



HOLY TRINITY PRESTWOOD

MONTHLY HERALD OCTOBER 2017

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October Services

Sunday 1st

St Michael and All Angels

Genesis 28.10-17; Revelation 12.7-12; John 1.47-end

8.00am

BCP Holy Communion

9.30am

High Mass

Ministry team – Mesopotamians

Sunday 8th

17th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 5.1-7; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-end

8.00am

BCP Holy Communion

9.30am

Family Eucharist and Baptism

Ministry team – Pontians

Sunday 15th

18th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 25.1-9; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14

8.00am

BCP Holy Communion

9.30am

Parish Eucharist

Ministry team – Pamphylans

Sunday 22nd

19th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 45.1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22

8.00am

BCP Holy Communion

9.30am

Parish Eucharist

Ministry team – Parthians

Sunday 29th

Last Sunday after Trinity

Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18 ; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8 ; Matthew 22.34-end

8.00am

BCP Holy Communion

9.30am

Parish Eucharist

Ministry team – Medes

Midweek services

Mondays at 11.45am

Monday Prayers

Tuesdays at 9.30am

Informal Holy Communion & coffee

Wednesdays at 10.00am

BCP Holy Communion & coffee

Thursdays at 9.30-11.30am

Toddler Thursdays! (during term time)

More dates for your diary

Mondays	7.30pm	Table Tennis – Church Hall
6 th Oct	1.15pm	Pot Luck Lunch – Church Hall
14 th Oct	10.30am	Prestwood Nature Group: Fungus walk led by Tony Marshall – Churchyard
21 st Oct	tbc	Prestwood Nature Group: Fungi Talk - Church
27 th Oct	evening	Prestwood Theatre Murder Mystery 1 – Church
28 th Oct	evening	Prestwood Theatre Murder Mystery 2 – Church
11 th Nov	tbc	Reformation Anniversary Supper and Film - Church

**PLEASE SEND COPY FOR NOVEMBER MONTHLY HERALD
to Judith McBride (judithmcb@btinternet.com)
by Monday 23rd October**

Jams And Preserves For Peterley Sale

We will be attending the Peterley Manor Christmas Market again this year for the two days. The preserves proved immensely popular last year and, as we enter the jam making season, I would like to put out a request to all jam, chutney, pickle, marmalade makers to put aside a few jars for the church to sell every time you make a batch for yourself. Alternatively if you have spare produce that other people could use to turn into preserves please contact Jean Green on 865660 so it won't go to waste.

Thought for the Month by Deiniol

I have a challenge for everyone who reads this article. Tell me what your favourite prayer is. If you don't have one, well why not have a go at reading some and try to find one that resonates with you?

I'll tell you about mine. It is the General Thanksgiving. It's at the bottom of this article. You'll find it in the Book of Common Prayer, and for me it instantly sends me back to my youth as a choir boy and Choral Evensong. Every so often, as the evening sun streamed through the west window, picking out the dust motes as they drifted through the church, the Vicar would slot the General Thanksgiving into the prayers. There would be a flurry of muted activity as the congregation and choir rushed to flip through their prayer books to find the right page, and gradually, as we caught up, the volume would increase as we all got up to speed. By the time we got to "We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life," we

were all there. What lovely words they are. It's hard to think of anything so beautiful being written today.

The prayer was written by a chap called Edward Reynolds, who was a 17th C Bishop of Norwich, and it is said to have been inspired by a private prayer of Elizabeth I.

I like it because it encapsulates so much in such a genuine and lyrical way. It is a prayer to be said out loud, and to enjoy the saying of it--to let the words roll around your mouth, and let the utterance itself be a part of the prayer. Noble without pomposity, humble without hypocrisy and clever without exclusivity, it is a prayer for all seasons.

It has gone out of fashion these days, and that's a shame. There are modern language versions, but like Cramner's prose, it doesn't really work to modernise it. You lose too much of what makes it wonderful. It's better to do something new. In the meantime, if your hearts are ever unfeignedly thankful enough to give thanks to God for his inestimable love (and I hope that sometimes they are), you could do a lot worse than pray the General Thanksgiving, a true gem of our Anglican heritage.

A General Thanksgiving

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Notes from the last PCC Meeting (September 11th 2017)

PCC met for the first time after the Summer break on Monday 11th September. A number of important issues for Holy Trinity Prestwood (HTP) were discussed and some useful decisions were made. As always, PCC welcome any comments from HTP members (sent to me please) as most of

us are just your representatives for a season.

Marketing. It would be difficult to have missed the results of the initiative to appoint a Marketing Manager for HTP and this is an appropriate time for a short review of what has been achieved. Lesley Nicholl has completed her six month contract and PCC agreed that this should be extended for a further three months. PCC's initial thoughts had been that most of Lesley's time would be spent putting the machinery in place so that lettings of the church and/or the hall could go ahead smoothly (matters such as contracts, insurance, health and safety etc): however, rather more of her time was spent putting together events than was originally envisaged - perhaps inevitable once word got around that the newly invigorated church building was available and equipped as never before ! So over the 6m period, there have been two film evenings, the Feathers Music Summer Workshop and a Wake held in the church (amongst other things), all with considerable success. Consequently, there remain a number of items of "paperwork " to be completed such as more general and some specific publicity documents. This contract extension comes, of course, at a cost and it is envisaged that this will be covered in the medium term by future events.

Finance. The year's forecast is not significantly different from that envisaged by the Treasurer at the beginning of the year with a small but significant deficit still expected: the finance committee and the PCC have discussed the possibility of another financial initiative, but it was felt that it would be better to look harder at encouraging those giving regularly (mainly by standing order) to increase contributions perhaps in line with inflation (currently 3.9% by RPI and 2.9% by CPI): this would very significantly address the deficit for this year and maybe in future years too. Like everyone else, HTP has to pay electricity and gas bills !

Mission Action Plan. After the successful Lent Appeal for African Village Support, HTP is currently concentrating on the collection of contents for Mama Bags and on donations to send the Mama Bags to Uganda. Those attending the Harvest Festival service and smorgasbord (many thanks to all those who helped put this together, SEARCH team, car park manager, electronics experts and, especially Deiniol and Teresia) will have seen the pile of gifts donated which will go a long way towards filling a standard AVS container. Transport costs (£250) will be much helped by the generous donations of fresh produce which were available at the end of the service: our gardens have been bountiful this year although there was general disappointment that the giant marrow was not for sale as it's stately progress continues to Great Hampden for another Harvest Service on September 23rd

(under secure guard).

Buildings Report: the Church Estate, like our own homes, requires constant attention if it is to remain in good shape and much of what goes on (again, like our own homes) is invisible. But it all costs. This month the lightning conductor and associated electrical safety matters were inspected and passed “with flying colours”, reflecting good installation and maintenance. Those using the Children’s Centre and the Hall (as well as the car park more generally will be relieved to know that the problems of puddles (flooding) in the North West corner are being addressed. Initially, the drainage will be improved (at reasonable cost) and the situation will be reviewed in some six months time. It would be helpful if those using the car park could report how things go after the building work to either myself or to David Wickham, our ever-busy buildings manager.

The hedges are still being reduced in height around the church - our contractor, John Morby is doing a magnificent job and the church is appearing in an entirely new light. PCC agreed to review the Churchyard Management Plan in November. Significant completed jobs include the painting of the cottage (and repair of the West window) and renewal of the Rector’s driveway - mainly paid for by the Diocese and now “suitable for a helicopter to land on”. Tenders are out for a large ‘H’ to be painted on the tarmac.

Health and Safety Documentation: i have commented before that this generally is regarded as a bit of a joke, but the opposite is true and John Rolfe-Dickinson (with help from Lesley Nicholl and several others) has done a magnificent job in writing and pulling together all the required documents. Without paying due care and attention to H & S matters, we would be unable to let the church to outsiders and many of our routine activities would be considerably more hazardous if not actually illegal. Final reviews are being carried out by the Rector and full documentation will be available very soon.

The Ashes Garden: Geoff Watts is carrying out a review of the Garden as space is becoming limiting: PCC is considering proposals for a number of memorial stones (different from but along the lines in Little Missenden Churchyard). The peace and serenity of that Garden is paramount and the matter will be treated with great sensitivity.

Prestwood-on-Sea: three highly successful days were held in the Methodist Hall in August with good food, entertainment and fellowship. PCC congratulated and thanked John Wiles for his usual efforts and also all the other helpers, chefs, drivers and furniture movers.

peterbaker61@googlemail.com 18 September 2017.

How's Your Prayer Life?

As a long-standing Christian and serial beginner at prayer, I find prayer confusing at times. It is comforting, disturbing, frustrating—and anything else you may want to add. One of the best descriptions of prayer I have recently come across is a cartoon of a man kneeling in front of a duck (Michael Leunig). This is the man's sincere attempt to talk to the duck, and gives a sense of the man's irrational behaviour. There is a much fuller explanation of this picture, so do ask me if you are interested, but I found this a real help to thinking about prayer. In the eyes of the world prayer makes no sense.

As Christians we want a relationship with God and we want to pray—but how? As children we learn 'hands together and eyes closed', but as we grow up we try to leave childish things behind. But somehow we (maybe it's only me) never really get a grip on a grown up prayer life. Making time has never seemed more difficult, and so what do we do?

I'd like to suggest that we try to find our own unique way of praying. One that fits in with who God created you to be. If you're artistic and think in colour and mood try incorporating that in your prayer life. If you have a love of Scripture try picturing yourself in the stories—how close to Jesus are you in what you are reading? Psalm 139 tells us how much God is, and wants to be, involved in our life. If you like getting out and about then try an awareness walk and see where you find God.

Whatever sparks your interest, have a conversation with God about it. There are as many ways of prayer as there are people. What doesn't work for you one day may work the next. A new academic year often heralds change, so how about doing something different in your prayer life. If you like, have a conversation with someone about your experience.

The hardest thing, though, is to start. However long it is since you last prayed I can assure you that God will say "Good to see you. Tell me what's going on." He'll be pleased to hear from you. Keep trying, because the biggest encouragement to prayer is answers.

Irene Spoor

Contacts

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– for all PCC enquiries

David Wickham; John Wiles; Anna Young; Daniel Everitt; Yvonne Wilding;

Bettina Gothard; John Rolfe-Dickinson (Health and Safety Co-ordinator);

Laurel Swayne; Geoff Watts; Laura Anderson

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