



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



News from the Parish – 16th May 2020

It was interesting, and slightly amusing, that when lockdown measures were relaxed in New Zealand, the highlight of the news was that people were reported to be queuing overnight to get a haircut. Whilst we are not yet at that stage, I wonder where visiting our churches will be on the list of priorities when lockdown eases?

As a parish within Chichester Diocese, we get updates by means of an "Ad Clerum" from Bishop Martin, the latest of which arrived this week and addressed the fact that priests can (and should) pray and celebrate Eucharist once a week in their churches or in their homes – albeit on their own. There is a dispensation to allow them to do this without a congregation (and the ad clerum addresses this at some length with a theological discussion).

In more practical terms it also gives a steer on what to do when re-entering a church after it has been closed for a while – first of which is to give it a good air! Several years ago I attended a training session on welcoming churches and the first sign that they suggested you looked out for was whether it smelt loved?

Which leads me to finish with a quote from 2 Corinthians 2 ; 14

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place."



Prayers

In our prayers we have been asked to pray for Mark Blackden, who has been in intensive care (not Covid-related), and for Di as she supports him. Di has been such a support for this parish and our schools, in years gone by.

Let us pray for the Church: that we may all give an account of our Christian hope with courtesy and respect.

For all who exercise authority: that they will champion the cause of the poor, lonely and neglected.

Let us pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit; that they will be given light and peace. We continue to pray, with gratitude, for all who serve in the caring professions

For all who are dying, that they will find peace in the care of the Lord.

Services

We are continuing with our selection of readings, either audio or video, and this week we have Robin Furber, Andrew Osborne and Valerie Banks. Whilst we have volunteers lined up for next week, always happy to have more! Ongoing thanks to Ed George for putting this together.

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.

Three readings for this week, with the clip opening and closing with a few bars of organ music by John Marsh :

- Epistle read by Robin Furber, Acts 8 : 5-8 and 14-17
- Psalm read by Andrew Osborne, Psalm 66 : 8-20
- Gospel read by Valerie Banks, John 14 : 15-21

These can be found at :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxDYixNkNf4>



Moment of Reflection

With thanks to Fr David Milnes :

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Gospel – John 14: 15-21

In Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples he promises them that they will not be abandoned: the Father will send them the Spirit to be with them forever.

Hope is the virtue that enables us to look to the future with real confidence. It is not to be reduced to wishful thinking. We can all pass the time daydreaming, imagining a future that has nothing to do with reality. Wishful thinking has no bounds; it is not challenged by what is actually possible. I can imagine a giraffe doing the can-can. We could imagine that, but it would be foolish to think that we will see it happen one day. Hope is grounded in life. Hope is not limitless; it is limited by what is actually possible. Hope needs all the help it can get if it is to be more than a cherished wish.

In these days our friends, family, the benefits of the social media and telephone contribute to keeping hope alive. In today's gospel Jesus promises his followers the Spirit, the Helper. Without the Spirit the disciples would have been thrown back to their own resources, which are clearly inadequate when the going gets tough. With the help of the Spirit they faced the future with a power greater than themselves.

Jesus makes it clear that the Spirit he promises will be not only for the disciples of two thousand years ago, but to all who love him and keep his commandments of love and forgiveness. That promise is extended to all who struggle with and in faith. With that Spirit in us we can continue as puzzling people with the hope that is within us – Come Holy Spirit!

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*

Saint Teresa of Avila



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.

Roles in the Parish

The Parish relies on any number of volunteers to keep going and you may remember that previously we noted that our PCC Secretary has given notice that he is having to move house and so will be stepping down. This isn't too onerous (not quite a Frank Pickles in the Vicar of Dibley), but is needed to keep us in good order.

We also need a Website Manager to help oversee the website. Training is available and, again, this should not be onerous as 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 contact a Churchwarden.

Matters financial

Last week we mentioned that, as with so many others, we face financial challenges going ahead and the PCC will be thinking about this in the weeks ahead. Details were given of how donations could be made on line – and thanks to those who responded.

The parish is part of a Planned Giving Scheme where you can make a monthly direct debit and Gift Aid is automatically calculated. This is managed by one diocese for across the C of E. Details are at : <https://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk/>



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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)

The advantage of Planned Giving, to us, is that it gives a bit more certainty of our income, although you can still "top up" through free will giving!

On a lighter note



And finally

If you have any news, views or thoughts that you think could be added to this newsletter, please do get in touch, and if you know of anyone who isn't on my mailing list, please let me know.

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

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