



PARISH OF BUXTED & HADLOW DOWN
ST. MARGARET THE QUEEN • ST. MARY THE VIRGIN • ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

<https://www.bhdchurches.co.uk/>



News from the Parish – 8th April 2020

It will be strange not to be in church for Easter; whether it is washing of feet on Maundy Thursday, quiet reflection before the cross on Good Friday, or in celebration of the resurrection on Easter Day. We hope, however, that wherever you are you know that you are not alone.

Whilst we are surrounded by news in our daily life, in some ways this news-letter has very little news, but we hope that it can keep you in touch with the parish and re-assurance that – to use a strap line – the churches may be closed but the Church is not.

Prayers

On Easter Day, Fr David Milnes has been given permission to celebrate eucharist (on his own) and has agreed to offer your prayers as part of the sacramental act and ask for the Almighty to accept them. See below for how to contact him to ask him to include anyone in his prayers.

We also pray for those who have recently departed; Nigel Field and Peter Davie.

Services

Whilst there are no formal services in any of our churches, you can watch and listen to broadcasts from other places. In particular you may wish to join the Diocese at : <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/liveservices/>. Other sources (and resources) can be found at the Church of England site <https://www.churchofengland.org/>, or from the BBC at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/easter>



Our website (address at the top) also has copies of service sheets for the Easter services from last year. At the end of this newsletter are three short services that Fr David Milnes has put together for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. Please do use them.

Signs of Easter

Whilst our churches may be closed, our churchyards are not. This Easter, in each of our churchyards, we will be marking Easter in different ways. St Margaret's will erect the cross from the Christmas tree as a stark symbol of the suffering of the crucifixion. St Mary's will use their Calvary figures to act as their focus. St Mark's is looking to create a small Easter garden.

If you are out exercising, please do visit our churchyards to reflect on Easter – but also ensure that you social distance! If you cannot visit, then we hope to put up pictures on the website.

Providing support

One of the positives that has come out of the current situation is the re-emergence of community spirit in our two villages and surrounding area, as well as nationally.

Within the "ecclesiastical" Parish we have felt that others are better able to help with the more practical aspects (shopping, medication collection, etc) – not that we wouldn't if we were asked. Where we need to focus is on the pastoral support.

Fr David Milnes has offered to provide spiritual support, by email and telephone, and we know that a number of you have appreciated this. His details are him at : FRMILNES@aol.com or 01825 830076 .

But do you, or someone you know, want pastoral support of any kind? Or, alternatively, would you like to offer support; be it just a voice at the end of the telephone? Please let your churchwardens know.

And finally

Is there anything more that we can, or should be doing for you? Please let us know cw@bhdchurches.co.uk



THREE SHORT SERVICES FOR USE AT HOME.

MAUNDY THURSDAY (9th April)

Maundy comes from the Latin 'mandatum novum' - 'new commandment'. John 13v.34.
Today the Church commemorates the institution of the Eucharist, 'the day before he suffered'. During the supper our Lord gave us a lesson in love which was shown washing of his disciples' feet.

+ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Trusting in God's plan for us, let us ask to be renewed in heart and in mind.

Lord, you showed us perfect love. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you gave yourself completely. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you left us an example to copy. Lord, have mercy.

A reading from the first letter of S. Paul to the Corinthians:

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and thanked God for it and broke it, and He said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me." In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me." Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

PRAYERS

We offer our prayers to the Father who calls us home.

We pray for the Church; that in the humility of Christ, we may share her true riches with each other and with the world.

For the leaders of our nation: that they may lead by service especially at this difficult time.

For those who are in need, that they may be supported by a caring society.

We pray that we may all help each other in the great journey, and lighten each other's load on the way.

We pray for the medical and nursing professions and for all carers.

We pray for all those who have come to the end of their life: that they may take that final step into the heavenly kingdom.

We thank you, Father, when your Son loved us to perfection, and showed us the final meaning of His love.

Our Father.....



CHRIST MOVES TO THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE WHERE HE WILL FACE ARREST AND THEN TRIAL

Servant – Christ, in prayer we follow you into the garden, to watch with you. Help us to be ever vigilant for signs of the dawning of your day; to struggle unsparingly to understand, and to be obedient to your perfect will.

GOOD FRIDAY (10th April)

Today the Church stands before the cross of Christ. The significant part of the day is silence.

Almighty Father, look with mercy on your family for which Our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PASSION GOSPEL

And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

And they parted His raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. Then the rulers also with them derided Him, saying: “He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He be the Christ, the chosen of God.” And the soldiers also mocked Him.

And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying: “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, “I thirst.” Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar; and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon a hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said: “It is finished”; and he bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.

A short period of silence.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

Lord, what would we have done? Would we have fallen asleep and then run away terrified, like the disciples in Gethsemane? Thank you that you forgive us for our weakness, when we opt out and run away from conflict and cost.

Lord, what would we have done? Would we have shouted ‘Hosanna’ on one day, and ‘Crucify’ on another? Forgive us when we fail you because it is easier to follow the crowd.



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Lord, what would we have done? Would we have been harsh and judgemental like the Pharisees? Forgive us when we are quick to condemn, or hide behind legalism.
Lord, what would we have done? Would we have been like the soldiers, hard and callous, just doing their job? Forgive us when we act blindly and unthinkingly, without considering the effect our behaviour has on others.
Lord, what would we have done? Would we have slunk away ashamed from the horror of Calvary? We thank you that you forgive us when we let you down, and that your love is stronger than all the evil we could throw at you; Lord accept these prayers, offered in your name.

Standing at the foot of the cross, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father.....

May the cross of Our Lord protect those who belong to Jesus, and strengthen our hearts in faith to Christ, in hardship and in ease, in life and in death, now and for ever. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY (12th April)

We rejoice in the new life with God our Father has given us through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. We carry the joy of this feast into the lives of those who seek meaning, hope and encouragement.

If practical, an unlit candle should be placed in a prominent position.

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to Him, and all ages; to Him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen.

If safe to do so, light the candle.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way of life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. Alleluia.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb" she said "and we don't know where they have put him."

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the



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other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

PRAYERS

On this Easter Day with confidence we offer our prayers to the merciful Father.

We pray for your Church: help us to proclaim the message of healing and forgiveness for which you died. We pray for your world: for leaders and all who have to make difficult and challenging decisions.

We pray for broken communities, and we ask your forgiveness for our own apathy, and our desire to wash our hands of involvement in the plight of others.

We pray for all who are in darkness, sickness and pain. Surround with your presence hospital staff, families, friends and all who care for them.

We pray for those who mourn. Receive into resurrection life with you those who have died, especially those who have died as a result of the Coronavirus.

Accept our prayers, and take them up into your creative energy of love which you let loose into the world on those extraordinary Passover days. Amen.

In the hope of the Resurrection we pray: Our Father.....

May the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, deepen our faith in the Gospel. May the Son, who walks with us and will never abandon us, give us new hope to live the joy of the resurrection. May the Spirit pour down God's love upon us so that we may love others following the example of Jesus who washed his disciples' feet. Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

