

The church buildings are closed but the church is more active than ever!

We have established resources online for all those who would like spiritual support and guidance. Our facebook group is a space where people who are unable to get to church can chat together, share updates and ask for prayer. Our website has downloadable resources for people to use to pray from home. And every Sunday we hold a worship service over YouTube.

Find more details and upcoming services at:

www.northcornwallclusterofchurches.org.uk

And join our facebook group at:

www.facebook.com/groups/northcornwallcluster

If you need help setting up a facebook account, get in touch with Revd Rose.

We are offering pastoral support and prayer by telephone, and we may be able to help in practical ways as well. Contact Revd Elizabeth if you want to know more.

Please be assured of our prayers for our whole community and especially those who are most vulnerable.

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North Cornwall Cluster of Churches

For the parishes of St Kew, St Endellion with St Peter's, Port Isaac and St Minver with St Enodoc (Trebetherick) and St Michael (Porthilly)

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North Cornwall Cluster of Churches Newsletter May 2020



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'Good Friday Cross and transformed Easter Cross in front garden at Trebeth' Beth Elliot

Holy Habits - Prayer

Its May and we move on to our next Holy Habit- Prayer. Over the next two months we will be focussing on this habit which we all do, yet if you are like me, want to do better. There it is in our key text for Holy Habits "They devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2. 42). So, what is prayer? Dallas Willard defines prayer as 'interactive conversation with God about what we and God are thinking and doing together'.

Many of us struggle with prayer or are confused by it. Richard Foster in his book Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home says we should not panic about praying rightly or asking for the right things. That we should set aside these things and just begin praying simple prayers and talk to God as often as possible.

Over the coming weeks we will be offering different ways to help us in these conversations be it in the weekly pew sheet or in the services (if we are able to meet in church). The Corona virus pandemic has caused many who have not prayed on their own to do so. The lock down has changed a lot of our priorities and focus in our lives and how we live them. So now is a good time to be focussing on Prayer.

I was fortunate to work with Dr Ruth Fowke, a lovely Christian psychiatrist in Guildford, she wrote a book 'Personality and Prayer - finding and extending the prayer style that suits your personality'. It's a fascinating and very helpful book exploring different ways of prayer be you an extrovert or introvert, a thinker or a sensing person among other personality types. That one style does not fit all, that there is not a right or wrong way. She writes

Sunday 10 May at 1030am **Tribute to the Millions**

1. Let us remember those who so selflessly gave their lives at home and abroad whose sacrifice enables us to enjoy the peace and freedom we have today. Let us remember those who come home wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them
2. Let us remember those who returned to restore their relationship and rebuild their working lives after years of dreadful conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands, sons and sweethearts.
3. Let us remember the servicemen, merchant seamen, miners, brave civilians and others from Commonwealth and Allied countries who fought, suffered and died during four years of war.
4. Finally, let us remember those in reserved occupations and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front – the doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded, the women and men who toiled in the fields, those who worked in the factories, who all played such a vital role in the war effort at home.

Faculty Applications: St Endellion, St Kew and St Michael churches each have faculty notices placed outside. They request the Court for a Confirmatory faculty for all interments taken place since the churchyards' closure dates and also a Faculty for the continuation of interment of ashes in Gardens of Remembrance. These notices are required to remain in place for 40 days.

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Next issue

The deadline for text and/or pictures* for the June issue is:

15th May 2020

* Please note that permission is required for people in photographs and written parental consent for children.

VICTORY IN EUROPE (VE)

Throughout the world there were to be many events organised over the period 8th -10th May paying tribute to those people from all walks of life who saw us through the six years of war throughout the Second World War. It is obvious that because of the current situation with the virus Covid-19 these events will not take place as originally planned.

The original plan can be reduced so that readers can say the right words at the right time wherever they are.

Friday 8th May at 3pm: Pipers were to play Battles O'er and the specially written VE Day 75 at the highest points of the country and at the most widespread locations in the UK. Originally Marcus Jones was to play these tunes at St Minver. This may not happen. Also at this time pubs throughout the UK were encouraged to raise a glass to the Heroes of Second World War. The words are below.

Friday 8th May at 6.55pm: Town Criers were to give The Cry for Peace Around the World. This may not happen. The words are below.

Saturday 9th May There was supposed to be parties and celebrations. This may not happen.

Sunday 10th May There was supposed to be a 10am church service of Celebration and Commemoration, which would include the Tribute to the Millions and the Last Post and Reveille. This may not happen. The words of the Tribute are on page opposite.

We join the rest of the world to celebrate the peace that occurred at the cessation of World War 2 in Europe. We remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions who played such a vital part in achieving this peace.

William Garland

Friday 8 May at 3pm. **Toast the Heroes of the World War 2.**
"To those who gave so much. We thank you."

Friday 8 May at 6.55pm. **A Cry for Peace Around the World.**

Cry for Peace

Citizens, one and all,

Please join this cry for peace, that you now hear from me.

Remember men & women, old and young, who died to make us free.

The women left at home did not just sit and wait.

They toiled in harsh conditions before the dawn to very late.

Factories, farms, other essential jobs, the women were quick at learning

They worked, some died, to keep the home fires burning.

As we remember this special day, do not forget that

Every day someone needs your aid,

Do not put away your poppies, letting their memories fade.

Celebrate with the knowledge that VE Day is also a time to remember,

Beyond the solemn wreaths of the 11th November.

Let's thank all those who have gone before,
with their colours proudly unfurled.

Join us as united we say, "Peace to the world".

God Save the Queen.

'Listening and talking to God, and just being in his presence, are surely activities to look forward to, and to enjoy. We do that best when we are most naturally ourselves. Pray as you can- don't try to pray as you can't.'

Prayer at its best is sustaining, encouraging, nurturing, exciting and engaging- it was the lifeblood of the early church and it still is to us today, and maybe especially so in the these times of the pandemic. We will explore prayer in all its forms- using words and using silence, using mind, using heart, indoors and outdoors, personal or in groups, in church and in the community.

David Elliott

Shelterbox

During Lent St Minver parish has been raising money for Shelterbox to buy tents for emergency aid worldwide. This year has been difficult with the churches locked and no services held for some weeks. However enough for four tents has been donated and sent to the charity.

Jane Pain

GIVING & GENEROSITY

'God gives to all generously and ungrudgingly... Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father.' (James 1:5, 17)

Our God is relentlessly, extravagantly generous. Part of what it means to follow Jesus is to be generous too – generous with our time, our friendship, our money. Giving financially is a part of our worship. We give to others in response to God's generosity to us, trusting he will always provide for our needs.

Some of us are struggling financially at this time. If this is you, please don't feel pressured. Be generous with what you do have: if you've got extra time on your hands, you could share that with others by telephoning them, making resources for the NHS, or praying for people.

For those of us who are able, this is a time to be giving to those in need: foodbanks, refuges, charities. Many who give regularly to church have been asking how to keep doing this during lockdown. Here are three ways:

Online Giving

We are setting up a system for online giving so you can make donations via our website. Watch this space!

Parish Giving Scheme

The best way to give regularly. The Parish Giving Scheme works by direct debit and factors in Gift-Aid. If you would like more information or to sign up, contact Gus on gusguest25@gmail.com

Cash

If you normally give by cash on a Sunday, why not set aside a jar or envelope at home? Every Sunday when you join in worship with television, YouTube or by yourself, put some cash in the jar and say a short prayer: 'Father God, everything we have is yours, and of your own do we give you. Receive this gift as a token of my life, and use it for your Kingdom. Amen.' When we are back together again, you can bring what you've put aside to church.

We are really thankful for all of the ways our community is showing generosity in this time. As a church we are committed to showing the love of God in word and action to those who are in need. To do this, we do need money. So if you are able, please take some time to reflect and ask God how he is leading you in this time.

Revd Rose Jones

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Covid-19 means that donations for Christian Aid week are having to be processed in different ways this year.

Christian Aid are advising us to log on to their website - www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week where you will be shown the different ways in which you can make a donation.

Unfortunately there will be a delay of several months before they will be able to process any cheques, so if you are not able to donate online there is an option to telephone 020 7523 2269 to donate by phone or by BACS.

Whichever way you choose to make a donation, please could you add the reference number OR245348. This is the Cluster reference number so all our donations will be linked.

Thank you, as always, for all your support which is greatly appreciated.



Barnabas Project:

While most of us are entering our second phase of lockdown and into week four, others have been in lockdown much longer. I'm thinking especially about the residents in our care homes, Windmill Court and Trewiston Lodge. The residents are well cared for as they always are, but they have been without visitors for a long time. I'm sure they are missing friends, family and the entertainment they usually have. Not only that but they will be missing our Remembering God service of worship and home communion.

Initially North Cornwall Cluster launched the 'Barnabas' project as a way of remaining connected to and encouraging those who live and work in the care homes at such a difficult time. We did hope to send cards and letters but because the coronavirus can live on these materials, we weren't able to. However, we can still send scriptures, pictures, letters and messages of hope and encouragement via e-mail.

Our pastoral lay visitors are spearheading this project and are inviting everyone who would like to, to be involved. If you would like to send a message please e-mail it to Ann Sumra: ann.sumra@btinternet.com and she will send it on.

Thank you for being the light and life of Christ and serving and praying for our friends in this way, may you be blessed as you bless and encourage others. *Rev'd Geraldine.*

Selfless love and Service to others

Of all the Holy Week stories that I have read this year, one has stayed with me. It is where Jesus puts a towel around his waist, kneels and washes his disciples' feet. I suppose to us it doesn't seem like a big deal, but it was a job saved for gentile slaves or women! It was considered a job for the lowest of the low. No-one would choose to do it anyway, since all the waste, filth and excrement filled the streets and at festival times like Passover, there was every chance that you would stand in something!

This is what Jesus bent down to clean from his friends and they were affronted! How could he do such a thing as a Rabbi? I love that Jesus challenged the culture of the day and here we see him showing service to others, it is beautiful picture of selfless love and humility and showing that life is of little use if not used to serve others.

The fullest measure of God's love is shown in Jesus Christ who serves us to the point of giving his life for each of us on the cross, for stooping down and helping each one of us to come out of our darkness, pain and brokenness, washing us clean from sin and bringing us to healing, wholeness, reconciliation & restoration with God and with each other.

Perhaps the coronavirus pandemic we have been experiencing has called us afresh to take seriously those things that are important and to lay down the less important things that have occupied so much of our time. Many have been taking seriously selfless love and service to one another.

In the past weeks I have seen many beautiful acts of service, care for family, friends and communities. I have seen neighbourly kindness, the service of shops delivering papers, food and medicines. Phone calls and social media have been used for good and to keep people connected. Volunteer groups have been delivering hot meals, doing shopping, dog walking and befriending and drawing communities afresh into fellowship with each other.

I believe the result will be stronger communities, deeper friendships and a resurgence of care and compassion for others and I am thankful to God for that.

When we serve others, we show something of God's love that exists within us and remember that however much we love and serve others, God loves and serves each one of us more. So, let us ask God for the grace to live in order to serve, so that we can reach out to those in need and be concerned about what good we do for others and follow Christ's example. Amen.

Reverend Geraldine Ashton

Nostalgia Cafe

Dear Friends/Attendees in Lockdown. It has been good to speak with you in your homes and to know that you are safe and coping in these difficult weeks. We hope that by the time this newsletter is available that further progress and easing of the strict rules will be possible. Be assured that we shall all meet again as soon as it is safe and permitted to organise and the team will be preparing for happier times during the next few weeks.

Best wishes from Liz, Julia, Chris, Jo, Martin and Andrew.

