

NewsLink

21st June – 28th June 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Dear Friends

Looking after your spiritual health

It is important for all of us to look after our spiritual health as well as our physical and mental health during this time. This is as important for clergy as lay people in these challenging times, when the danger is to be so busy looking after everyone else's spiritual and other needs that we may forget our own.

We all need to find ways to pray, read the Bible, talk to other Christians maybe by phone or socially distanced.

For those of you online, do keep looking at our website and at the Church of England web for new resources and online services. We are aware that many people do not have access to online so have prepared some material for you to access in this edition of NewsLink.

The Church of England have now produced a series of 13 pdf reflections, free to download from cofe.io/mentalhealth and some of their online services will address this theme in weeks to come.

I was never encouraged to memorise poems or prayers when I was at young, but it's a skill I have always admired in others. For those like me, we may find it helpful to memorise a verse or passage of scripture that we can use when we feel anxious, such as:-

Psalm 121

Assurance of God's Protection

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore

Matthew 28:20

Jesus said, "And remember, I am with
you always,
to the end of the age"

Our organist Fay Egerton

Sadly, Fay will not be able to play for us when we return to church. She played mainly at Christ Church and Monkton Farleigh so those congregations will know her well. Fay wants to spend more time with her husband Chris. She sends her best wishes to us all, said she felt privileged to play for us and has really appreciated joining in our worship. I have sent her and Chris our blessings and e-booktoken in appreciation. We shall miss her.

Churches open for private prayer and meditation

From 21st June, three of our churches are planning to open for individual prayer. Details are being finalised and if known, will be announced during our online service on Sunday morning. At the moment details are as follows:

Christ Church: intend to open The Lady Chapel for a few hours on Monday mornings, Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings.

St James, South Wraxall are hoping to open the Longs Chapel each day

St Nicholas, Winsley are planning to open on Sunday afternoons from 14.00 – 17.00 and Thursday mornings from 10.00 – 13.00

St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh have yet to plan. They are concentrating at the moment on their faculty for a prayer corner.

Also.....Caring for our environment

Dave Green, a local botanist has cordoned off an area of Winsley Churchyard to observe the flora. He will be in the churchyard this Sunday 21st from 3.00 for at least an hour so if you would like to meet him, ask him questions about the project and his findings, do come along. Social distancing will of course be observed!

Many blessings
Ann, Rector

From Anne Liversidge

"You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think."
—Christopher Robin

Benefice Online Service and Resources

The link to this Sunday's service '*Courage in the storm*' will be available on the Benefice Website by Sunday morning www.nboachurches.co.uk along with additional resources.

Each week we will also publish your photos, Bible verses that have spoken to you, reflections and poems in Newslink or on the website. So please do send these to Ann Keating by the Thursday of each week.

If you know someone who can not access Newslink online and who would prefer a hard copy, please send their name and postal address to Ann Keating. We will post a copy to them by Royal Mail in line with the C of E guidelines for safe distribution

From Stephen Pike

The Pastor's wife walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. "What are you doing?" She asked. "Hunting flies" He responded. "Oh. Killing any?" She asked. "Yep, 3 males, 2 females," he replied. Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?" He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

Ten Reasons Eve Was Created:

10. God was worried that Adam would frequently become lost in the garden because he would not ask for directions.

From Mary Hewetson, who has found this from Isaiah very comforting...

Isaiah 41:10

"I have chosen you and have not neglected you
So do not fear for I am with you
Do not be dismayed for I am your God
I will strengthen you and help you
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"

A wild flower meadow from Judith Hughes (in response to Ann Chapman's report last week)

I share your interest Ann in creating a wild flower meadow as we have been doing this now for some years. Unfortunately for us the grass that was there was the rather tough variety which is hard for the plants to compete with. The decision is whether to have a perennial meadow or an annual. If you go for the latter it has to be cleared off and resown every year.

We have found that the generous use of yellow rattle (purchased in bulk from Emorsgate seeds, they have a farm just outside Bath though are based in Norfolk) helps to keep the grass down.

We have plenty of ox-eye daisies and the field geranium as well as cowslips in the spring and many more of the common plants including buttercups. The council have decided to re-wild existing grass areas (apart from the verges) and we have one such area in Priory.

It will be interesting to see what comes up. I have already counted at least six different types of grasses. Presumably it was once a meadow before being part of the grounds of Priory House.

Beth and Matt should have been married at St. James on 13th June. Beth's mum created a special flower arrangement in the church porch to mark the day. **From Tessa Mann**



Worship and Prayer Resources to access without the internet.....

Radio 3 **Choral Evensong** 15.30
Wednesdays, repeated at 15.00 on Sundays.

Radio 4: Sundays 7.10 **Sunday** – news with a faith focus

Sundays 8.10 **Sunday Worship**



BBC 1: **Songs of Praise**
1.15pm every Sunday

Church of England Daily Hope – this is a free phone line.



If you feel like some fresh devotional material, The Bible Reading Fellowship publish quarterly **Bible Readings for Older People** £5.15



Written by older people for older people, these reflections are designed to bring hope, assurance and sustenance, reminding the reader of the presence and love of God.

New Daylight is another daily devotional published quarterly
£5.95 **Both available from BRF Tel: 01865 319700**

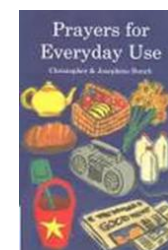


Books

There are many excellent Christian books available which can be ordered from our local bookshop – **ExLibris** in Bradford on Avon. **01225 863595**. They will mail out any books you order.

Here are a few ideas:

Prayers for Everyday Use
by Christopher Bunch
Canterbury Press approx £7.99.



All through the night: Prayers and readings from dusk till dawn

by Michael Counsell published by Canterbury Press

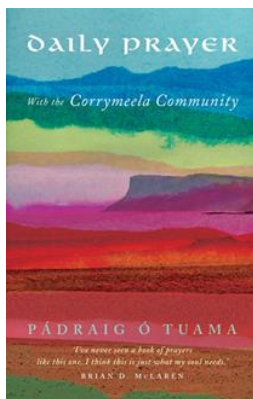


This wide-ranging collection is the perfect bedside companion and will help soothe us to sleep, dispel night time fears and attune us to the gifts and opportunities that each new day brings.

Approx. £12.99

Daily Prayers with the Corrymeela Community

A beautifully short and simple structure for morning and evening prayer.
Published by Canterbury Press
£8.99 approx.



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Do check the website as resources are added regularly and check Instagram and Facebook for all our latest news.

Please send in any book recommendations and we will publish in future editions of NewsLink.

If you need any help ordering books or accessing resources, contact Rev Tessa Mann 01225 309374