

In & around the Benefice....

28th June | Third Sunday after Trinity

Our Acting Rector is The Reverend Janet Tebby

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www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk

Please visit our website for information on worship during the lockdown

<http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk/worship/worship-during-the-lockdown>



****** This week's service is live online at 10am on Sunday 28th June******

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84181388205?pwd=Mmlra1VqNjZvOXdpb1FzS1N5Ulp3dz09>

Meeting ID: 841 8138 8205

Password: 818652

The order of service can be found on our website:

<http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk/worship/worship-during-the-lockdown/virtual-worship-service-sheets.php>

Reflection

As we start to emerge from the lock down, some faster and farther than others, we feel a sense of relief on the one hand and yet a foreboding sense of fear on the other.

In Matthew's Gospel this morning we hear Jesus telling His friends to welcome each other. To receive one another, because when we welcome someone, we welcome Jesus himself and in turn, God.

The place where we experience the 'welcome' of others is usually on our doorsteps. These places represent the threshold from outside to inside, from your space to my space, have become a bit of a focal point over the last few months. We joined together clapping the NHS from our front door steps, we have taken deliveries of food, of prescriptions and all kinds of other essentials, from strangers on our doorsteps. So what about our churches..... are we going to be that welcoming face on the doorstep, are we going to be able to welcome friends and strangers in to our churches. Well the simple answer is yes, we must. However, this needs to be done in a careful and sensible way.

- Yes, with smiles as broad as we can make them, but no handshaking or hugging,
- Yes, words of encouragement and joy, but from a distance of at least 2 metres,
- our church spaces altered to keep us all safely distanced but no less loving,
- and our prayers deeply spoken, softly whispered, and gently offered to God.



Things won't be the same as they once were for a long time, and as we all grapple with this new landscape, I pray that we never forget to welcome our friends and neighbours, the stranger and the foreigner, those the same as we are, and those who seem different, those who think the same way as we do and those who don't, because Jesus tells us 'He who welcomes or receives you, also receives me, and that same person receives the one who sent me'

Please pray for our church wardens and ministry team as they chisel out a way forward for our 5 churches, this is not an easy time and we have to err on the side of safety and protection. God Bless you,

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- ◇ All involved in the process of finding our new Rector
- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including the NHS, council workers, teachers
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Mairi Boyd, Anne Blackmore, Bishop John and his wife Elizabeth, Fabienne Godfrey
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Gerry Foxhall and all who grieve at this time

The Collect

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

First Reading

Genesis 22: 1-14

God tested Abraham.
He said to him, 'Abraham!'
And Abraham said, 'Here I am.'
God said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac,
whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and
offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the
mountains that I shall show you.'
So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his
donkey, and took two of his young men with him,
and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-
offering, and set out and went to the place in the
distance that God had shown him.
On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the
place far away. Then Abraham said to his young
men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will
go over there; we will worship, and then we will
come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the
burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he
himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of
them walked on together.
Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!'
And Abraham said, 'Here I am, my son.'
Isaac said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but
where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?'
Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb
for a burnt-offering, my son.'
So the two of them walked on together.
When they came to the place that God had shown
him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood
in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on
the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham
reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his
son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from
heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!'
And he said, 'Here I am.'
The angel said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or
do anything to him; for now I know that you fear
God, since you have not withheld your son, your
only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and
saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns.
Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up
as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham
called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said
to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be
provided.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10: 40-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus said to the twelve:

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and
whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent
me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a
prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and
whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name
of a righteous person will receive the reward of the
righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold
water to one of these little ones in the name of a
disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their
reward.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear
until we may look upon you without fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen