



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



News from the Parish – 17th April 2020

The pictures above show that, whilst our church buildings may have been closed, our churchyards were still able to tell out the Easter story. St Mary's used their Calvary figures, sparkling in the sun-light, to good effect and with a tidied garden in front. St Mark's created their own Easter garden, from the bleakness of the crosses to the brightness of the garden with the tomb. St Margaret's placed the bare cross by the entrance, benefitting from the vibrant blossom in the background.

It was also good to see that the traditional Good Friday workshop for children continued this year (albeit virtually) and some of the pieces of craft were shared on Facebook – and by "some" there seem to be loads of different things; from Easter gardens to food and cards and decorations, accompanied by smiling faces! Well done to all involved.

Prayers

There are so many people to remember in our prayers, whether they are individuals or groups of people; whether we pray for comfort in their suffering, or in thanks for their work.

We have been asked to pray for Erin, a 6 month old girl who was born with a heart defect, underwent heart surgery and has now been struck down with Covid-19. She is in Alder Hay hospital.



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

Services

I know that a number of people have said how much they enjoyed, or were comforted by, services broadcast over Easter; from the Archbishop of Canterbury from his kitchen, to our own Bishop of Chichester from the cathedral, and more informal services across the web.

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.

Moment of Reflection

With thanks to Fr David Milnes :

In these difficult days there will be people engrossed in the struggle to stay alive, which is quite understandable, and we give thanks for the medical, nursing professions, paramedics, carers and all who support. Perhaps we are suffering from lack of hope, and there are times when all the joy seems to depart. Fear can smother us from time to time, and confusion plays havoc with our best-laid plans. It is at times such as this that hope is our lifeline. If we keep hope alive, then we can welcome joy when it comes, as, in the risen Christ, it surely will.

Hope can be kept alive in our hearts. Though, at times like this, we may feel distant from God, but God is close and not dependent upon our feelings. Our hope is that we will be united with God, here and now as well as in the life to come. This keeps us attentive to our prayer, focuses us on the Christian life, and sustains us when we are facing all kinds of trials.

*Through the wounds of Christ, may our wounds be healed.
Through the resurrection of Christ, may we rise to new life.
Through the Holy Spirit, may we find true peace. Amen.*



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

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.

Magazines

Hopefully both the Buxted Messenger and Hadlow Down Newsletter will be produced and distributed for May. Content has been written and editors are hard at it.

And finally

If you have any news, views or thoughts that you think could be added to this newsletter, please do get in touch.

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

