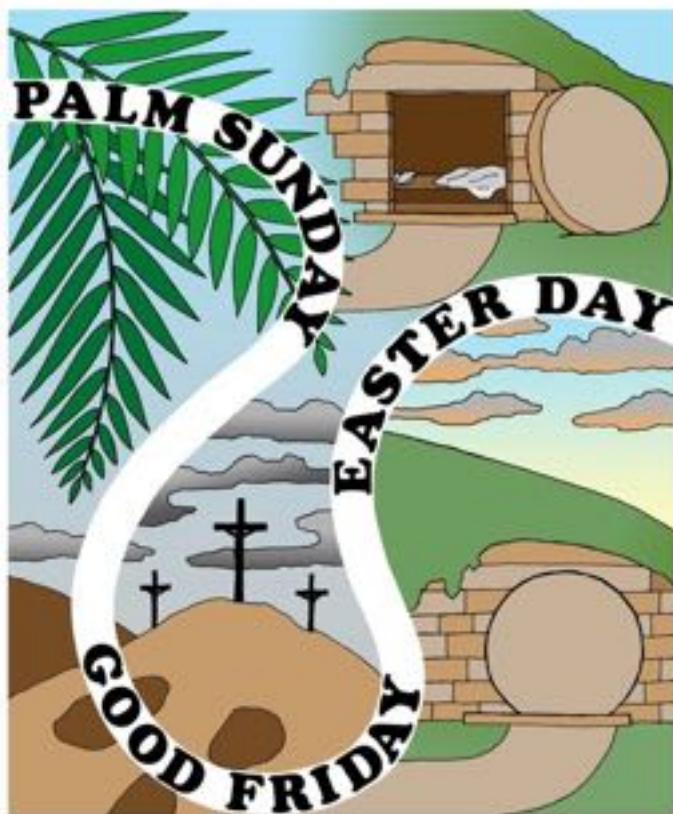


**ST. MARK'S CHURCH, HINTON WOOD AVENUE,
HIGHCLIFFE, BH23 5AA**

PARISH NEWS

www.stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

facebook: st.mark's church Highcliff



March 2024

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SERVICES AND OFFICERS

SUNDAYS

8.00am Holy Communion
9.00am Breakfast at 9.
10.00 am Parish Communion
6.00 pm Music, Meditation and
Prayer (3rd Sunday)

WEEKDAYS

Holy Communion
11.00am Wednesday with coffee
afterwards in the foyer.

VICAR:

Rev'd Veronica Brown 07921 514906 vicar@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

Churchwardens

Ann Nash 07586 342042 churchwarden@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk
Vacant

Safeguarding Officer:

Susan Lyonette 07976 365369 safeguarding@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister/Lay Worker*:

Colin Chatten 01425 274947 ColinLLM@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk
Maureen Stringer* 07809 721131 MaureenLLW@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

PCC Hon. Secretary:

Liz Morton 01425 677124

PCC Hon. Treasurer:

Francis Bray 01425 273854 treasurer@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

Electoral Roll Officer:

Susan Mecklenburgh electoralroll@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

St Mark's Hall, Enquiries & Bookings:

01425 277614 parishoffice@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

Colour printing of front cover - Courtesy of Mitchells (Estate Agents)

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

Friends of St Mark's

Enquiries to Secretary,
Mary Matthews, 01202 773278

Parish Care Coordinator

Contact Rev Veronica
07921 514906

Bible Study Group

Alternate Wednesdays in church.
Starting 1st Nov 9.00 to 10.30 am.
Julie, 07851 15117 or 01425 291744

St Mark's Ladies Group

Meetings first Thursday in St
Mark's Library at 2.00 pm
Trish Sheppard, 01425 275858

Choir

Practice in Church, Thursday
7.00 – 8.30 pm
Anthony Nash, 07403 654603

Friday Coffee Morning

Pop in for Coffee every Friday in
the library at 10.00 am.
Jenny Walsh, 01425 271062

Web Site Manager

Michael Williams,
mikerw@btinternet.com

Flowers for Weddings, Funerals Etc.

Ann Nash, 07586 342042

For enquiries about Baptisms & Weddings please contact Rev Veronica to discuss any questions you might have. Email vicar@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk or by phone message on 07921 514096.

PARISH NEWS

Copy for next Magazine to Editor by 12th of the current month

Editor: Michael Williams, 07484 778364

magazine@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

Distribution Co-ordinator: Michael Clode.01425 275398.

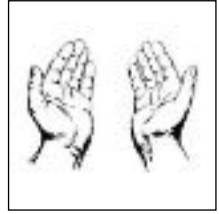
mjclode@sadie2.madasafish.com

Vacancies

We have vacancies for a **Stewardship Promoter, Legacy Officer
Sacristan for the 10am service and Social event Organiser.**

If you feel called to support St Mark's with one of these roles please speak to Veronica or a Churchwarden to find out more.

PRAYER IN ST MARK'S



Prayer Book and Intercessions

The names of those requesting prayer are put in the Prayer Book which sits on the communion table. These are prayed for by the Informal Prayer Group and during our services. The first name of those requesting prayer is read out as part of our intercessions.

Informal Prayer Group

Every Tuesday evening – 7 pm to 8 pm in the Church foyer.

This is a relaxed time led by members of the group who are happy to do so. We begin with prayer and then have a discussion on a topic that the leader chooses – this gives us a wide range of interesting discussions!

All are welcome, there is no pressure to take part, you may just want to come to enjoy being with us sharing in fellowship. Why not come one evening to see what it is like, you will be very welcome. Maureen.

Prayers on Friday

Every Friday, a time of silent prayer from 9am to 9.30

Praying for the work and ministry of St Mark's in Highcliffe.

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Lent – a time for prayer, fasting and giving alms? Time for self-reflection, confession, repentance and conversion? A time of increased awareness to our inner yearning to meet with God in prayer? Perhaps. Yet, these things are not done as self-help or so that we can be seen to be doing them and admire each other's or our own piety. Rather, these things help prepare us for our journey to the Cross by learning to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbours as ourselves.

The good news is that Lent is a season of spiritual opportunity. Your heart is the gateway to God. Lent is a time to have a good look around, tidy up and seek God's grace and holiness. This is a spiritual opportunity to seek and clear out all that is unhelpful and unnecessary in our lives. It is a season to clean up the cubboards of our heart.

Too many weeds in your heart's garden? Better pull them out. You may need a fork and shovel to get the roots! Clear out the rubbish; remove the debris. Is that bramble choking or blocking the light of something that might bear fruit? Cut back the overgrown and prickly Holly bush. Pull the ivy away from the bark of trees and the side of the house. Make room for the light to shine in those dark places.

Open up the doors and windows of your heart and let God's fresh, gentle breeze enter in. Take a deep breath. Is all this stuff hiding the gifts of life and faith you've been given? Clear the space of your heart and mind to see God's holy presence. Sit quietly. Seek God's gaze. Let the Lord help you to have a good look. Always, take heart and know that God loves you and forgives you.

And may God's faithfulness and love give you hope and encouragement throughout this Lenten season and beyond.

All blessings,

Veronica

Our Mission Prayer

God of Mission,

Who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you and in service to our local community.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

APCM 2024

The APCM for 2024 will be held on Sunday 21st April at 11.30 following the 10am Service of Holy Communion

VACANCES

Up to 5 PCC Members

And, as with every year, 2 churchwardens will be elected.

If anyone is interested in any of these roles, please contact Rev'd Veronica or a churchwarden.

Prayer Intentions for March 2024

- 1st *St David's Day* – give thanks for the Gospel to Wales and the early Celtic Christian Church.
- 2nd *CHAD (601)* – pray for Christian Mission Societies and Missionaries worldwide.
- 3rd **LENT 3** - Eternal God, give your servants insight to discern your will in this confused world.
- 4th *Ps 5 - let all who take refuge in you be glad* – Pray for all who turn to Jesus Christ for help today.
- 5th *Ps 9 - he did not forget the cry of the oppressed* – Pray for those who are oppressed, in body/mind/soul.
- 6th *Ps 38 - be not far from me, O my God.* – Pray for those who feel that God is remote/unseeing/uncaring.
- 7th *Ps 56 - many are they that make proud war* – Pray for the war-torn people/places.
- 8th *Ps 22 - this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come* - Pray for all who share the Gospel today.
- 9th *PS 31 - Into your hands I commend my spirit* – Pray for those with terminal illness to find peace in God.
- 10th **MOTHERING SUNDAY** - Jesus Christ, child of Mary, may we know the power of your presence.
- 11th *Ps 98 - Sing to the Lord a new song* – Reflect upon the words of your favourite Easter Hymn.
- 12th *Ps 106 - they believed his words and sang aloud his praise* – Pray for our Easter celebration at St Mark's
- 13th *Ps 63 - the king shall rejoice in God* – Pray for King Charles III; for health & strength of body, mind & soul.
- 14th *Ps 53 - The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'* - Pray for **Light** this Easter for all who reject God
- 15th *Ps 102 - a people yet unborn shall praise the Lord* – Pray for the suffering children – born & yet to be.
- 16th *Ps 32 - Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven* – Pray for **New Life** for all who are burdened.
- 17th **PASSIONTIDE** - servant of all, you gave up your life and died for us, you live and reign, now and for ever.
- 18th *Ps 23 - I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever* – give thanks & pray for St Mark's; today & to come.

- 19th *Mt :1 – Joseph...did as the angel of the Lord commanded him – Give thanks and pray for Fathers.*
- 20th *Ps 55 - words were smoother than oil – Pray for politicians of all parties to govern justly & wisely.*
- 21st *Thomas Cranmer (1556) – Pray for Archbishops Justin Welby (Canterbury) and Stephen Cottrell (York)*
- 22nd *Ps 22 - The poor shall eat and be satisfied – Pray for those without food – water – medicine – justice.*
- 23rd *Ps 127 - he gives his beloved sleep – Pray for all who seek the healing and peace of Jesus Christ.*
- 24th **PALM SUNDAY** – *Mk 11: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! – Holy Week begins.*
- 25th *Isaiah 42 (Reflection) - He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth;*
- 26th *Isaiah 49(R) I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'*
- 27th *Isaiah 50: (R) Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.*
- 28th **MAUNDY THURSDAY** - *Exodus 12: (R)- This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. The last supper.*
- 29th **GOOD FRIDAY** – *Jn 18: (R) Pilate went out again and said to them, 'I find no case against him.'*
- 30th *Ps 31 (R) - 'Make your face to shine upon your servant and save me for your mercy's sake.*
- 31st **EASTER** – *Is 25: (R) This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation*

PCC notes from 15th November 2023

- Proposals Ratified: -
 - £100 Ministry books for LLM Training.
 - Purchase of tap for flower room.
- 2024 Budget approved.
- ACPM schedule distributed.
- Resignation of Sandra Channon as Church Warden with Sue Lyonette filling in until replacement found.
-

It was a short meeting - Ed

Revision of St Mark's Electoral Roll 2024

The Electoral Roll of our church must be revised annually before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (which this year will be held on Sunday 21st April).

The official notice of that revision will be displayed in the church entrance from Sunday **10th** March. The existing Roll (names only) will be displayed in the church entrance from Sunday **24th** March to Saturday **6th** April.

If you are a member, please check that your name has been recorded correctly and let me know if there have been any changes to your contact details over the last year. Contact details are not published.

If you wish to be added to the Roll, application forms are available from the **Church Foyer** and should be returned to me at **the Church Office** by **Monday 1st April**. After that date you will still be able to join the Roll, but your name will not be added until after the APCM.

The new Roll, names only, will be displayed in the church entrance from Sunday 7th April for 14 days.

Susan Mecklenburgh

E-mail electoralroll@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

Soup and Roll, Coffee and Cake lunches

Thank you!

Thank you to all the soup makers and cake bakers –

We've been able to serve delicious lunches during December, January and February.

Thank you too to our helpers- setting up, serving and clearing away - we appreciate all your support.

from the Warm Spaces team

March 2024 Diary

1st	Friday	9:00am Silent Prayer 10:00am Coffee in the Library 2.30pm World Day of prayer service at the Methodist Church 3.00pm PCC Standing Committee
3rd	SUNDAY	8.00am Holy Communion 9.00am B@9 in the Hall 10.00am PARISH COMMUNION
5th	Tuesday	7.00pm Lent Course
6th	Wednesday	11.00am Holy Communion. 7pm Deanery Synod zoom meeting
7th	Thursday	2.00pm Ladies Group. St Mark's Library.
8th	Friday	9:00am Silent Prayer 10:00am Coffee in the Library
10th	SUNDAY Mothering Sunday Services	8.00am Holy Communion. 9.00am B@9 in the Hall 10.00am PARISH COMMUNION
12th	Tuesday	7.00pm Lent Course
13th	Wednesday	11.00am Holy Communion
15th	Friday	9:00am Silent Prayer 10:00am Coffee in the Library
16th	Saturday	9.45am Quiet Morning in the library
17th	SUNDAY	8.00am Holy Communion 9.00am B@9 in the Hall 10.00am PARISH COMMUNION 6pm Music Meditation and Prayer
19th	Tuesday	7.00pm Lent Course
20th	Wednesday	11.00am Holy Communion. 6.30 pm PCC Meeting
21st	Thursday	10am School Easter service
22nd	Friday	9:00am Silent Prayer 10:00am Coffee in the Library

24th	SUNDAY Palm Sunday services	8.00am Holy Communion 9.00am B@9 in the Hall 10.00am PARISH COMMUNION 3pm Cliffe top Ecumenical Walk of Witness.
26th	Tuesday	7.00pm Lent Course
27th	Wednesday	11.00am Holy Week Communion
28th	Maundy Thursday	Parish Easter Meal. Details to follow 6pm Eucharist of the Last Supper
29th	Good Friday	9.30 All age Easter Craft Workshop 3.00pm Meditation at the Cross
30 th	Holy Saturday	5.00pm Easter Vigil service at Holy Redeemer
31st	Easter Day	6.00am Easter Day Sunrise service at the cliff top. Easter Sunday services

Quiet Morning during Lent during Lent

16th March 09.45am – 12.00

Coffee and tea 09.45am

St Mark's Church Library

Diary date for you to record

MISSIONS to SEAFARERS Quiz evening with Fish and chip supper.

On Saturday 13th July we shall be holding our Quiz Evening and Fish & Chip Supper.

Please put it in your diary and tell your friends so that you can make a team. You don't have to be in a prearranged team, of course, as we make teams up on the day and so meet new friends.

Jackie Peterson

St Mark's Church Lent project 2024

40p for 40 days.

The hospital in Kinkiizi, Uganda continues to need your help.

For several years we have directed our Lent project towards raising funds for a small Hospital/Health Centre providing healthcare for a community in Kinkiizi, Uganda.

This hospital was first chosen because it is visited regularly by a member of our Deanery. When I emailed her, she replied with this suggestion,

"I've been in contact with our friends in Kinkiizi at the Health Centre who have told me they are desperate to update the solar panels they have on the old buildings, so they can release their generator to go to the Maternity Unit where it is needed to power equipment in the operating theatre. (The two buildings are quite a distance apart so it is not practical to share the generator.)

As you probably know they suffer from frequent and lengthy power outages which make health care provision extremely precarious."

I understand from the friend's email that the upgrade, which will be mainly used to add batteries for storage, would be an important support to the work there.

This would cost about £1500 on current exchange rates. It is a figure that St Marks has come near to raising in past Lent collections. I hope very much that St Marks Church parishioners will once again demonstrate their generosity.

Small yellow envelopes clearly marked with the letter "K" will be available in church for your donations. Contributions can also be sent to our main bank account sort 40-17-22, account 81237403, name Highcliffe PCC. With reference Kinkiizi.

Dr Bob Gilbertson



St Mark's Ladies' Group



The Pantomime “sort of” came to visit Ladies’ Group at the very beginning of February! John Pitman gave a fascinating insight into ‘Pantomime and the Role of the Dame’. He first told us how he had become interested in acting by taking the part of a gypsy in a school play at the age of 9. His stage career progressed from there and he developed a particular liking for panto, joining the Otterbourne Theatre Company 43 years ago. As I write this, they have just finished a successful run of The Little Mermaid.

John loved playing the part of Buttons in Cinderella, but his talent really came to the fore when he was given the role of the Pantomime Dame for which he did considerable research. Should he base his acting on the Danny La Rue glamorous Widow Twanky or Dame Edna Everidge with the false high-pitched voice or the good old traditional Dame as played by Les Dawson? He chose to base his character on Les! We learnt a lot about the costumes for the Dames which had Velcro fastenings down the back so that the quick changes could be accomplished easily. The variety of wigs and the outrageous make-up was also very interesting to hear about. John then asked for 2 of us to “audition” for the parts of principle girl and boy and, on the strengths of our performances, Marion and myself were immediately accepted!! Everyone then joined in 2 traditional panto songs.

John also explained that after his years of acting, he was beginning to find it hard to remember his lines, so he’s now a Producer and is still very much involved with the Otterbourne Group. We all enjoyed this light-hearted afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th March at 2.00pm in the Church Library. We will be welcoming back Michael Andrews to give us an illustrated talk on “The Grand houses of Mudeford”

Tricia Sheppard (Leader)

LENT at St Mark's

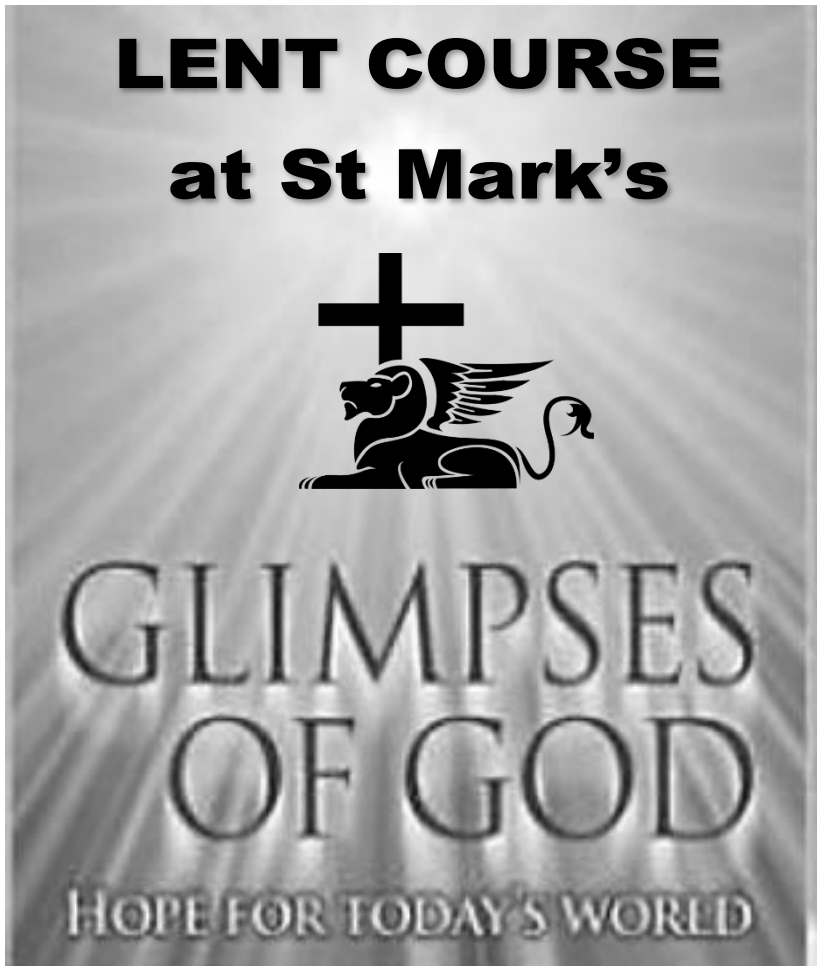
27th February at 7pm - The God who hears our cry

5th March at 7pm - The Shepherd who guides and guards his people

12th March at 7pm - The Son who is the Way, the Truth and the Life

19th March at 7pm - The God who shares our pain

26th March at 7pm - The God who calms our fears



Medicines waste – Only order what you need!

Approximately 1.6 million medicine items are wasted unnecessarily in Dorset each year. **We need your help to reduce this.**

NHS Dorset have launched a new campaign asking people to check their order to help reduce waste and save money.

- When you dispose of medicines properly, by handing them in to your pharmacy, you are helping to make sure that waste medicines do not pollute our rivers and seas.
- Only ordering what you need means that you are helping the environment because once medicines have left the pharmacy, they cannot be recycled or used by anyone else.

To see the campaign and for more information visit
www.nhsdorset.nhs.uk/yourmeds

Let your pharmacy team know if you've stopped taking any of your medicines or if they're no longer right for you.

This is not a problem, and in fact, means your team will be able to improve your healthcare.

If you have any questions about anything on medicines waste email:
medicine.question@nhsdorset.nhs.uk

Unused or out of date medicines can be returned to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

- Check what medicines you have at home before you order your repeat prescriptions. If you have enough, only request the medicines you need this time. You will still be able to order others again in future.
- Speak to your pharmacy team if you have any questions about how to change your prescription request.



GOOD FRIDAY
29th March 2024
EASTER CRAFT
WORKSHOP
PEOPLE OF ALL
AGES
WELCOME

9.30 until 11am

in

ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL
HINTON WOOD AVENUE
HIGHCLIFFE BH23 5AA



Easter craft activities for all the family

Refreshments available including hot cross buns!



EASTER WORKSHOP GOOD FRIDAY
29th MARCH 09.30 UNTIL 11.00

Yes, it's that time again!

Preparations are underway for our annual Easter craft workshop.

If you can help in anyway, please let Diana Faunce know.

Last year this event was very well attended by lots of families.

dianamary56@hotmail.com

01425 547452

This is what we need:

1. People to arrive at 08.30 to help put out tables and set up the hall in preparation. Then help putting tables away at 11.00
- 2.. People to assist the crafters on every craft table.
You may want to provide your own craft activity or assist where the activity is provided.
3. A supply of cakes (home made or otherwise), hot cross buns and Easter biscuits.
4. People to help in the kitchen, making coffee/tea serving cakes/biscuits, loading the dishwasher.
5. Any support is welcome!!

ECO CHURCH

Eco Church is a scheme run by A Rocha UK (a Christian charity which works to protect and restore nature) equipping churches to care for God's creation through their worship, buildings, land, community engagement, and individual lifestyles.

By working to the standards of an online survey, churches can be considered for an Eco Church Award at either Bronze, Silver, or Gold level.

We are pleased to announce that St Mark's Church has been awarded a Silver Award.

This will emphasise that this is something achieved by a much wider number of folk than just the Eco team. As Veronica emphasised last week this award has come about due to the focus on environmental issues by lots of people in the church, especially CWs past and present. It has been built up to it for years and now that has been formalised. It is definitely not just an Eco team thing.

The PCC and ECO Team

---oooOOOooo---

Lay Vocations Morning

Saturday 6th April, 9.30am – 12.30pm

All Saints Church Hall, St Leonards & St Ives BH24 2LS

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ?
But unsure of what your next step might be?

Join us at All Saints Church Hall, St Leonards & St Ives where Bishop David will share about God's calling on our lives and how we can respond to that call. The Winchester School of Mission team will share about the pathways available and afterwards the team will be on hand to answer your questions.

Do you already serve or want to serve but would value training and networking opportunities? – Come and find out more about the Bishop's

Commission for Mission (BCM) available in Pastoral Care, Worship, Children, Youth & Families Ministry, and Beyond Church Walls.

Do you feel called to preach regularly in your church? - Our Bishop's Permission To Preach programme could help you flourish.

Would you like to explore licensed lay ministry? - We can help you explore the pathways available.

All are welcome to join us for this morning, designed to help you prayerfully consider your response to God's call on your life - no strings or expectations attached.

Please contact Tracey Nicholls via tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org book your place.

HIGHCLIFFE FRIENDS IN NEED - Volunteer Car Service

If you need a Driver and car to take you to a GP, Hospital or medical appointment, we can help you.

For a small voluntary donation to cover the drivers' petrol we will provide you with a driver and car, to take and return you, from your appointment. Any surplus donations are given to local medical charities at the end of the year.

Please try to give us at least 2-3 working days notice if you can, and ring the coordinators via the number listed below, between 9.30am and 12.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.:

***Please note this new central telephone number:
01425 524100***

Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24:4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024

March

Celebrate Spring. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the PI@ntNet app to identify spring flowers. Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with our Lent resources at At

arocha.org.uk/go-greenfor-lent/

BENJAMIN JESTY

Mary Wortley Montagu, wife of the Earl of Bute, is celebrated as the first person in this country to be inoculated against smallpox in 1717 with pus from the blister of an infected person. However years earlier Benjamin Jesty had vaccinated his family against the disease with pus from a cowpox blister.

Benjamin Jesty was born in Yetminster in 1736 and married Elizabeth Notley in 1770. The couple settled in Upbury Farm, next to the church, where they raised their family.

At this time smallpox was widespread in Europe, frequent epidemics breaking out. It was well known that milkmaids were immune to the disease as they had caught cow pox from the udders of the cows they milked, a milder disease. The old rhyme celebrates their lack of pock marks -
Where are you going to my pretty maid?
I'm going a-milking Sir she said.

Smallpox broke out locally in 1774. Farmer Jesty knew he and his two female servants were immune but he wondered if he could give the same immunity to his wife and two young sons. He took them to a local farm where he knew the cows had cowpox and, with a darning needle, transferred pus from an infected animal to scratches in their arms. The boys had a mild reaction but his wife's arm became inflamed and she developed a fever but did in time recover.

The experiment was met with great hostility by his neighbours and he suffered both verbal and physical abuse. However the experiment was successful as neither of his sons ever succumbed to smallpox in later life.

By the turn of the century the Jesty family had moved to a larger farm, Downshay Manor in Worth Maltravers and In 1801 Dr Andrew Bell, the promotor of Free Schools, became vicar of nearby Swanage. A supporter of vaccinations, he heard about Benjamin Jesty's actions all those years earlier and decided to take up his case in London as the first vaccinator. Having refused an invitation in 1803, Jesty travelled to the Original Vaccine Pock Institute in 1804 to give evidence. He was presented with a long testimonial and a pair of gold mounted lancets. He also agreed to have his portrait painted by Michael William Sharp. It is now owned by the Wellcome Trust.

Benjamin Jesty died in 1816 and was buried at Worth Maltravers. His wife died 8 years later and was buried beside him. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

(Sacred)
To the Memory
of
Benjamin Jesty (of Downshay)
who departed this life
April 16, 1816
Age 79
He was born in Yetminster in this
Country and was an upright honest
Man, particularly *noted* for being
the first Person (known) that
introduced the Cow Pox
by *inoculation*, and who from
his great *strength* of mind made the
Experiment from the (*cow*) on
his wife and two sons in the year 1774

Audrey Brinsford

Errata. In my last two articles I have referred to Edward Wortley Montagu as SIR. He was never knighted. Mary his wife, however, was a Lady in her own right as she was the daughter of Evelyn Pierrepont, 1st Duke of Kingston-upon-Hull.

Palm Sunday visit

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained.

Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

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