



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



### News from the Parish – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The rubric (instructions) in the Book of Common Prayer before the service for Holy Communion starts with :

*"So many as intend to be partakers of the holy Communion shall signify their names to the Curate, at least some time the day before"*

This is a practice that has lapsed in recent years (and it would be nice if we had the luxury of a Curate), but I wonder when we get to re-start services whether we will need to re-introduce this to manage the numbers and maintain social distancing? Hopefully, not to be taken too seriously!

I have always rather enjoyed reading the rubric before a service. The above section goes on to talk about *"an open and notorious evil liver"* and *"those betwixt whom he perceiveth malice and hatred to reign"*. The gist of the instructions are that only those who genuinely repent (of their *"former naughty life"*) or forgive (*"from the bottom of his heart"*) can attend.

Hopefully we are not in that category – and our doors will be open for all.

### Re-opening our churches

**We are almost there!** Even as I write this a team of cleaners is gathering at St Margaret's to dust off the cob-webs and give the church a thorough clean. This should prepare it for opening tomorrow, and ensure that it meets the guidelines that we have been given.

On Monday and Tuesday teams will also gather at St Mary's and St Mark's to clean and prepare the churches. St Mary's is more of a task, given the dust from the work on the East wall. Our thanks to all those who are / will help to give a socially distanced clean.



We intend to have St Margaret's open from tomorrow and the other two churches will be open on Wednesday / Thursday. Thereafter we hope for them to be open under their normal routine.

Please do use our churches for prayer and reflection, but also please do follow the guidance and keep yourselves and others safe. If you can help us by wiping down things you touch, or using your own sanitiser, that would also help.

### **Musing from your Churchwarden – Duncan's turn**

In early March this year my family and I rewatched the Bill Murray film "Groundhog Day" little realising how prophetic it would become - perhaps we were tempting fate !! I sit here in the 11th week of lockdown watching helplessly as the days turn to nights, the weeks run into weekends and the months roll by. We, however, have been lucky. Work has never been busier for Sophie and me and the kids have taken to home schooling like ducks to water (at least they say they are studying for hours on end in their bedrooms !!!)

I am though incredibly conscious that all are not so lucky. I watch in horror as the impact of CV-19 devastates families around the world and wonder how we in the UK will struggle to come to terms with what is commonly called the "new normal". None of us will be left untouched by this horrific experience.

And yet in all this, families and individuals have risen to the challenge. Whether it is key workers keeping our health service, essential stores and transport going, communities coming together to help those who are shielding and in need of assistance, or families enjoying a quieter pace of life and enjoying each other's company. Even in this, I see the hand of God at work.

As many of you will know, I was very humbled to have been appointed as a lay member of Chapter of Chichester Cathedral during the past year in addition to my existing role as Chair of the Cathedral's Finance Committee. This has been a rewarding experience for me as it has allowed me to gain an appreciation of the work that God does in Chichester and throughout the Diocese. The Cathedral is a fascinating place with a phenomenal history that renders this country boy speechless. I sit in awe as I hear the tales of the damage done to the building during the English civil war, gaze in wonder at the wealth of art that it contains and find it hard to fathom as I am shown a copy of the Vinegar Bible printed in 1717. I am certain my typos will not be treasured in 300



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years' time !! We are indeed lucky to have such a building as our Mother Church.

Services and pastoral work have been incredibly difficult to maintain for the past three months, however, the shift to online services by both the Bishop and the Dean was quickly put into practice and welcomed not only in the Diocese but quite remarkably throughout the world. We were indeed amazed at the numbers who have tuned in weekly to hear the services and reflections and astounded at some of the far flung places that we are reaching. Just as in all churches through the land we welcomed the access granted to the clergy to live stream and record services from inside the building rather than outside and we are praying for a reopening of the building to at least allow private prayer in the not too distant future.

Here in Buxted and Hadlow Down we yearn for our three churches to open their doors again. As part of a Christian community we are used to meeting together to worship God and just plain enjoy each other's company. The rhythm of life that the Christian year follows and through which many of us gain comfort has been missing for too long and we look forward to welcoming all of you back soon to create our own "new normal".

## **Prayers**

We pray for the families of all those who have recently departed.

*For the Church: that she may stand before the world as a visible sign of the love and graciousness of God.*

*For all who have lost trust in God: that they may once again discover God's personal and boundless concern for them.*

*For those who believe that their sins are too big and too many to be forgiven: that they may experience the wonderful compassion of God.*

*For the sick, the lonely and the depressed: that even in their loneliness they may recognise that God is very near.*

*For those who have died recently: may they know the peace of Christ forever. And may the bereaved find strength in the knowledge and love of Christ risen from the dead.*



*God our Father, you sent your beloved Son into the world out of your infinite love. Grant us the grace to make your name known and remain faithful to the gifts you have given us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Providing 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](mailto: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.*

### **Services**

Fr David Milnes continues to celebrate his solo Eucharist service at churches around the parish. He is happy to take your prayers and requests for him to include in the service (his details are just above). Sadly, he has to be on his own, under the regulations, but please do stop and spend some time on Sunday morning – if needs be imagining him in action.

We are continuing with our selection of readings, either audio or video, and this week we have Chris Wilkes, Jeff Lloyd-Roberts and John Burns. Next week's readers have yet to be allocated, so if you are a new face or voices please do volunteer.

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 and other broadcasters.



The readings for this week, with musical support, are :

- Epistle read by Chris Wilkes, Romans 5: 1-8
- Gospel read by Jeff Lloyd-Roberts, Matthew 9: 35 – 10:8
- Psalm read by John Burns, Psalm 100

These can be found at :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RThANtfkKMU>

Thanks to the readers, John Marsh for the music and Ed George for putting this together

## Moment of Reflection

With thanks to Fr David Milnes :

### TRINITY 1

(11th Ordinary Sunday of the Year)

Gospel: Matthew 9: 35-10: 8

*Apostle means one who is sent. Jesus sends out the twelve apostles to be his instruments of hope, healing and good news. They have received freely from the abundance of God's love, and so they are to give freely.*

In today's Gospel we see the beginnings of the work of the apostles, bestowed on them by Christ. They were given authority to tell the world about him. The apostles are "sent out" to look after the dispirited multitude. They were to put a "new spirit" into them. They were given the authority, quite literally, to impart God's gift of the Holy Spirit, which they themselves had received from Christ. They must proclaim the kingdom and heal. In due course the apostles chose and commissioned others to continue the work entrusted to them. The mission of the apostles has been entrusted to the Church in her ministry – the Church is truly 'apostolic'.

The apostolic Church continues to proclaim the compassion of Christ, which is eternal. As we reflect on the lives of the apostles it is vital not to let their names (in today's Gospel) pass by unnoticed. We cannot afford, indeed, to "pass by" any person chosen by Christ – all lives matter. Every person is flesh and blood with hopes and fears, and every person can be



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"harassed and dejected". Yet Jesus chose the apostles and us for what we are and for what we can become – he chooses each one of us to bring love and compassion to those who are broken. It is out of our own brokenness that we are equipped to follow his path and proclaim the revealed faith of God's 'one holy catholic and apostolic Church'.

*God, our Father and true shepherd, grant us the strength and courage always to bear witness to Christ your Son, and to his message of peace, healing and love. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**SAINT RICHARD OF CHICHESTER, PATRON OF THE DIOCESE**  
Tuesday 16th June

Richard de Wych, or Droitwich, as it is now known, was born there in 1197 and worked hard for his yeoman father to restore the family fortunes. Later he studied at Oxford and Paris and then Bologna as an ecclesiastical lawyer. When he returned to England he was made Chancellor of Oxford and eventually Chancellor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Saint Edmund of Abingdon. When Richard eventually became Bishop of Chichester, he was seen as a model diocesan bishop; progressing around his diocese on foot, visiting and caring for his clergy and people, generally accessible to all who needed his ministry. He insisted that the sacraments be administered without payment and with proper dignity. He died on 3rd April 1253 in the Maison Dieu at Dover, the day after consecrating a new church there in honour of his master Saint Edmund. He was canonised by Pope Urban IV in 1262. His shrine in Chichester Cathedral, now restored, was destroyed by order of Henry VIII in 1538.

(Saint Margaret, Buxted – consecrated by Saint Richard?)

*Most merciful Redeemer, who gave to your bishop Richard a love of learning, a zeal for souls and a devotion to the poor; grant that, encouraged by his example, we may know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



## Roles in the Parish

Persistence hasn't paid off yet, but still, a reminder that the Parish relies on any number of volunteers to keep going and we still have a need for a new *PCC Secretary*, as Richard Stanton has given notice that he is having to move house and so will be stepping down.

We also need a *Website Manager* to help oversee the website. Training is available and, whilst others will prepare content – it is mainly uploading and keeping an eye on it.

If you feel that you can help, or know someone who might, **please, please, please** contact a Churchwarden.

## The Virtual Collection Plate

Our continued thanks to those who have responded to previous mentions of money – no-one really enjoys having to ask. We still have bills to pay and without rental from the Church Hall, generosity from fundraising activities and your freewill offerings at services, we will struggle as the lockdown continues.

If you are able to make a donation, then our bank details are :  
*HSBC Account: Parish of Buxted & Hadlow Down PCC A/C No: 11454064 Sort Code: 40-45-32.* If you wish to gift aid then please ask for a form from the Treasurer ([treasurer@bhdchurches.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@bhdchurches.co.uk))

Alternatively, the Planned Giving Scheme is where you can make a monthly direct debit and Gift Aid is automatically calculated. You can sign up by telephone (0333 002 1271) and all you will need are your bank details and the Parish name (Parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down) and our PGS number (which is : *103080519*).

Thank you, in advance.

## And finally

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

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