

NewsLink

14th June – 21st June 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Dear friends

I do hope you are engaging with the discussion on the future of the parish church and ministry. There was an interesting article in the news recently that I will share with you:

The writer says:

I wish we could escape the tired old trope of the church building as a burden, or a "prison". In my experience of the rural church, the ministry of the parish priest has never been "simply to take services", and the idea that the priest should "pastor, train and mobilise the community of faith" is fine in itself, but too narrow. The parish priest is more than a chaplain to the congregation.

In my experience of the rural Church, there is much creative, imaginative stuff already happening. But I would hope that the lockdown provides us with time to think more theologically, and stop thinking that being the Church primarily involves doing stuff.

The incarnation teaches us that matter matters to God. And, in rural areas at least, church buildings matter to people, and not just those who might think of themselves as "God's people." Being locked out of our church buildings might help us move away from the idea that the church is a kind of ark, for the chosen few. We are all, as it were, in the same boat.

If we want to be radical, let's get back to the roots of the Church of England's self-understanding. Church buildings belong to the whole community, and are an asset, not a burden. The parish priest serves the whole parish, not just the congregation. Our task is to help the church – both building and congregation – to be an integral part of the wider community.

Mission has been described as service to the local community, but service with and alongside the local community might be even better. So much of what passes for mission seems designed to emphasise the difference between Christians and other people. I would rather emphasise what we have in common.

Canon Rob Kelsey

I found it interesting and challenging to reflect on this and on other viewpoints as we start to prepare our churches for opening their doors again, although because of social distancing, how we use our buildings will be rather different.

The Government allows churches to open from Saturday 13 June for individual private prayer but there are risk assessments, cleaning regimes, social distance arrangements etc. to be put in place to keep people safe when they come. Some PCCs in our Deanery have decided that they will not open at all for now. Others are considering the possibility of opening once or twice a week for a few hours. We are still awaiting final guidance from the government before our PCCs can make a decision on the way forward.

I'm sure many of us have missed visiting a church not just for worshipping together, but for sitting quietly before God, in prayer or contemplation, or for just wandering around, breathing in the atmosphere of a building whose walls are soaked in prayer; perhaps lighting a candle in memory of a loved one as we go.

We shall of course keep you informed of our progress in opening our churches.

In the meantime, do check the resources on the front page of the website, and join us for our online service on a Sunday morning. Tessa and I are considering a zoom coffee after a Sunday service so if you'd like to join us, just watch this space for further details.

Stay safe, stay well and God Bless.

Ann, Rector



REOPENING CHURCHES

MATCH THE PERSON TO THE TASK

PEOPLE

IRATE
TWEETER



NEWSPAPER
COLUMNIST



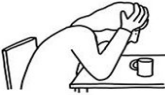
ZOOM WORSHIP
ISNT GOOD
ENOUGH
BY ANDY SMITH
WWW.NBOACHURCHES.CO.UK

CONCERNED
BISHOP



WE MUST NOT
GET LEFT
BEHIND

LOCAL
VICAR

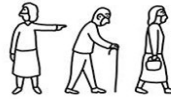


TASKS

JOINING
THE
CLEANING
ROTA



SUPERVISING
THE VOLUNTEERS
(ALL AGED
OVER 70)



MANAGING
THE JOYFULLY
NON-COMPLIANT



FEELING
WEIGHT OF
RESPONSIBILITY
WHEN IT ALL
GOES WRONG



[HINT: THE VICAR WILL HAVE TO DO ALL OF THEM]

Benefice Online Service and Resources

The link to this Sunday's service 'Answering God's call' is now available below.

<https://youtu.be/R7BB6obpcTk>

It will also be available on the Benefice Website 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

Supporting bereaved people

Revd Kate Bottley shares the Church of England's advice for supporting bereaved people during physical distancing.

This short video, less than 5 minutes is an excellent summary of how we can all support people who are bereaved at the moment. Do watch it at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/funeral-and-bereavement-resources-ministers>

Christ Church Project

We are very excited to announce that our re-ordering plans have reached the significant milestone of asking the DAC for Formal Advice. The drawings and supporting documents have been submitted to the DAC via the new online system in readiness for their meeting on 24th July.

Please pray with us that our plans are favourably received and can be submitted for faculty approval with DAC support without further delay. In the meantime the project team are beavering away identifying potential sources of funding from various grant making trusts.

Stephen Pike

THE ONLINE SERVICE

HOW TO MAKE IT FEEL LIKE NORMAL



ARRIVE A FEW MINUTES
LATE, CARRYING COFFEE



SCOWL AT THE PERSON
SITTING IN YOUR SEAT



WHISPERED DISCIPLINING OF
CHILDREN (UNSUCCESSFUL)



USE YOUR PHONE TO
'READ THE BIBLE'



STAND UP AT ENTIRELY
THE WRONG POINT



SHARE A PLATE OF
STALE BISCUITS

From Lawn to Meadow by Ann Chapman

Like many others during the lockdown, I have been out in the garden more. As we can't get together, I thought I'd share our Lawn to Meadow Saga.

This past year we have been pondering the fate of our front lawn. It had got very mossy over the wet winter, and has always been a mix of grass and weeds - aka wild flowers. So just before the virus struck, we decided to convert the lawn to a meadow - which turns out to be a slow process. Next door neighbours (other half of our semi) decided to do the same. I bought a wildflower mix (20 species) suitable for limestone and chalk soil. Early March cut the grass. Raked out the moss using spring-tine rake and filled green bin three times. Raked exposed soil patches. Sowed seed. Raked again, and then trod all over it like cattle to firm it in (Monty Don instruction). Watered it a couple of times and waited for the rain. And waited, and waited some more. Tried patch watering which had some success in the shady area. Still no rain but lots of very hot sun so most areas stayed just grass and bare patches. (Next door had no more success but already had cowslips and early crocuses under silver birch.)

Except that I now identified a number of plants I had no idea were there and some I could only identify once they flowered. Keble Martin's Concise British Flora to the rescue, backed up by internet searches once I had a likely candidate. Dandelions, daisies and buttercups were easy. 'Dandelions' on 18" stems turned out to be Common Cat's Ear - far too many of these and I've been hand weeding them. Also weeding out most of what I think is Mouse-ear Hawkweed, another dandelion type which forms mats of leaves and creeping stems crowding other things out. Surprisingly the couple of violets from our back garden I'd planted under a tree had flourished and were all over the front lawn. I thought we just had white clover, until tiny yellow flowers of two different types, with trefoil leaves showed we had Black Medick and Spotted Medick, and then Red Clover flowered. There was a lovely blue patch of Germander Speedwell, and now Self-heal is showing flower buds. But little sign of the species I'd sown.

Had kept back some seed for an autumn sowing as recommended by suppliers. Sowed some in old bedding plant containers - not thinly enough (sigh) so each cell had lots and lots. Once past seed leaf stage, pricked out into other pots and grew on till big enough for planting in lawn. Planting out around 50 at a time occupied several sessions, and left me with aching muscles. They are doing nicely but are still only 2 to 3 inches high. Recent rain should help. Feeling bored (art group sessions only on Tuesday mornings), I set myself another project to paint all the wildflowers we manage to get established.

An elderly member of the art group died a couple of years back, and the art group was given all her painting materials to share. I had one of her sketchbooks (which have a couple of her sketches at the front, a nice way to remember her by), and decided to use that for my flower paintings. As the new plants are still too small to flower, I've started with the ones that turned out to be already there in hiding, and plan to add others as they flower.

One day I may be able to show you a flower meadow - just not yet.

Photos are of seedlings in lawn, and seedlings in bedding plant containers. The third one is the seedlings pricked out and growing on. The fourth is a page in my sketchbook.



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