



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 24 May, 2020

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

SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020 – EASTER 7

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Post Communion Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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.

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). **New** You can also watch the services on the benefice website too: <https://wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/>
- Additional resources will also be posted on the website: WychwoodBenefice.org.uk

Geoffrey is seeking volunteers to make recordings of the readings for the online Sunday Service. Also it would be nice to have short recordings of people responding to the "Peace". This way we get to see some of our friends who we haven't seen for a while. If you are not sure how to do this please get in touch with Geoffrey.

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

Shipton Church Update

Things are starting to move again with the work on the roof. Last week a Bat Survey was carried out at the church, and next week the Architect and Structural Engineer are coming to look at the outside of the roof. It is hoped that we will be able to get contractors to submit tenders for the work.

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: Pentecost Sunday 31 May 2020

First Reading Acts 2:1-21 The Holy Spirit equips the disciples to witness to Jesus.

Second Reading I Corinthians 12:3b-13 The Spirit gives the Church all the gifts it needs to do its work for Jesus.

Gospel John 20:19-23 The risen Jesus breathes his Spirit on the disciples.

Contact Details

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

Tel 01993 832467 office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk

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

Rest Day: Thursday

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