

# NewsLink

7<sup>th</sup> June – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

Dear friends

Some of our children have gone back to school, we're starting to see more planes in the sky and hear more road traffic. However our church buildings remain closed for now and with social distancing requirements we need to think of different ways of meeting on-line. Many of us are experiencing different ways of communicating such as Zoom, GotoMeeting or Microsoft Teams.

## Homegroup meetings

Last night I joined in a Homegroup meeting on Zoom and following on from our last Sunday's service on Pentecost, we explored our experience of learning about Pentecost, how the disciples must have felt and how the Holy spirit can impact on our lives, especially at this time.

A quick glance at the New Testament Church reveals that the early disciples not only met for public worship, but also in small groups in their homes.

In the mid 1700's John Wesley influenced thousands of people in a ministry that changed the course of the nation. He realised that our personal relationship with God is lived out in fellowship with others, so he invested much in small group meetings.

In fact it has been claimed that nearly every spiritual awakening in the history of the church has been accompanied by tiny cells of Christians meeting together to study the Bible, pray and minister to one-another.

If you have never belonged to a Home group there are five aspects for group life:

- Worship
- Prayer

- Bible study
- Fellowship
- Mission

Groups wouldn't give attention to all five at any one meeting but they would be components of a healthy group life.

The aim is each group is:

1. To get to know other people beyond a superficial level, and form deep relationships of trust
2. To help one another to grow, learning from the scriptures and from the example of others, receiving encouragement and developing accountability to one another
3. To both give and receive pastoral care as we learn to share one another's burdens
4. To encourage one another in acts of service and outreach, and to get involved (where we can) in such activities together.

I would encourage everyone to join a Home Group because we see it as the best way to grow as a Christian and it really fosters that deep sense of belonging.

Obviously, at this time we cannot meet for public worship in church, or in one another's homes, but we can meet on-line, we can get to know one another better, we can study the Bible and learn from each other, we can pray for one another and encourage one another as we seek to support others in our communities and beyond.

If you would like to know more or to explore the possibility of joining a small group of about 6 people, do get in touch with me. Email me at [rev.ann.keating@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.ann.keating@btinternet.com), ring me on 01225 722230 or text/WhatsApp me on 07702 020733

## A prayer for Pentecost

As the sun was still shining, I led the service outside in the garden with the Winsley wind blowing (or was it the breath of God?) and the birds singing. But Pentecost and its flames remind me too of candle light, with flickering flames giving off the warmth of fire, and of light dispelling the darkness. As our gardens and countryside enjoy some long awaited rain, and the sun is hidden behind clouds, I thought I would light a candle and share this prayer for Pentecost with you.

We light a candle,  
and enjoy the flickering light,  
the fragrance  
and warmth it creates.  
But without the spark that ignites,  
there will be no flame.  
Without the wax,  
the source of power,  
the wick will not burn.  
Without the flame,  
there will be no fragrance,  
no warmth, no light.  
And so with us, Lord.  
You are the catalyst that ignites us,  
and the fuel that sustains us.  
You fill us with your fragrance  
as you enter our lives.

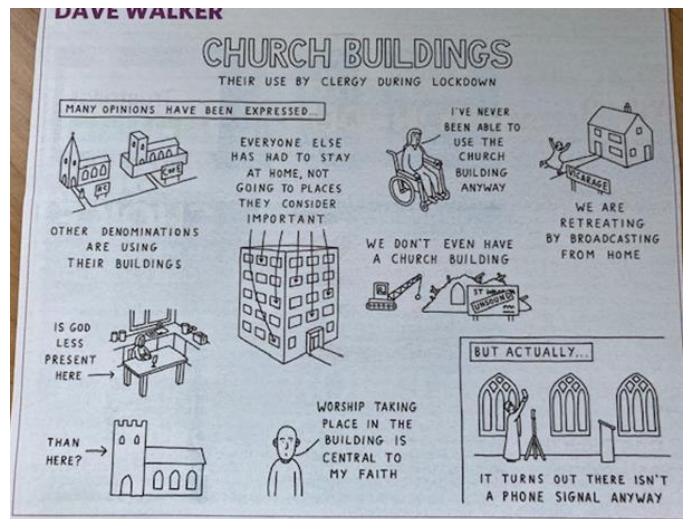
## Online resources

If you didn't catch last Sunday's service led by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, with encouragement from the Pope and inspirational music from Matt Redmond, (10,000 Reasons and Amazing Grace). Do download it [here](#)

Also, I know many of us are really enjoying Bishop Andrew's *Going to Ground* short reflections each day. If you haven't seen any yet, they are on YouTube. Just search for: 'going to ground Andrew Rumsey'

Finally, I thought the following cartoon might amuse you!

Have a very blessed week. Stay safe and stay well.,  
Ann, Rector



## Benefice Online Service and Resources

The link to this Sunday's service 'Trinity Sunday' is now available below.

<https://youtu.be/6vy-qazggDI>

It will also be available on the Benefice Website [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://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

## And sadly.....

It is with great sadness that we learned that Gordon Messer, a long-standing member of Christ Church has died. His funeral service will be held at Haycombe Crematorium on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 10.45. Our hearts go out to his wife Joy and their family at this very sad time. Please do remember them in your prayers.

A thanksgiving service for Gordon's life will be held at Christ Church when possible.

Ann, Rector

## Time and Tide

Car keys hanging about doing nothing,  
days out done for,  
hopeless, hapless high-days ,holidays, holydays,  
even weddings rubbed off the calendar.

My eyes shut  
and  
open  
on the beach at our beloved Porthcurnick.  
Bright summer light blinks the blue.

The tide breathes in and out across the flat sand.

I wonder.

What has the tide washed up?  
What has swept away into the deep?  
Detritus and treasure.  
To lose or to keep.

TGM



## A new noticeboard for St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh



Our thanks go to Steven Calpin for his masterly carpentry skills in building two matching noticeboards; one for Monkton Farleigh Parish Council and one for our church.

Thanks also go to Adrian Moodie for installing them.

Don't they look splendid!

From the members of St Peter's PCC

### Ministry Team

Rector Rev Ann Keating  
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### Benefice Office

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South Wraxall:  
Dave Wyper (865384) Valentine Thornhill (862552)

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### Children's and Families Worker

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

### From Stephen Pike,

The rector was old, very devout, but sometimes far away during the service. One Sunday, during Evensong, as we reached the creed there was silence so the curate went across to him, touched his arm gently and whispered "I believe in God, sir".

"So do I", replied the rector happily - "so do I".