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News from the Parish – 23rd August 2020

The end of the interregnum is in sight!

Your Churchwardens are delighted to make the following announcement :

"The Reverend Pete Molloy has been appointed Rector of Buxted and Hadlow Down. Pete comes to us from Canada, where he has served in parishes in Saskatchewan and Ontario. He has now been granted the necessary visa to undertake this role, though his post is subject to legal formalities. We look forward to welcoming him, his wife Ann and son Simeon. The date of his institution and induction will be finalised in the near future."



We will let him introduce himself and his family, in due course, but I am sure that we all welcome them to their new home and wish them all the best for their ministry with us.



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ST. MARGARET THE QUEEN • ST. MARY THE VIRGIN • ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

Coming from Canada they will have to quarantine for their first two weeks, so please do let them settle in and acclimatise.

We are very grateful (indeed) to Homer and Jan Cox who have led and co-ordinated a group of people to help prepare the Rectory (and its garden) for the Molloy's. Our thanks include all those who have gifted or lent furniture, fixtures and fittings, given the place a thorough scrubbing or worked at taming the garden. If you think that you might have something else to help welcome the Molloy's, please let the Cox's know (732321)

Our massive thanks to you all!

This week's Epistle (if I have got it right), comes from Romans and the second part of it talks about using the gifts that we have been given (verses 6-8) :

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." [New International Version]

For many of us, myself included, it can be difficult to know what your particular gifts are, and how you can use them for others. We don't all have the self-confidence of Presidents, Prime Ministers and some celebrities; and often feel that others will be better – so why volunteer?

Looking at the examples quoted in Romans, I liked the phrase *"if it is to encourage, then give encouragement;"*. At this time, possibly more than normal, we do need encouragement – to see the positives and feel the support of others that are around us – whether this is in our spiritual journey or just our daily lives.

The shrewd observers amongst you might now be expecting me to make a pitch for such gifts as acting as PCC Secretary, or helping out as a sidesperson at church, but that would be too corny, so I leave you with one of the phrases used during the Offertory from the Book of Common Prayer (2 Corinthians 9).

"Let every man do according as he is disposed in his heart, not grudging, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."



Church services

The services for this Sunday (23rd August) will be :

| | | |
|-------|---------------|------------------|
| 8.00 | St Margaret's | Holy Communion |
| 9.00 | St Mark's | All-Age Service |
| 10.00 | St Margaret's | Parish Eucharist |
| 11.15 | St Mary's | Parish Mass |

There will be a Thursday communion at St Margaret's at 10.00 am.

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.

The services for the following Sunday (30th August) will be slightly different, for a fifth Sunday :

| | | |
|-------|---------------|--|
| 8.00 | St Margaret's | Holy Communion |
| 9.00 | St Mark's | Parish Eucharist (see below) |
| 10.00 | St Margaret's | United Service (no service at St Mary's) |

Farewell to Anne Yarrow

The 9.00 service at St Mark's on 30th August will be Anne Yarrow's last service in Hadlow Down after four decades with us. She and Chris are moving to Lewes (so not that far away) and they leave with all our thanks and best wishes.

In light of her service to the church and village we have agreed to add in an "extra" service for her, and Fr David Milnes has agreed to squeeze in an extra service in his schedule.



Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest thanksgiving this year will be on Sunday 27th September, but we don't think that we can hold the usual Harvest Supper and Harvest Lunch, due to the pandemic restrictions on gatherings (happy to be corrected!).

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.

Do you have any other ideas about how we might make this more of a Harvest "Festival" for that week-end? Please put on your thinking caps and let us know.

Readings for this Sunday

Given my recent record in getting this right, below are some readings for this Sunday – with no guarantee that they are "the" readings for this Sunday :

Exodus 1: 8 – 2: 10

Romans 12: 1-8

Matthew 16: 13-20

Prayers

In our prayers this week we bring to mind Norman Longley, recovering in hospital after a fall, and the family of Nicola Whitehead, who has recently died, as well as all those known to us who require our prayers.

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.



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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.

