



News from the Parish – 23rd May 2020

This newsletter appears to be growing in length – so apologies to those who print it out and give it to their neighbours – but it also reflects the suggestions and contributions coming forward. Please don't stop them.

The recent spell of dry weather, and need for rain for gardeners and farmers, gives me an excuse to retell a story about my grandfather, who was a lay reader.

After a similar dry spell of weather he prayed for rain at one of his services. As they left the church, it started to rain – the power of prayer, maybe.

For the next few days he never had to buy his own drink in the pub, but then the rain continued for weeks on end, and people started to cross the road to avoid him! Eventually he rang up his bishop to ask for advice.

The moral for this story was that he never prayed for rain again, but rather that the Lord God should hear our concerns and we leave it to him to act appropriately.

Which, neatly, links into the next section.

Thy Kingdom Come

Archbishops Justin and Sentamu have invited every Christian to be part of a worldwide movement of prayer which is called ***Thy Kingdom Come***, and started this Thursday (running through to Pentecost Sunday on 31st May).

There are four ways that Clergy were invited to get involved (there were five, but one has passed). Given our interregnum we picked this up a bit late, but please see below :



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1. DOWNLOAD the free Thy Kingdom Come app – packed full with videos, reflections, a daily podcast and the daily prayer journal (a great start to any day) from the Apple or Android app stores, simply search for “Thy Kingdom Come Prayer” (most resources available in a range of languages);
2. RESOURCES - easily downloadable music, prayers and short Thy Kingdom Come reflections from Archbishop Sentamu and Archbishop Justin. These are available for download now [here](#): We are also leading on the special Thy Kingdom Come morning service with the Archbishop of Canterbury at 9am on Pentecost Sunday **cofe.io/ChurchOnline**. Including prayers from the His Holiness Pope Francis, music lead by Matt Redman and contributions from many others.
3. SHARE the wide range of free resources available from thykingdomcome.global including a new augmented reality [Family Prayer Adventure Map](#), a beautiful [Prayer Journal](#), resources to host a continuous prayer room online (24/7), liturgical resources, a Journey with Mary and much more.
4. REGISTER on the website (www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld) what you are doing and where so we can encourage one another by lighting up the interactive map in prayer

The following clip from Bishop Martin also provides an introduction and invitation :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UC194l0pn4g&feature=youtu.be>

Prayers

In our prayers we continue to pray for Mark Blackden, and for Di as she supports him. Your messages of support have been much appreciated.

We pray for the family of Lance Ingrams, who died last Friday.

Let us pray for all who are going through dark times – a time of trouble, a time when it is not clear what to do.

Let us pray for those whose courage and hope have lit up the dark places of our nation and the world.



We pray for ourselves that God will give us the courage to see things clearly and tell the truth.

The light of God to make us unafraid

The power of God to protect us

The joy God to heal us

*The grace of God to bless us and keep us truthful now and for evermore.
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 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 will be celebrating a solo Eucharist service at one of our churches each Sunday at around 10.30 a.m. and will be 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 Iain Lindsay, Jan Cox and Robin Murray-Brown. New faces /voices are lined up for next week, but after that we may be back to those you have seen or heard before - so volunteers always wanted!

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, arranged by Ed George, with the clip opening and closing with a few bars of organ music by John Marsh :

- Gospel read by Iain Lindsay
- Psalm read by Robin Murray-Brown
- Epistle read by Jan Cox

These can be found at :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GL6je8JmJdQ>

Moment of Reflection

With thanks to Fr David Milnes :

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Gospel - John 17: 1-11

Jesus prepares his disciples for his return to the Father. He prays that they may share in the same eternal life that is the glory he shares with his Father.

We are not very good at saying goodbye. We are even worse at saying goodbye happily as we leave our lives on earth. In John's Gospel, five dense chapters are dedicated to Jesus saying goodbye to his disciples. This last discourse sums up his teaching to them, but it also reveals his great concern that they will be prepared for his absence.

Difficult goodbyes are part of life, and the last goodbye may be the most difficult of all. Sadly and painfully, over the last few weeks, being with someone in their last hours has not always been possible. This can also be so in normal times, especially when someone unexpectedly dies. To help us we can do no better than look at how Jesus said farewell to his disciples.



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First of all he acknowledged all the goodness and love there was between them. There is no playing down the importance of their relationship. His work with them has been a great achievement, and he will always continue to love them and be with them. Yet there has to be an ending, an ending from which growth will come, and there is excitement, both for himself and for them, as to what this new world will be like. This is no final ending, there is but a transformation into something new and greater.

We too should always give thanks for the love and closeness we have shared, recognising what has been achieved in our lives. And we also need to let go, accepting that we are in the hands of the one who can bring new life out of what we experience as suffering and loss. We may use Jesus as our model to help us in our goodbyes, giving thanks for all we have achieved, but letting go so that we allow God to transform our sense of loss into new life.

Father, without your love we fall into doubt and despair. Grant us the trust and courage we need to hope in the gift of your glory, brought to us by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

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** contact a Churchwarden.





The Virtual Collection Plate

In the last two weeks we have mentioned both direct giving and planned giving. We still have bills to pay and without rental from the Church Hall, generosity from fundraising activities and your freewill offerings at services, we have had to report to the Diocese that our general reserves will run out by the end of the year.

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)

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.



On a more cultured note

"Out in the fields with God" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

The little cares that fretted me,
I lost them yesterday
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds that play,
Among the lowing of the herd,
The rustling of the trees,
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.



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The foolish fears of what might pass
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass,
Among the new-mown hay,
Among the hushing of the corn,
Where drowsy poppies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good are born —
Out in the fields with God.

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/>