

In & around the Benefice....

5th July | Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Our Acting Rector is The Reverend Janet Tebby

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Our Curate is The Reverend Amanda Oliver

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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>



You will have heard that churches are now allowed to open for worship services. This is good news, but it entails a lot of cleaning, preparation and working out how to seat people whilst maintaining a safe distance. The PCCs are all working hard to get this right, but it takes time, so please be patient. We will let you know the service schedule as soon as we can, meanwhile our online services continue:

***** This week's service is live online at 10am on Sunday 5th July*****

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87301728928?pwd=SVJQUEhCck1ZIBLdnN6c1JNdnlxUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 0172 8928

Password: 215427

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>

Next Sunday (**July 12th**), Liz Taylor from Yardley Hastings will be licensed by Bishop John to be a Reader in our Benefice. She has been training for 3 years whilst working full time as a physiotherapist - well done Liz! She will be licensed to minister in all our parishes, leading services, preaching, taking funerals, leading bible study groups and in pastoral care.

The licensing will take place on Zoom at 10.30am after our Sunday Morning Service also on Zoom at 10am.

So you will need 2 links for next Sunday:

10.00am service <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84307467901?pwd=VjNobGgyQjF0SWWhyMmUrQ2k5TkNjQT09>

10.30am licensing <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81853420157?pwd=WW96UHU0NWowRjBkU2s5a2pZN3ljUT09>

Do try to be there, and have a glass of something fizzy ready to celebrate with Liz afterwards!

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- ◇ All those missing loved ones who live far away
- ◇ 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, Fabienne Godfrey
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Gerry Foxhall and all who grieve at this time

The Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading

Romans 7: 15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

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

At that time Jesus said, 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

"Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest"

Jesus invites us to come to Him just as we are. He recognises the busyness of our lives, how we labour and are overburdened and draws us into his loving and gentle presence. He wants to listen to all of our concerns, and assures us that his yoke is easy and his burden is light. When we spend time with Jesus we find rest for our souls. He speaks to us in the silence of our hearts and gives us inner peace.

We can speak with Jesus as we would with any friend, sharing our joys, our struggles, our hopes, and our fears. He never grows tired of listening to us and constantly renews us with the gift of his love. Let's take up his invitation, come to him in prayer and share our burdens with him

Prayer

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen