



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

News from the Parish – 13th September 2020

Delighted to report that Rev Pete Molloy, Ann, Simeon and their dog Molly, are due to arrive in the UK on 25th September. They will then need to quarantine for 14 days, before they emerge from the Rectory. We are extremely grateful to the Coxes and all those who have worked so hard to prepare a welcome for them, whether working in the garden, lending items for the house or donating things. Thanks to you all.

Our request would be to allow them to settle down and get acclimatised, please, before getting in touch.

=====

This week's Epistle reading starts with the words : "*Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgement on disputable matters.*"

My reading of the central message of this passage is that it is not for us to judge others ("*for we will all stand before God's judgement seat*"), not least because if what we do and what we believe in is based on our service to God, then we are all doing the right thing, albeit differently.

It is, however, difficult not to pass judgement on others, whether it is politicians, sports stars and celebrities, or our neighbours. We can never know, truly, what they are thinking and why they are doing what they do. Maybe we should give them the benefit of the doubt?



Church services

On the basis that you can always improve, this week I am adding who the celebrant is going to be, with apologies that the service at St Mary's had to be cancelled last week, at the last moment.

The services for this Sunday (13th September) will be :

8.00	St Margaret's	Holy Communion	Rev Peter Francis
9.00	St Mark's	Jubilate Communion	Rev Nick Lamb
10.00	St Margaret's	Said Mattins	Rev Nick Lamb
11.15	St Mary's	Parish Mass	Bish. Nicholas Reade

There will be the usual Thursday morning communion at St Margaret's, starting at 10.00, taken by Rev Peter Francis.

The services for the following Sunday (20th September) will be :

8.00	St Margaret's	Holy Communion	Rev Peter Francis
9.00	St Mark's	Parish Communion	Rev Nick Lamb
10.00	St Margaret's	All Age Service	Rev Peter Francis
11.15	St Mary's	Parish Mass	Rev Nick Lamb

Please be reminded that face coverings are required in Places of Worship, unless you have a health reason for not wearing one, and we do need to continue to practice social distancing and hygiene and keeping a record of who has attended.

It has been confirmed that the change to a maximum group of 6 does not apply to worship, but clearly we all need to use common sense to safeguard ourselves and others.

There has been a change in the guidance about singing. Whilst congregations are not permitted to sing (on health grounds, rather than musical ability!), singing is permitted for small groups of performers in a physically distanced and safe way. Deputy wardens and the associated leads will be discussing this and seeing how we can take this forward.

Churchyard work party

Dependent upon when I press send, there will be / is / has been a work party taking place, on the morning of Saturday 12th September at St Margaret's, 9.00 – 12.30, to work on areas of the churchyard that the regular army of helpers can't get to – and get it bedded down for winter.



Volunteers, if only for an hour, would be welcome and there are a range of activities to be covered that will suit all types of help!

Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest Thanksgiving this year will be on Sunday 27th September, but we won't be holding the usual Harvest Supper and Harvest Lunch, due to the pandemic restrictions on gatherings.

We would still like to collect food offerings at each church for distribution to food banks and those in greater need, as well as decorate our churches to give thanks for the harvest, so do please start to think about this.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

We are required to hold the "AGM" of the parish by 31st October (normally it is required by the end of April, but circumstances ...) and the current proposal is that this will be held on Wednesday 14th October at 6.00pm at St Margaret's. Clearly this is subject to any further developments on what gatherings may be allowed at the time.

It is hoped that Rev Pete Molloy will be out of quarantine by then and this may be an opportunity to meet him. However, we will not be able to serve the normal refreshments and have quite the social gathering that we would usually do – but let's aim for next year.

Further details will emerge, as will papers and reports – both electronic and paper – in due course, but this is an opportunity to thank those who put so much time and talent into supporting the parish. There is also the formal part of the meeting, to elect churchwardens, PCC members and other such posts, as well as receive the annual report and accounts. We will always welcome new people.

Readings for this Sunday

Readings for this Sunday are :

Exodus 14: 19 - 31

Romans 14: 1 - 12

Matthew 18: 21 - 35



Prayers

In our prayers this week we bring to mind Norman Longley, recovering in hospital after a fall, as well as all those known to us who require our prayers. If you know of anyone that you would like added to the list, please do get in contact.

Providing support

Until Rev Peter Molloy is formally in place, Fr David Milnes continues 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.

The Virtual Collection Plate

Whilst there will be a collection plate at services (whose contents will be quarantined before counting and banking), however the guidance gives a clear preference for on-line giving.

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.