



News from the Parish – 30th May 2020

Yesterday I gave a webinar talk on “effective communication and presentations” (luckily not widely available). One of the early points that I made was that the essence of effective communication is that it is a two-way process, and the irony - of the ensuing 35 minutes of me talking to a set of slides - was not lost on the audience!

This provides a loose link to this Sunday being Pentecost, when the disciples (and others) received the Holy Spirit and they were able to talk in “other tongues”, given the range of people in Jerusalem from “every nation under heaven”. That is a great start, but listening to what is being said is as important (if not more important).

My thanks to those who have volunteered to read, and to you who have listened.

What is happening in your churches?

Whilst our churches are locked, they are not forgotten, and some works are taking place as part of the ongoing role of looking after them.

At St Margaret’s we have received permission for the repair and maintenance of the main Bevington organ. This has had many years sterling service, but needs a major overhaul so that it can come back into action, working in rotation with John Marsh’s electronic organ that we are still looking at. In addition, we have also received permission to do “sundry electrical works”, which covers some improved lighting – but also a better heater for the toilet!

Repairs have been made to the churchyard wall (mainly from the main entrance towards the hotel, but also a couple of other places), with thanks to the Friends of St Margaret’s for their financial support.



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

St Mary's has undertaken work on the wall behind the altar, where paint was peeling away. This has exposed some of the original decorations and a discussion is underway as to what might be the best way forward. In addition, we are working on repairs to a leak in the roof by the belfry, as well as repairs to the steps, where stones have fallen out.



St Mark's was preparing to make itself available to the neighbouring school, as a "temporary" classroom, but so far we have not yet been called upon.

Next week, if I remember, an update on our churchyards – and the cleaned up gravestone of the recipient of the Victoria Cross.

Roles in the Parish

On the basis that persistence may pay off, a reminder that the Parish relies on any number of volunteers to keep going and we still have a need for a replacement *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** contact a Churchwarden.



Prayers

In our prayers we pray for Di Blackden, following the passing of her husband Mark last Sunday morning, and for the family of Lance Ingrams for their loss.

Let us pray for the universal Church: that through its fidelity to the teachings of Jesus, through its authority of holiness, the goodness of Christ may touch all peoples.

Let us pray for those who lead the nations of the world: that they will work together for the common good.

Let us pray for our community: that the lonely may find friendship and comfort.

Let us pray for the sick of our community: that the Lord will look with pity on all who look to him for healing of mind and body, and grant them the blessings of his saving health.

Let us pray for the NHS and all carers: that they will be given strength when they face adversity.

Father, send your Holy Spirit afresh into the lives of all your people. Open our hearts to see where you are leading us and give us the strength and courage to follow where you would have us go, through Christ our Lord.

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 celebrated the first of his solo Eucharist service at St Mary's last Sunday and will visit the other churches going forward. 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 Anne Yarrow, Homer Cox and Angela Wilkes. More new faces /voices are lined up for next week, and some the week after, 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 :

- Epistle read by Anne Yarrow, Acts 2: 1-11
- Psalm read by Homer Cox, Psalm 104: 26-36 & 37b
- Gospel read by Angela Wilkes, John 20: 19-23

These can be found at :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bPIfBNdKRc&feature=youtu.be>

Any problems with the link, please try copying and pasting the link into your browser.



Moment of Reflection

With thanks to Fr David Milnes :

PENTECOST

Easter marks a climax in the Church's liturgy, a climax which is celebrated for fifty days until finally sealed by the feast of Pentecost (Pentecost comes from the Greek word for fifty) when Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit is dramatically fulfilled.

Acts 2: 1-11 & John 20: 19 -23

In the Gospel for Pentecost Sunday we hear that the apostles received the Holy Spirit who gave them power and strength to set off into the world and do what Christ had done. "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you", says Jesus. And in the first reading we see what this means. Miraculously, they go into the streets to bring people into one family of God.

We are no different from the apostles in so far as today we enjoy the same gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are therefore called to share our familiarity with Christ with others. How we do this depends on individual circumstances. It may mean helping someone who is in real difficulties or someone who is lonely and would love to receive a telephone call, especially in these days when so many are isolated. It may mean moving outside of our comfort zone and taking the risk of making contact. In all this believing that God is with us and will hold us up. It means trusting in the Holy Spirit given to us in all the sacraments.

On this day of Pentecost we pray for the Church at large and for ourselves, that our hearts may receive an outpouring of the vitality of the Holy Spirit who has the power to 'renew the face of the earth' (Psalm 104: 30). If we are still daunted we have, of course, the support and example of our faithful brothers and sisters in the Church. We have the example of the great saints and the example, too, of those less spectacular Christians who in very small ways have overcome their timidity to do something for Christ.

Spirit of God, with your holy breath you cleanse the hearts and minds of your people, you comfort them when they are in sorrow, you lead them when they wander from the way, and kindle them when they are cold, you knit them together when they are at variance, and you enrich them with many and various gifts.



We beseech you daily to increase those gifts which you have entrusted to us; that with your light before us and within us we may pass through this world without stumbling and without straying. Amen.

Erasmus (1466 -1536)

The Virtual Collection Plate

Our thanks to those who have responded to previous mentions of money – including the anonymous gift through our book-keeper's postbox. 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)

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

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/>