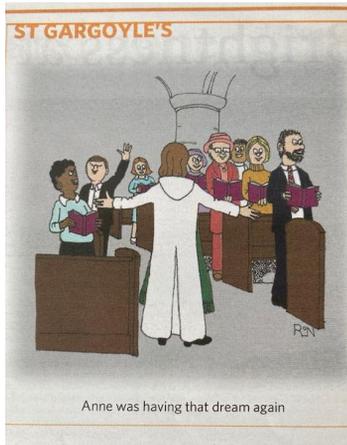


NewsLink

12th July – 26th July 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages



Dear friends,

Yes I was dreaming of the times when we can be together again. We are working on how to make everyone feel safe and welcome in our churches as we look to reopen for public worship. We shall go slowly as advised by Bishop Nicholas, making sure everything is in place, risk assessments completed and so on.

In the meantime we shall continue with our online services. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to be part of those services. I know that people really appreciate seeing others online. It brings us all back together in some way.

Last Saturday however Carrie and Dwayne did get married at St Nicholas Church, Winsley. I took a photo of the happy couple to share with you. Do please keep them in your prayers. They plan to have a large celebration next year when hopefully much of life is back to normal.



I was very impressed with Stephen's project, featured in this NewsLink. How beautiful. On a much more modest scale, I was delighted to pick my first cherry tomatoes this year.



Ann Rector

A prayer you might want to make your own.....

*Give me, O Lord,
a calm soul and a clear head,
a broad mind and a generous spirit.*

*Give me, a warm heart and a listening ear,
my true voice and a gentle touch.*

*Give me,
a hunger for justice and a thirst for peace,
a passion for truth and a love of mercy.*

*Give me,
a painter's eye and a poet's tongue,
a saint's patience and a prophet's hope.*

*Give me,
a sage's wisdom and a fool's delight,
a pilgrim's purpose and an angel's content.*

Amen

An amusement – Stephen Pike

A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What Denomination?" Asked the assistant. "Oh, my goodness! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well give me 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic!"



Just thought I'd share a photo of a project I started in May to create a living wall which now hides the drainpipe outside our kitchen window. I painted an old pallet in May and planted it up at the beginning of June. This is what it looks like now! **Stephen Pike**

The lighter side of lockdown - Two lockdown psalms

I have dwelt long in the house of lockdown: I have enclosed myself in the habitation of Netflix and groaning.

They have set me my bounds which I shall not pass: I keep the statutes and observe the laws.

I entered into the supermarket, but it was barren: its plenty was turned into empty shelves, and there was no toilet paper in it.

Neither were there delivery slots by day nor by nights: verily, not even from Ocado.

(2nd part) Deliver us from the wilderness of delivery: and deliver our deliveries unto us.

I am become a stranger unto the pub, and unto the office; even an alien unto Pizza Express.

The sun ariseth, and I go forth to work and to my labour: even in my pyjamas until the evening.

I am weary of Zoom, my throat is dry: it melteth away like wax as my broadband vanisheth

Yet they gape unto me with their mouths and say: thy toddler sitteth lurking in the corner of the screen, and lo he imagineth mischief.

And thou, of daughter of lockdown; thou shalt do thy phonics in exile

Also thy literacy and numeracy work, and thy comprehension: yea verily, even thy fronted adverbials.

They have sprayed markers for my feet: they have set a place for me on the pavement outside Tesco Metro.

The unrighteous forget their social distancing: I swerve from their transgressions.

(2nd part) The people rebuke each other: and bear in their bosoms the rebukes of many people.

A mask hath covered my face and I wash my hands: neither have I found any hand sanitiser to comfort me.

The pestilence layeth siege against me: according to the cleanness of my hands shall I be recompensed.

Clap your hands, all ye neighbours: clap in the front gardens and on the doorsteps.

Make a thankful noise, for it is Thursday: clap your hands and bang the pots, bang the mighty pan from the stove, the frying pan from the draining board, and the little pan from under the sink.

Rejoice, for thou hast booked a delivery: a weekly slot even unto the end of July.

Surely plenteousness shall be in thy house: goodness shall follow thee, at a two-metre distance, all the days of thy life.

(2nd part) our garner shall be full: and Netflix shall bring forth thousands and ten thousands of new episodes for evermore.

Arise, yea, verily, for the lockdown easeth: gird thy face with apparel and go into the city.

Rejoice in the fruitful offices, all ye who were furloughed: but thy going out and thy coming in shall not be on public transport.

Rest ye alert by day, and alert by night: and the pillars shall deliver ye out of the wilderness.

Judgement and remembrance shall be thine heritage; and ye shall dwell in the house of austerity for ever.

A hopefully encouraging thought

There are many people who look back wistfully to days when they were able to play a very active part in church life and because of advanced age or immobility are no longer able to do so.

However, there is one activity in which they can remain – that of prayer which can be practised until the very end of life. There are so many people and events needing prayer that they will never run out of things for which to pray.

What a support that can be for the younger and physically active. **Josie Griffith**

Theological Anthropology. A Study.

What does it mean? The answer is quite simple. It is our continuous and personal experience of the grace and love of God.

This encounter with God is given to us in his Son and it is independent of what we attribute to ourselves as St. Paul says: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God who through Christ reconciled us to himself". (2Cor5.17). So when did our life in Christ begin?

What was the time or place when we made a decision to place our trust in him?

For many people their coming to faith was rather like a journey, a sequence of events that culminated in a personal acceptance of Christ into their heart and life. Now the study of God and man has come together for it is new and radical because it concerns the 'new humanity'. "...the old has passed away, behold the new has come".

I happened to read a short poem by John Dryden entitled 'Life a Cheat.

Here is part of it:

***"When I consider life, tis all a cheat
Yet fooled with hope, men favour deceit
Trust on, and think tomorrow will repay
Tomorrow's false than the former day...
I'm tired with waiting for the chemic gold
Which fools us young and beggars us when old".***

No doubt the tendency is to centre one's life for whatever opportunities might arise "Trust on, and think tomorrow will repay" where life becomes subject to a form of self-grounding. Dryden's pessimism stands in direct contrast to the new humanity that Christ has brought.

The Bible tells us that God made us in his image "...in the image of God he created him; male and female". (Gen.1.27). It comes down to a question of how we

define ourselves and how this divine image or likeness is developed in us. We are defined by our Lord because our trust in him means we are in correspondence to God. Our Lord is the new humanity for the image of God is identical to the person of our Lord.

We should carefully notice the duality of this image, male and female that implies a social element and necessary community that God is concerned about, for within the community of faith its members learn to realize God's gift of love.

This then briefly is Theological Anthropology not just Anthropology as Dryden expressed it but as Christ our Saviour has brought to us.

Rev Bernard Hughes.

Katie Jackson

We have been asked to write a few words about our daughter Katie Jackson whom some of you will know from her Christ Church days and for the last two years has been training for the priesthood at Sarum College. Katie was expecting to be ordained deacon on 28th June in Salisbury Cathedral but of course with the Coronavirus pandemic this hasn't been possible

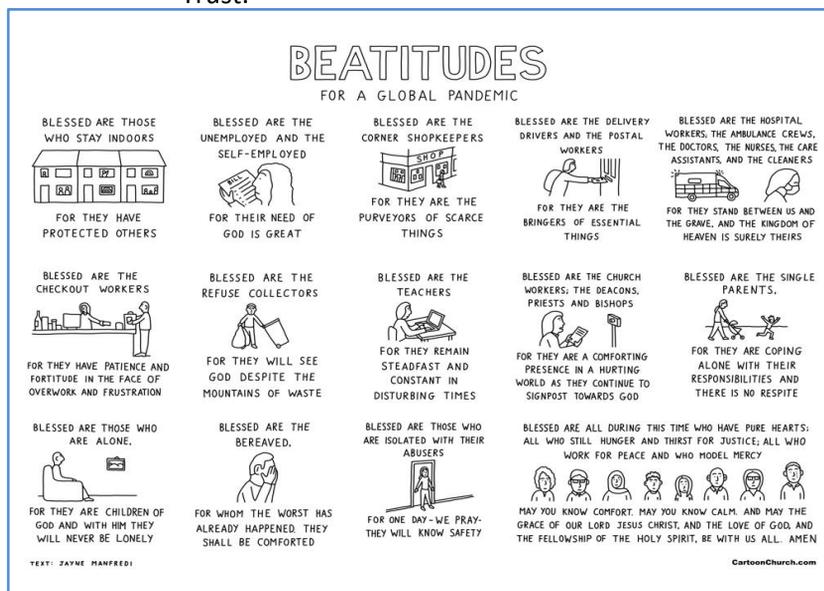


which is a great disappointment to all. Instead, the Bishop of Salisbury conducted a 'Zoom' meeting at which he licenced the candidates to their various parishes as lay workers. We were able to watch the service on Youtube which felt a little strange but it was nevertheless a well prepared and moving service. It is hoped that the ordination will take place in Salisbury Cathedral on 26th September, but in the meantime the licencing enables Katie to begin her ministry in Holt, Boughton Gifford and Great Chalfield covering almost all the duties of curate. Following the licencing, Katie and Rob, met some of the team at St Katherine's and were made to feel very welcome. When they got to us to pick the children up their car boot was full of gifts of food (and wine) and included very thoughtful presents for the children. **Hilary & Stephen Pike**
Katie's comment:

'I can't quite believe where the time has gone and that I have got to the point of being licensed. I am really excited to be starting my curacy in the benefice of Holt, Boughton Gifford and Great Chalfield.

The Beatitudes for a global pandemic

This cartoon can also be seen online with an opportunity if you wish to donate to the Trussell Trust.



Last year, food banks in the Trussell Trust network provided more than 1.6 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis. The Trussell Trust are working to end the need for food banks in the UK.

<https://cartoonchurch.com/content/cc/beatitudes-video/>



Watercolour cards for sale

As some people know, I paint in watercolour, and intended getting some cards printed to sell at my art group's exhibition in September. As it is still uncertain whether we will be able to go ahead with this, I got the cards printed anyway and will donate the proceeds to the Christ Church project to add kitchen and toilet facilities. There are 6 designs in all, which can be bought singly or any combination. Please see photos above. The subjects are: Goldcrests on larch twigs, Mice in hedgerow, Puffin, Cockerel, BoA Town Bridge 1900 and Still life of lamp, lantern and duck.

Cards come with envelope and cost £1.50 each. Please contact me to order and discuss delivery/collection and payment. Ann Chapman 01225 866861 ann.barry.chapman@btinternet.com).

From Lawn to Meadow - The Saga part 2

Things are moving on in our project to turn our lawn into a meadow of native wildflowers. It is interesting to see how the plants in flower change over the weeks. It is still mostly the plants that were hiding in the lawn that are flowering.

We now have patches of white clover which keeps close to the ground (unlike the earlier red clover which is more upright) and the purple toadflax has spires of tiny snapdragon flowers.

The purple and white dead-nettles and the black medick still flower intermittently and there is a single thistle with purple flower head.

In one patch by the flagstone over a Drain cover the yellow reflexed stonecrop is now flowering. And I'm seeing more bees and other flying insects.



The self-heal has finally opened its purple flowers and I'm finding more and more of it. It's been joined by the flat white flower heads of the yarrow. And the first of the wildflower seeds that I sowed this year has finally flowered - the common vetch, with a pair of pink flowers at each leaf joint, and the leaves in pairs along leaf stem ending in a climbing tendril that is holding tight to a grass flower stalk. The other new seedlings are doing well with the cooler and wetter weather, so I'm hopeful for some more flowers before too long.



Ann Chapman

Are you funding modern slavery?

That's the question you're being asked by Wiltshire Police as lockdown restrictions continue to be lifted.

Those who work in car washes, nail bars and domestic cleaning are known to be at greater risk of modern slavery and exploitation.

Detective Inspector Phil Walker said: "Whilst people try to save money and find a bargain they could be unwittingly funding organised crime groups and the exploitation of vulnerable people.

"We need the public to think about whether the cost of the service they're paying for is realistic, and whether it's significantly lower than what others charge for the same service.

“Does that tenner you’re paying at a hand car wash cover the materials used, at least minimum wage (£8.20) for the worker and still leave room for profit? It is unlikely and this should raise concerns.

“Often in Modern Slavery cases, vulnerable adults are trafficked into the UK under false pretences and made to work for little or no money whilst living in horrendous conditions.

“Victims face being held to ransom by the criminals they’re forced to work for using threats to their families as leverage and confiscating their identity documents.”

Wiltshire Police continues to work with a number of partners to tackle modern slavery including the National Crime Agency and Immigration officials carrying out frequent welfare checks on those businesses at greater risk.

There are a number of ways that the public can report concerns about modern slavery including 101 and the Wiltshire Police website. The Modern Slavery helpline can also be contacted on 08000 121 700, this is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Always call 999 in an emergency or immediate threat to life.

DI Walker added: “We need the public to work with us to tackle this, these are often sophisticated operations and that piece of information that you could hold, no matter how small could be the last piece of the puzzle we need to take action and protect vulnerable people from exploitation.”

Signs to look out for:

Modern slavery could be happening in your community so it’s important you know the signs that could indicate someone is a victim of this crime.

The signs aren’t always obvious but there are some that you may notice:

Do they look scruffy, malnourished or injured?

Are they acting anxious, afraid or unable to make eye contact?

Are they doing long hours, wearing unsuitable clothing or have the wrong equipment for the job?

Is where they are living overcrowded, poorly maintained or are the curtains always closed?

Do they behave like they’re being instructed by someone else, picked up/dropped off at the same time and place every day or don’t have access to money or identification?

Zara Hughes (Police, Communications Officer, Wiltshire)

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

Benefice Online Service and Resources

The link to this Sunday’s service will be available on the Benefice Website www.nboachurches.co.uk

Each fortnight we will also publish your photos, Bible verses that have spoken to you, reflections and poems in News Link or on the website.

Next News Link due on 26 July. Please submit all content by Wed 22 July.

If you know someone who can not access News Link 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 keeping with the C of E guidelines for safe distribution.