



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



News from the Parish – 21st June 2020

Today is the longest day (as I am writing this on 20th June) and is the summer solstice or midsummer day – being the longest day (around 16 ½ hours) – as opposed to Midsummer Day (24th June).

We had a small family tradition that, after today, the refrain "*The nights start drawing in*" would be used, even if we were sitting outside in glorious evening sunshine. This would be met by suitable admonitions to cheer up or look on the bright side.

It remains important to keep cheerful and look on the bright side of things, and sometimes that takes an effort, but is worth it.

Re-opening our churches

We are delighted to announce that all three of our churches are now open for private prayer during the day. John Palmer reports that after opening St Margaret's at 8.30 am on Sunday the first visitor walked through the door at 8.45.

Our thanks to those who co-ordinated and assisted in their re-opening, ensuring that they had a good clean and air, and have put in place the various arrangements to ensure that we follow government and diocesan guidelines. Please help us, when you visit, in following the guidance and keep yourself and others safe.

And now for services?

We are regularly asked about when services will resume and, to be honest, we don't know (does anyone?). It may be that there is a sudden announcement, but more likely we will have some notice and there will be rules and guidance to be adopted.



It is unlikely that we will be able to slot straight back into providing exactly the same pattern of services that we had before. This may be in part due to social distancing rules and in part to the availability of priests to lead our services. We have been contacting the main priests that we use to ask that, when services do re-commence, we would like them to ensure that they don't commit to others before considering our needs. Inevitably the number of priest available has decreased with shielding, but I am sure we will find solutions.

Prayers

We pray for the families of all those who have recently departed.

For the leaders of the Church and all those called to proclaim the good news: may they always proclaim the truth fearlessly, that all may have life to the full.

For our parish community: that we may find ways of enhancing the lives of those who live in our area.

For those who serve in government and parliament: that they will always seek peace, justice and reconciliation.

For those who are sick or suffering at this time; that in the midst of their pain and worry they may know that the Father is close beside each one of them.

For those who care for the sick and the frail in hospital, residential care or at home: may they be given the strength to continue in their caring ministry.

Father, may we show and proclaim your love to those around us who are in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord

Providing support

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.



Services

Fr David Milnes will continue to celebrate his solo Eucharist service at churches around the parish, so if you are visiting and the church is closed for this purpose – our apologies – but please do respect that he is celebrating on behalf of us all.

He is always 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, and this week we have Charlotte Rogers, Bob Ruthven and Andrew Osborne. Next week's readers have yet to be allocated, so if you are a new face or voice, always happy to hear from you.

One of the interesting facts emerging from the pandemic is that many more people are watching services than normally attend church services on a Sunday!

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 :

- Epistle read by Charlotte Rogers, Romans 5: 12-15
- Psalm read by Andrew Osborne, Psalm 69: 8-17
- Gospel read by Bob Ruthven, Matthew 10: 26-33

These can be found at :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-Y_g8eG074

Thanks to the readers, John Marsh for the music and Ed George for putting this together



Moment of Reflection

With thanks to Fr David Milnes :

TRINITY 2

Gospel – Matthew 10: 26-33

For many people life is anything but beautiful. For many people life is difficult and living is painful. To such people Jesus says, "Do not be afraid".

The television and internet bring into our homes, not only the beauty of the world, but the fear which the world has been facing over the last few months.

There may be moments when we question our faith, and at times like this we can be reassured and comforted that we have each other to sustain us in the faith. The Eucharist is being celebrated, even if we cannot, for now, be physically present to receive the Bread of Life. At the altars the prayers of the faithful are being laid, and we have the reassurance that we are caught up in the prayer of the Church catholic and the prayers of the communion of saints.

When we look at the scriptures we see that the prophets and followers of Jesus endured moments of doubt, and that fear is to be expected when facing the world. There is never any guarantee in life that nothing bad will happen to us, but we do have our Lord by our side, and he knows everyone of us, even
"...every hair on our head has been counted."

Fear can make us angry and can, in some circumstances, cause hostility. Some people have said that the pandemic has certainly brought out the best in people, but fear has also brought out the worst. Anyone who is frightened is living in the darkness of fear. Time and time again Jesus says *"Do not be afraid"*. Light will burst forth, and if we live as God's children, all fears will go away; we can help each other and the world to know that there is no need to be afraid. Our mission is to proclaim the healing, reconciling, powerful love of the Father to a broken and fearful world, and that is the Good News of the Easter faith.

May the Father protect us from all harm. May the free gift of the Son comfort and uphold us. May the Spirit strengthen us to build the Kingdom. Amen.



Thoughts on Intercessory Prayer from Sister Mary Clare

Sister Mary Clare is a member of the Society of Saint Margaret and is based at Saint Mary's Convent, Chiswick. A few years ago Sister Mary Clare lived in the Convent in Uckfield and worshipped at Saint Mary's, Buxted. She was also a member of our parish Walsingham Cell.

Members of a Religious Community come from different walks of life; therefore, on entering the Community, on the whole, the only thing we have in common is our religious vocation. This of course reflects in our prayer. As we are all individuals our personal prayer can take different forms, as is the way for everyone whether or not we live in a convent or a monastery. As a Community, we meet in chapel on a regular basis for the daily celebration of the Mass and for our Daily Office. During the Mass and at some of the Offices, prayers of intercession are offered for those who have requested it and for those for whom we have a mutual concern.

Although being in a Convent allows more opportunities to pray in the silence of a chapel, our prayer is just as important in the context of the busyness of our daily routine.

Belonging to a Community which still wears the traditional habit, invites situations whereby we are asked for our prayers when we are away from the Convent. On a few occasions, I have been asked to pray with someone in the middle of a shopping mall. Once I have assured the person that I will keep them in my prayers I often suggest that they pray themselves as well. Some people feel because they are not a priest or a member of a religious community they are not qualified to pray or that God will not listen to them.

There have been times when people have told me that they find it hard to pray because they do not know the correct words to use. When I pray, I speak with God in the same way as I would speak with a friend. At the beginning of my time of prayer, I always ask God to guide me and to show me who need my prayers, in this way I feel that I am putting myself into God's hands. It is a great temptation, particularly in intercessory prayer to tell God what he should do and how he should achieve it. All we need to do is to hold our concerns before God and allow Him to deal with the situation in His own way for he knows better than we do, always remembering that sometimes God will say yes, sometimes no or other times, not yet.



Even when we are confined to the house there are opportunities for prayer. I habitually pray for my Godchildren and remember people on their birthdays and special anniversaries. Being a member of the Guild of All Souls I also pray for the departed on the anniversary of their death, giving thanks for the support I have received from many of them throughout my life. However, each one of us will have our own special prayer intentions. Most of us receive the news on our radio or flashed up on the internet, at such times we can use a brief arrow prayer when we hear of something which we have a particular concern. God will always listen to our prayers even at the times we struggle to pray through tiredness and the busyness of our lives.

Roles in the Parish

Persistence still 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. He is very organised and will, I am sure, provide a full hand-over and support
- 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 do contact a Churchwarden.

The Virtual Collection Plate

We have had some generous responses to the virtual collection plate, but 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



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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/>

