



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

News from the Parish – 20th September 2020

This week saw the muted commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. It may be me, but over the last few weeks there seem to have been more than the usual number of Spitfires and Hurricanes flying over the house. There's something about the sound of their engines that makes you want to look up at them and offer a gentle thanks.

Of course, Churchill captured the moment with his immortal words in August 1940 (which need to be read with his voice, timing and intonation in mind) :

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few"

Uncannily, perhaps, there is a link to the "few" in this week's gospel reading, about the labourers in the vineyard (Matthew 20), who all get paid the same amount. The gospel finishes with :

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

As an accountant (!), I never quite understood why someone who only worked an hour should be paid the same as someone who had worked all day, but of course that is not the point of the parable. The parable starts with : *"For the kingdom of heaven is like ..."*, and of course the kingdom of heaven doesn't follow our rules.

No matter how late we may be, to hearing the word of God, the opportunity always remains open to respond.



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

Church services

The services for this 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

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 (27th September) will be :

8.00	St Margaret's	Holy Communion	Rev Peter Francis
9.00	St Mark's	All Age Service	Rev Desmond Burton
10.00	St Margaret's	Parish Eucharist	Rev Peter Francis
11.15	St Mary's	Parish Mass	Rev Malcolm Elwes

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 (which is now mandatory).

Message from Anne and Chris Yarrow

"We would like to extend a big "thank you" for the extremely generous garden gift voucher presented to us by St. Mark's when we left Hadlow Down. We have big plans for our little Lewes garden, including what will be known as our "St. Mark's tree" (of necessity - a small one!).

"I delayed writing until we received a phone number, which we today learn is to be 01273 476505. Our mobiles work here (0756 223 1235 or 07900 004422), and we are keeping the same email address: yarrow@hmill.plus.com. Our address is The Old Coach House, Southover High Street, Lewes BN7 1HT (at the western end of the street, on the south side), and we do hope that many of you will drop by for a visit when you're in Lewes. We shall certainly be in Hadlow Down from time to time.

"The Parish Communion service at St. Anne's in Lewes is very similar to St. Mark's - but I do miss the surreptitious humming/singing behind our masks!



"We hope you are all well and in good spirits, and doubtless looking forward to welcoming Pete Molloy and his family."

Churchyard work party

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard last Saturday to give the churchyard at St Margaret's its late summer / early autumn tidy up. The idea is that it combines areas of regular "tidiness" (for which we are indebted to the regular troop) with a balance of letting nature take over for the majority of the year – keeping it in check on occasions.

Not wanting to forget the work done at the other two churches that ensures that they remain cared for.

We are grateful for grants provided by the civil parish that allows us to pay for mowing and hedge-cutting, that is beyond the scope of the volunteers, given that the churchyards are open to anyone in the villages.

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 collect "non-perishables" for the food bank and contact the main arrangers with anything to decorate the churches.

PCC Meeting

During Covid we have held one virtual PCC meeting and are now looking to hold a "socially distanced" one this coming Wednesday evening at St Mary's. This will update PCC members on what has been happening, plans for the future and preparations for the business of the APCM (see below).

This body helps oversee the running of the parish and its churches. If anyone is interested in joining the PCC, please do get in touch with the churchwardens. We have four vacancies to fill and it would be great if we could start the new Rector's time with us with a full PCC.



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 16: 2 - 15

Philippians 1: 21 - 30

Matthew 20: 1 - 16

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.