



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 17 May, 2020

Our Vision: To build God's Kingdom here on earth as in heaven

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4.4–7

SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020 – EASTER 6/ ROGATION SUNDAY

Rogation Sunday. Traditionally Rogation Sunday was the time when in the middle ages people would go out into the fields and ask God to bless crops that had been sown. Before the reformation great processions would go out from the parishes with banners and process around the parish boundaries. This was the start of the “Beating the Bounds” tradition whereby people would beat the boundary of the parish with sticks, marking their territory you might say.

Our service on Sunday will be an occasion to reflect and give thanks for the surrounding countryside, its beauty and its industry.

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Post Communion God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings: (Year A) Sixth Sunday of Easter Sunday 17 May 2020 – Rogation Sunday

First Reading Acts 17:22-31 Paul introduces the Athenians to their “unknown God”.

Second Reading I Peter 3:13-end To suffer justly, though hard, enables a clean conscience which, purified through baptism, leads to God.

Gospel John 14:15-21 Jesus prepares the disciples for his imminent departure from them and promises the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer List: Hostage John Cantlie, Mark Forsbrey, Emma Bradford, Wendy Cherry and Marian Clark.

R.I.P.: Gordon Gillett.

Prayers for Postponed wedding couples. We are now at the stage whereby we would now be starting our wedding season. A number of couples have had to postpone and reschedule their weddings. At the best of times weddings are very stressful, with the current uncertainty it is even worse. Please remember those who would have had their weddings shortly: Alex and Kelly, Abby and Chris, Chloe and Matthew.

Heavenly Father we pray for all those whose weddings have been postponed, be with them in this stressful time. Be with all couples, parents, friends and family who have been planning for their special day. Grant them peace, patience and hope that their dreams will be fulfilled, and their special day will not be long in coming. Amen

Online Services and other Resources

Wychwood Benefice:

- We continue to post services online each Sunday on [facebook.com/WychwoodBenefice/](https://www.facebook.com/WychwoodBenefice/) (You don't have to have a facebook account to access the videos).
- Additional resources will also be posted on the website: [WychwoodBenefice.org.uk](https://www.WychwoodBenefice.org.uk)

Oxford Diocese:

Please visit the website <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/> to keep up to date with everything that is up and coming including details of services that you can watch live, online.

- You can download an app for the Bishop of Oxford's Reflections (updated for 2020) Easter Pilgrim <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/easter-pilgrim>

Church of England

- **Daily Hope telephone line** available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. A Free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers.
- For Personal prayers: www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources
- For daily prayer and readings: www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer
- For the latest Church of England guidelines and other resources please visit: www.churchofengland.org/

Church Times

- Church Times are currently producing a free downloadable supplement “Lift Up Your Hearts” each Friday <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/>

Notices

Christian Aid Week 10-17 May 2020

Many thanks to everyone who has donated online. If you have not yet had chance to and would like to, please visit the website: <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/>

Update on Church buildings

The Church of England has now given permission for limited access to our church buildings. The incumbent or other designated person can go into church to say their prayers and carry out other activities: clock winding, ringing a bell on Sundays (but not full circle bellringing, just chiming) checking on the organ and cleaning amongst other things. But there is still the reminder to go in alone or with someone from the same household.

With this in mind Anne and I will be going into church to say our prayers and between us will be praying in all 4 of our churches at some point during the week.

There is also permission for using the church buildings for streaming or filming services, so our Sunday services will now have more varied locations.

Longer term the Government’s COVID19 Recovery Strategy says: “...churches could be open from July as part of the continual and phased plan to begin lifting the lockdown.” Please note, it says “could” so we must wait and see.

Full details are on the Church of England website.

Messy Church Takeaway

We are planning to send out another Messy Church Takeaway. This is a bag containing messy church activities along with a reflection and some prayers as well as the “instructions” on the craft activities. There will also be a short video on Facebook to accompany the activities.

The plan is to send out a Messy Church activity pack once a month as well as a shorter activity and reflection sheet once a month. This activity and reflection sheet will also go out in the school email to parents.

Weekly Zoom (online) Church Coffee Morning, Tuesdays 10.30-11.10.

Login details are sent by email with the weekly Church News and can also be obtained from Clare (email office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk)

You do not need to have a Zoom account but you do need to have downloaded Zoom onto whichever device you wish to use to join the meeting on. Let Clare know if you need any help. Do join us to connect with others from the Benefice, say hello and let us know how you are doing.

Lockdown Volunteers needed

If you would be happy to say one of the readings in an upcoming service please contact Geoffrey or Anne.

Giving whilst the church buildings are closed

Thank you to all those who have kindly responded to the recent letter from Geoffrey by making payments into Shipton and Milton accounts. If you have done this and you are a taxpayer, please let us know so we can send you a gift aid form. Please email office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk

If you have not yet had chance to donate and would like to, please see the letter here for details.

<https://wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Giving-April-2020.pdf>

Donations to the Foodbank

We are encouraging people to continue to support the foodbank by donating money for the time being. You can either donate via the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank website

<http://www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk/donations/4542603964>

Readings: Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday 24 May 2020

First Reading Acts 1:6-14 After witnessing Jesus ascend to heaven, the disciples return to Jerusalem. They haven't understood all that they have seen and heard, so they pray together, along with Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

Second Reading I Peter 4:12-14. 5:6-11 We glorify God by suffering as Christians, and he will help us in our suffering. God loves us and will reward us for our loyalty and friendship.

Gospel John 17:1-11 Jesus prays for his disciples that we may be one with him and the Father.

Contact Details

The Benefice Office is currently closed, Clare is working from home and will be checking emails and phone messages Mon – Fri.

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Vicar: Rev Geoffrey Clement vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk 01993 832514

Rest Day: Thursday

Rev'd Anne Hartley anne@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk 01993 830160