



News from the Parish – 7th June 2020

As I write this, the early morning sunshine has been overtaken by looming grey clouds and the forecast is for rain – welcome news for the garden, but then it is a forecast and may not happen.

The future has always been uncertain – that's in its very nature - but the current pandemic appears to have heightened our concerns about it. Whereas before we had the solace of tried and tested routines (church on Sunday?), this has been lost – for the moment – and the future will be different.

I worry about the future, but then Matthew 6: 34 recommends :

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself."

What is happening in your churchyards?

With our churches locked, one way that many people find solace is through visiting our churchyards, and we are grateful for the teams of people who keep them cared for – whether intentionally allowing nature to take over, or to keep it controlled and tidy.

At St Margaret's my information is provided by the "honourable lawn mowers apprentice" and he reports on the work done to remove spoil to its right place, top soil and re-seeding in the new graves area, clearance of the drainage ditch and care of the memorial garden, as well as the main entrance.

At St Mary's the regular mowing makes the churchyard look welcoming in our sunny weather, with the Calvary area well-tended and the community garden available to all.

St Mark's is a closed churchyard, and deliberately left to minimal management – with a few organised work parties to exert some control.



But it is in this churchyard that we have the grave of Edmund Costello VC.

Around 6 months ago we were approached by Steve Davies who volunteers to clean up gravestones of pre-World War 1 graves and, over the last few months, he has carefully been bringing it back to its former glory.



Costello's VC is, I understand, unusual in that very few have been awarded to commissioned officers. Some further information on Edmund Costello is at : <http://www.vconline.org.uk/edmund-w-costello-vc/4586262028>

Will we, won't we? Re-opening our churches

This week Bishop Martin, the Bishop of Chichester, wrote to local MPs asking them to lobby for a review of the continued closure of our church buildings – particularly *"we ask for churches to be opened for individual private prayer."*

The Church of England is committed to complying with all the guidance and regulations concerning distancing and hygiene regulations, and to work with authorities so as to open our church buildings in a phased way, as soon as it is deemed safe and practical to do so.

The Bishop's open letter is at https://www.chichester.anglican.org/glitter_news/2020/06/02/bishop-asks-mps-lobby-re-opening-church-buildings/

Please bear with us.



Prayers

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

Let us pray for the Church in every land; that God's love and truth may be proclaimed everywhere in ways that people understand.

Let us pray for every nation on earth; that peace and healing may flourish among each one of us.

Let us pray for our separated community – that we may be strong in these difficult days, calling on the gentleness and love of God.

Let us pray for all who are in pain for whatever reason; that they may reach out to family and friends and to the healing power of God.

God, mystery of love, we can only catch a glimpse of you, but we trust in your promise to us. May your Spirit enliven us, so that we may be a sign of your love in the world. Help us to rise above our doubts and fears so that we may praise you for ever. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. 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 continues to celebrate his solo Eucharist service at churches around the parish. 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 Lynne Bower, Keith Edwards and Guy Rogers. More new faces /voices are lined up for next week, but new 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.

The readings for this week, with musical support, are :

- Gospel read by Guy Rogers, Matthew 28: 16-20
- Psalm read by Keith Edwards, Psalm 8
- Epistle read by Lynne Bower, 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

These can be found at :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSqJ3xNNlgo>

Moment of Reflection

With thanks to Fr David Milnes :

HOLY TRINITY

Gospel - Matthew 28:16-20

In the feast of the Holy Trinity we celebrate the love of the Father revealed by Jesus Christ; and whose love we share the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Church refers to the Holy Trinity as a mystery, and one may ask as to what this has to do with me or the world, especially today? The 'mystery' is not a puzzle to be solved, but an astonishing revelation of God in three persons, and it is a bond of love, and we too certainly need that love. How can we allow our hearts to be changed so that we share in God's love?



The answers to these questions are in the Gospel appointed for today; for here is described Jesus' final meeting with his disciples before his ascension and return to the Father. Jesus gives his disciples the task of proclaiming to the world what they have experienced. And then, most importantly, they are urged to baptize others in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Men and women are to be baptized into a relationship of love. The significance of the feast of the Holy Trinity is that it is a celebration of what we receive in the sacrament of baptism: a gift of love.

Through our immersion, plunging into the life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit we share in the perfect bond - a bond of love. To strengthen this bond and to allow our hearts to be transformed it is necessary to call frequently upon God as "Abba, Father". Such a prayer, however brief, remains the perfect prayer. It is a prayer that transforms us into the children of God, sharing in the love that endures for ever.

*Abba, Father, I am here, for you, for myself, for the world, for this moment,
I am here.....*

CORPUS CHRISTI

(Day of thanksgiving for the Eucharist, the food of eternal life, the Bread of Life)

Thursday 11th June

In celebrating the Eucharist, we celebrate Christ's gift of himself to the world in the bread and wine.

Heavenly Father, you so loved the world that you gave us your only Son. We thank you for your gift of love and ask for the faith and love we need to approach the Body and Blood of Christ more worthily. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



Roles in the Parish

Persistence hasn't paid off yet, but still, a reminder that the Parish relies on any number of volunteers to keep going and we still have a need for a new *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, please** contact a Churchwarden.

The Virtual Collection Plate

Our continued thanks to those who have responded to previous mentions of money – no-one really enjoys having to ask. 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

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/>