pages most relevant for your use.



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! In June we will finish the Acts of the Apostles and work our way through Paul’s Letter to the Romans. In weekly 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 June, our conversation will be Tuesday the 16th 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!

“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

(Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, 4:1-6)

ZOOM Show and Tell

Come join your fellow parishioners on Zoom on Wednesday, June 10 at 7:00 so we can see each other and catch up. It is the first-ever Saint David’s Show and Tell. What have you been doing during the Stay at Home? Any projects you have been meaning to do? How is your yard work and garden coming along? We are interested in you and your life. Family events you would like to tell us about? Sewing, crafts, or new recipes? Share anything you want, or just tune in to watch or say hello. It’s a little time to see each other and get together. Have your favorite beverage and a snack ready if you would like!



JUNE 2020



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	2	3	4	5 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	6
7 (Drive-in) RITE II 10AM Live Stream Sunday School 11:15 Zoom	8 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	9	10 Zoom Show and Tell at 7:00	11	12 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	13
14 (Drive-in) RITE II 10AM Live Stream Sunday School 11:15 Zoom	15 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	16 NT Conver 4PM Vestry 7PM	17	18	19 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	20
21 Father's Day (Drive-in) RITE II 10AM Live Stream Sunday School 11:15 Zoom	22 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	23	24	25	26 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	27
28 (Drive-in) RITE II 10AM Live Stream Sunday School 11:15 Zoom C Lectio 11:45	29 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	30	• Diocesan Compline every evening at 8 PM	Church closed Until July	Morning Prayer Livestreaming @ 8am Mon—Sat	



The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.

Rachel Carson

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

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

PHONE: (413) 786-6133

FAX: (413) 786-4682

EMAIL:

saintdavid@comcast.net

**WE'RE ON THE WEB @
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.