



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

News from the Parish – 24th April 2020

Thursday evenings, at 8.00pm, are slightly surreal yet uplifting. As I stand on the side of the A272, separate groups of neighbours line the road and – for that minute, maintaining social distance – we clap hands, sound horns, ring bells or hit saucepans. This usually sets dogs off barking, but as one group of neighbours stops you can hear others continuing further away to left and right.

There's not much mention of clapping in the Bible, and a quick internet search finds some theological discussion around whether such behaviour - in church services – has any biblical authority. Yet often we encourage applause; when a child is baptised or a couple married. It is a sign of thanks, but also a sign of happiness and good will. Isaiah 55 : 12

*You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
**and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.***

Prayers

At this time we continue to include in our prayers all those who are feeling lonely and isolated, may they find friendship in different ways. We also include all those who are unwell, whether from the coronavirus or any other illness.

We give thanks for the devotion of those who care for us, at this time the team at the Buxted Medical Centre, the wider health and social care services, and the various community support teams.

Services

BREAKING NEWS : We are working on the idea of trying to get together short clips of bible readings, prayers and homilies / thoughts, as well as some music. The idea (thanks to Lindsay George) is that these are on a private YouTube channel and the links will be in this newsletter – the first of these (done by Ed George) is further down this newsletter. Of necessity these will be short recordings – but hopefully of familiar faces.



So **volunteers are needed** and we can develop a parish rota. We hope that all you need is a phone, tablet or computer that can record you. Audio is as good as video (if you are shy!)

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 :

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35

(For a reading of this Gospel passage, please follow the link below : https://youtu.be/IYU_BumZZtE)

In the Gospel appointed for Easter 3 we hear how two disappointed disciples are transformed when a stranger (the risen Christ) opens the scriptures to them and reveals himself as Lord in the breaking of bread. The Emmaus story becomes our story as we hear the word of God and recognise Jesus in the breaking of bread.

In the new experience of the risen Jesus, the two disciples' past is changed. They can now revisit the past with the new light and love they have experienced. They can take the new light of Easter Sunday back even into the darkness of Good Friday, and everything looks different now. Only the risen Jesus makes sense of everything in the present and what went before.

When we gather, and when we can come to celebrate the Eucharist we too listen to the word of God and break bread. Jesus comes to us not as a stranger; rather he comes to us in word and sacrament to give us new hope to face the future with faith in him.

Today our stories, the world's stories, do not sound different from those two forlorn disciples on the road to Emmaus. We too may be covered in disappointment, we may be afraid; we may have a past and a present that does not make sense to us. But we are invited to tell our story to the Lord, to listen to him as he speaks his word and recognise him in the



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

breaking of bread, which is happening even when we cannot be physically present at the Eucharist. Only then can we look at the past and the present with understanding and hope for the future.

Eternal, loving God, you give us Jesus Christ as our companion on our journey. Help us to recognise him in word and sacrament and in those in need, especially at this critical time. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reflection from our Archdeacon

The Diocese have started sending out daily offerings, from the Bishop and his colleagues. Wednesday's was from our own Archdeacon, Edward Dowler, and the link is below :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqFh1jcnHOg>

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 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

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

