



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



News from the Parish – 28th June 2020

Earlier this week we woke up to find that we had a pair of fallow stags in our garden (two young bucks enjoying our apple trees and roses). They eventually left (safely) heading down the A272 and out into the countryside.

It did lead us to wonder whether this unusual event (it's a first for us in the twenty-five years that we have lived here) has anything to do with the fact that there has been less traffic and that the wildlife has become emboldened. Certainly the deer didn't seem particularly concerned when we went outside to watch them.

It seems that many people have benefitted from such encounters with nature, and long may it continue.



Plans for re-starting our church services

The announcement has been made, and now we await the detail. If all goes to plan our churches **SHOULD** re-open for services from next Sunday, 5th July.

Our plan is to try and run a "normal" rota of Sunday services, and we are contacting priests to ensure that, if originally booked for a service in July, they are still available. We have some names in reserve and are hopeful, but please bear with us.



The normal rota would be :

8.00	St Margaret's	Book of Common Prayer – Holy Communion
9.00	St Mark's	Parish Eucharist
10.00	St Margaret's	Parish Eucharist
11.15	St Mary's	Parish Mass

However, we are not expecting the detailed guidance on what we can (or cannot) do until early next week. This will come in the form of an Ad Clerum from the Bishop of Chichester, and will undoubtedly require us to complete risk assessments, set out distancing and hygiene rules, etc. We are being told that we don't have to open the churches for services on 5th July, if it is impractical to do so or we do not have the time to make the necessary arrangements.

Some comments have suggested that singing may not be allowed yet, and I doubt if we will be able offer each other the Peace, other than through a socially distanced wave and eye contact. We also don't know about what form eucharist may take, or what service books or sheets will be allowed.

We would hope to update our website with details, and will continue with this newsletter into July – particularly for those shielding and unable to attend a service. So hopefully full details next week.

Book Review

Valerie Banks recommends "The Shack" by William Paul Young

I have recently re-read this amazing book by William Paul Young, and it has renewed my faith yet again. It's an amazing work of fiction that explains our Trinity God in a completely different, but wonderful way than I had ever thought of.

As the review on the back of the book says "in a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, 'THE SHACK' wrestles with the timeless question 'where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?' The answers Mack gets will astound you, and perhaps transform you as much as it did him."



“Mackenzie Allen Philips youngest daughter has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence is found that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in a wilderness. Four years later, deep in his ‘Great Sadness’, Mack finds a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend”.

“Against his better judgement, Mack arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon, and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack’s world for ever”.

It is a wonderful story of just how much God cares for us and loves us, and how the Trinity helps and guides us in our daily lives here on earth. Having read the book before, I still found it hard to put it down again. If you can get hold of a copy, I really recommend that you read it.

Prayers

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

We pray for all who have been given leadership in the Church, for the bishops and all in ministry, that they would speak as Christ would speak, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We pray for the people of our world, especially those who need healing, or love or justice.

We pray for ourselves: may we constantly deepen our faith through prayer, reflection and the sacraments.

We pray for the strengthening of the sick: may the power of God heal and soothe them.

We pray for those who have experienced tragedy in their families and with their friends: may the hope of eternal life console and calm them in their grief.

Heavenly Father, hear our petitions and grant us a deeper understanding of and loyalty to the faith preached to us by your apostles, Peter and Paul, and their successors. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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, with his last one this weekend. 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 David Munday, James Neal and Ed George. Next week's readers have yet to be allocated, so if you are a new face or voice, always happy to hear from you.

Whilst there are no formal services in any of our churches this week, 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 David Munday, Acts 12: 1-11
- Psalm read by James Neal, Psalm 125
- Gospel read by Ed George, Matthew 16: 13-19

These can be found at :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvIOHLI9IFU&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks to the readers, John Marsh for the music and Ed George for putting this together – and Happy Birthday to William!

Moment of Reflection

With thanks to Fr David Milnes :

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Acts 12: 1-11 Gospel Matthew 16: 13-19

The feast of Saints Peter and Paul reminds us of the lives of two remarkable men. Both answered the call of Christ totally. As scripture puts it, they fought the good fight... they kept the faith.

Peter and Paul: two great saints – but certainly not plaster saints. They were men first; men who got scared as we get scared, men who argued and took offence and were impatient and cowardly, as we so often are. And yet Christ chose them to be his chief instruments in spreading the Gospel to the whole world – accepting and using the dark side of their characters as well as the light side.

We see in Peter none of the disciplined and calculated activity of Paul. Indeed we get the sense that they found each other quite difficult. Peter wept bitterly over his failings, was reprimanded by Christ, but was chosen to lead the disciples and to support the brethren. He unhesitatingly acclaimed: "You are the Christ the Son of the living God." Jesus gave him the nickname for rock: "Cephas" in Aramaic, and "Petros" in Greek. Simon was to be the rock upon which the new community was to be grounded.



Paul is called directly and suddenly, called by the one he is intent on destroying. The road to Damascus was a turning point in his life, and it was there that he knew he had met Jesus, who was to become his other self. He wrote: "I live, not I, but Christ lives in me."

We owe our faith to Saints Peter and Paul. As we celebrate their lives today may their example remind us that Christ accepts and uses us as he did them. He calls us not to an impossible ideal of complete and total virtue, but to serve him as we are – a strange mixture of good qualities and bad qualities.

It seems to have worked for Saints Peter and Paul. It can work for us, too. So long as we search for the truth and want to love God, we will be shown his will for us and enabled to do his work.

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life; grant that your Church, inspired by their example and teaching, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Saints Peter and Paul

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.



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

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 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/>