



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 31 May, 2020

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

SUNDAY 31 MAY 2020 – PENTECOST

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings: Pentecost Sunday 31 May 2020

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

Second Reading 1 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.

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

R.I.P.: Frank Watts.

Prayers for Postponed wedding couples. We are now at the stage whereby we would have started 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 around this time: 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

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.

Shipton Church Update

This week we had a visit from the architect. He carried out an inspection of the cast iron ties that hold the walls of the clerestory together as well as looking at the parapet walls on the roof.

Virtual Pilgrimages

You can now find details on the virtual pilgrimages on the following website:

<https://www.stmaryscnorton.com/serving-you/virtual-pilgrimages.php>

You may also like to take a look at Revd DrSally Welch's latest video of readings, reflections and music on the journey from St Mary's Charlbury to All Saints' Shorthampton <https://youtu.be/ofXKXm8I kds>

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.

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: June 7 Trinity Sunday

First Reading Isaiah 40:12-17. 27-end

There is nothing to compare with the everlasting God who needed no outside help to make the universe, who strengthens the weak and weary and rescues those who trust in the Lord: creating, empowering, saving.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 13:11-end

Paul urges all Christ's disciples to live in peace with one another, as children of the God of love and peace through the grace of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

The risen Christ promises to be with the remaining disciples as they make new disciples from all over the world, in the name of one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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