

*Online*

*…linking the Beacon Parishes*

**Sunday 5th July 2020 - 4th Sunday after Trinity**

**Rector’s Voice**

Back at the beginning of the year as we held the Epiphany Benefice Service with Archdeacon Hilary and dedicated ourselves to a new era for the Beacon Benefice, we had no idea what the next 6 months would bring.

Then I wrote in the Beacon Light:

*“We are at the start of exciting times across the Benefice as I settle into my role here, as you get used to your new Rector with her different ways of thinking and doing and as we begin to seek God’s way forward for us as a Benefice, never forgetting that we are united but also individual in God’s eyes.*

*Once again, I say, A Happy and Blessed New Year!”*

We are now at the start of yet another new era- one in which as I wrote on the 7th June- *We have not been this way before,* echoing the words of Joshua. Now we are awaiting the guidance from the Bishops as to how we can resume Public Services, but having seen the Government guidelines I can tell you they won’t be anything like what we had before March. Frequency, content and numbers allowed will all be different and we are unlikely to begin before the end of July and may even have to wait until August.

I will leave you with an extract from a letter sent to all Incumbents and Church Wardens in the Benefice by Bishops Rachel and Robert,

***“For this reason, for the moment we would suggest you don’t rush your plans for the resumption of public worship. We know there are some in our communities who are hoping that things can go straight back to how they were. This will not be the case – we will need to go gently, taking time especially over the summer months as we continue to learn from this experience and shape all aspects of our church for the future. The decision on when and how to return to public worship in our church buildings will depend on local circumstances and available resources, and the permission being given is as before permissive and not prescriptive. Our expectation over the summer is that it will be simple and limited in scope.”***

**Readings for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

***Collect:***

Gracious Father,

by the obedience of Jesus

you brought salvation to our wayward world:

draw us into harmony with your will,

that we may find all things restored in him,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Psalm 145:8-15**

8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,

long-suffering and of great goodness.

9 The Lord is loving to everyone

and his mercy is over all his creatures.

10 All your works praise you, O Lord,

and your faithful servants bless you.

11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom

and speak of your mighty power

12 To make known to all peoples your mighty acts

and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;

your dominion endures throughout all ages.

14 The Lord is sure in all his words

and faithful in all his deeds.

15 The Lord upholds all those who fall

and lifts up all those who are bowed down

**The Gospel according to Matthew 11:16-19 , 25-end.**

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

As the pandemic continues many of us may be feeling weary and heavy laden but God promises us He will share the burden if we turn to Him. Sometimes He does this by sending others to walk alongside us and help to lift the yoke that we struggle with.

What are you burdened with at this time?

Who do you know who is carrying a heavy burden?

Turn to God and pray for yourself or others who are burdened.

**I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY**

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;

Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;

I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give

The living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life giving stream;

My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's Light;

Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;

And in that light of life I'll walk, till travelling days are done.

*Author- Horatius N Bonar*

**Sunday Worship**

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/>

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship

BBC1 1.15pm Songs of Praise

**Weekday Worship**

9.45am Daily Service - Radio 4 (Long Wave)

3.30pm Wednesday Choral Evensong - Radio 3

Uk Blessing- <https://youtu.be/PUtll3mNj5U>

https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsBelvedere/?hc\_location=ufi

https://www.facebook.com/greenwaychurches/?hc\_location=ufi

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.

Daily, across our parishes, you may wish to join a time of prayer together at 6.30pm by lighting a candle, saying the Lord’s Prayer and praying for all those who are in need especially those affected by Covid19.

Weekly on a Thursday morning at 9.30am a number of the congregation of Sheepscombe St John’s gather at a distance via Zoom to share in their customary simple form of service.   If you would like to join them or would like a copy of the service sheet please email Karen Riding [kriding07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kriding07@yahoo.co.uk).

**Church Buildings Open for Private Prayer in the Beacon Benefice**

**St James the Great Cranham-** open Tuesday 2-3.30pm and Saturday 10am-11.30am

**St John the Baptist Edge** – open for individual prayer from 10-11am on Wednesday mornings . Only 15 people can be accommodated safely during this session. If you wish to use the church for individual prayer please could you let us know which Wednesdays you will be attending by contacting either:

Malcolm Hollingsworth - email: Malcolm.Hollingsworth@optimumoils.com or tel: 01452 812780 or Viv Barrett - email: vebarrett@btopenworld.com or tel: 01452 814564.

**St John the Baptist Harescombe**- opening by appointment, so anyone wanting to visit for private prayer or reflection please contact Tamsin 07880 791012 or Brian 07790 886307 who will be as accommodating as possible.

**St Mary the Virgin Painswick**- open Monday and Friday 11am- noon

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**Cranham Covid-19  Community Response Team:** The initial contact for Cranham residents is: [nigelrobincooper@gmail.com](mailto:nigelrobincooper@gmail.com) Tel: 07973 340227

**St. Mary’s Pastoral Link system:** Anyone who is self-isolating or unable to get out, we can help you by getting shopping, prescriptions etc. Please contact Delyth Allen (St. Mary’s Pastoral Link Coordinator) on 813182 or 07854262517 or email [delyth\_allen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:delyth_allen@hotmail.co.uk)

**Painswick COVID-19 Community Support:** If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 or [painswick.covid19@gmail.com](mailto:painswick.covid19@gmail.com)

Beacon People

* Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Ursula Daws, William Daws, Gina Griffiths, Andrea Linsell, George Martin, Rosemary McIlvenna, Ken Morgan, Rowland** and **Maggie Oxland, Michael** and **Jean Ward**.
* Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes and for all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes.
* We also remember before God all who have died recently, especially **Christopher Brent-Smith** as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord*

*And let light perpetual shine upon them*

Notices

Although the Government has announced that Churches may resume public services from the 5th July we are awaiting further guidelines as to how we can do this safely before making decisions about commencing public worship in our church buildings. Be assured we will do this as soon as we feel we can safely meet all the requirements and will let you all know by email, Facebook and of course Beacon Light. Thank you for your patience as we try to discern the right way forward for the Beacon Benefice.

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**Stroud Foodbank** urgently require **toiletries.** A collection point is being organised in **St. Mary’s Churchyard, Painswick on Wednesday15th July 10am-12noon.** They would be very grateful for contributions of: *Deodorant, Shaving kits, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower gel, Washing powder, Washing up liquid.* Thank you so much for your support.

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**PSALMS news and prayer requests -** Over the last few weeks we have been seeing a wider variety of young people in our online clubs. This has been a real blessing to see, especially being young people we haven’t seen since before the lockdown started. It’s a highlight and testimony to us that during this lockdown God is still working in the lives of so many.

**Prayer Points:** At the start of next week we have all of the PSALMS staff returning to work at least in a part time capacity. This is a great time for us as lockdown starts to be lifted, would you be praying over them and that they have a smooth transition back into work. Would you pray for wisdom and protection over the PSALMS team as we choose what activities to pick up in a practical sense and what we should carry on in a virtual sense.Would you be also praying for the young people who have started coming to some of our groups. Would you pray that they feel comfortable an included in our virtual groups. On top of that would you pray they have fun and really enjoy being part of the groups.This Thursday Emily one of our strategic sports ministers has been invited to speak on virtual sports ministry for Scripture Union Global , would you be praying over her and the people she is speaking to. Would they be motivated and inspired by Gods works through PSALMS, would you be praying for Emily for her to be filled with wisdom and confidence as she speaks to people across the globe.

Contacts

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Website: [www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk/)

*The Benefice Office is* c*urrently closed .*

Information for next week’s Beacon Light Online to [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com) by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest,** please.