

Reflection - Boxes

I've been thinking about boxes, Lord;
I like boxes – they're so useful.
Put something in a box and it stays there.
I know where it is and where it will be – for ever.
They stop me getting overwhelmed
by the mass of stuff all around.
I like boxes, Lord.

But you're so difficult,
I can't find a box for you.
I put you in one and you turn up in another.
I look away for a moment and you slip away completely
and I can't find you at all.
How can I keep track of you if you keep moving around?
Why won't you stay in my box?

I've labelled it up for you beautifully;
it says G O D in big colourful letters.
I've put it right next to this other one,
the one labelled C H U R C H.
That one's beautiful too;
it has music and poetry and colour
and even smells a little bit of incense.
It has to be beautiful because
I don't want it mixed up with all those others,
the plain, ordinary life ones.
That wouldn't do at all!

*Loving God,
help us when we try to live in boxes,
forgive us when we try to put you in one
and rescue us when we get trapped
in beautiful but worthless places.
Come to us, shake us, move us
and draw us into your unbounded dance of love.
Amen.*

The Beacon Benefice

Prayer Diary

February 2017

Welcome the shortest prayer diary of the year because, of course, February is the shortest month of the year!

As you will have gathered from my sermons through Epiphany, this year we will be thinking and praying about the mission of our Church here in the Beacon Benefice. But that doesn't mean we are putting prayer on the back burner, as it were. We are part of God's Church and it is therefore his mission for us that we need to discover – and that brings us back to prayer! It is by listening to God, not just talking at him, that we will find out his plans for us; so keep listening.

Our reflection this month also follows on from my sermons last month. In 2017 let's try and rediscover the real God.

Rev Mike

Beacon Prayer

Please help us pray our way around all our Churches.

3rd Feb Edge
10th Feb Harescombe
17th Feb Cranham
24th Feb Sheepscombe

3rd Mar Painswick
10th Mar Pitchcombe
17th Mar Edge
24th Mar Harescombe
31st Mar Brookthorpe

Weekly Prayer Themes

30th Jan – 4th Feb
Access to medical care for all

6th – 11th Feb
Education for all children

13th – 18th Feb
Fair treatment for all women

20th – 25th Feb
An end to all forms of slavery

27th Feb – 4th Mar
The growth of fair trade

Date	Reading	Church	Community	People who live in ...
1	Hosea 11.1–11	Office volunteers	Local pubs	Ashwell PA
2	Exodus 13.1-16	Open the Book	Local restaurants and cafes	Back Edge Lane ED
3	Hosea 13.1–14	Organists	Local secondary schools	Beacon Close PA
4	Hosea 14	Painswick Church Rooms	Local shops	Beacon Lane PI
6	John 15.1–11	Painswick Roman Catholic Church	Local sports facilities	Beech Lane SH
7	John 15.12–17	Painswick Society of Friends	Neil Carmichael MP	Berry Close PA
8	John 15.18–end	Pastoral visitors/Links	Painswick Centre	Bisley Street PA
9	John 16.1–15	PCC members	Painswick Health Centre	Blakewell Mead PA
10	John 16.16–22	Psalms volunteers	Painswick Library	Brookthorpe Road BR
11	John 16.23–end	Retired clergy	Painswick Tourist information Centre	Buckholt Road CR
13	John 17.1–5	Retired Readers	Painswick Town Hall	Butt Green PA
14	John 17.6–19	Sacristans/Vergers	Painswick Village	Canton Acre PA
15	John 17.20–end	Sheepscombe Methodist Church	Painswick Youth & Community Pavilion	Castle Close PA
16	John 18.1–11	Sidespeople	Parish Councils	Cheltenham Road PA
17	John 18.12–27	St James, Cranham	Pitchcombe Village	Cheltenham Road PI
18	John 18.28–end	St John the Baptist, Edge	Pitchcombe Village Hall	Church Close CR
20	John 19.1–16	St John the Baptist, Harescombe	Resthaven Nursing Home	Churchill Way PA
21	John 19.17–30	St John the Baptist, Pitchcombe	Richmond Care Village	Cotswold Mead PA
22	John 19.31–end	St John, Sheepscombe	Sheepscombe Primary School	Court Orchard PA
23	John 20.1–10	St Mary's, Painswick	Sheepscombe Village	Cranham Corner
24	John 20.11–18	St Mary's, Kabanga, Tanzania	Sheepscombe Village Hall	Cranham Village
25	John 20.19–end	Couples preparing to marry this year	The emergency services	Cud Lane ED
27	John 3.1–21	Stroud Foodbank and Furniturebank	The retired	Edge Lane ED
28	John 3.22–end	Sue Hartley	The unemployed	Edge Road PA