

others who trust and follow Jesus can experience and know that unity with the Father that Jesus prayed for.

Love from Cathy

PS: If you are feeling that, despite the lifting of some restrictions, life is still hard going, Psalm 23 might help.

The Diocese of Chichester ANNOUNCEMENT

In a letter issued from Lambeth Palace, it was announced that the new bishops of Horsham and Lewes will be consecrated next week on the feast of St Swithun, Wednesday 15 July. Ruth Bushyager and Will Hazelwood will be able to invite a limited number of guests to the socially distanced services of consecration in the Chapel of Lambeth Palace.

Ruth is to serve as Bishop of Horsham whilst Will becomes the new Bishop of Lewes. On the same day Hugh Nelson, Vicar of St Mary Goudhurst with Kilndown in the Canterbury Diocese, is also to be consecrated alongside Ruth as the new Bishop of St Germans in the Diocese of Truro

“We are grateful that the Archbishop of Canterbury has been able to arrange for these consecrations to take place, despite of the restrictions on public worship. This enables the new bishops to begin serving in the dioceses of Chichester and of Truro as we continue to meet the challenges that face us nationally and globally,” said the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner.

He added: “Please pray for them and their families, asking God’s blessing on their future ministry and its fruitfulness.”

Plans for the services to be livestreamed are underway and details will follow on the diocesan website.

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org>

THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 12 July 2020

Westfield folk on email will have received a letter from me inviting them to come to a service of Holy Communion in church next Sunday at 10am. Letters will go out on Monday to church members without the benefit of broadband. It’s a long letter as we have had to set out some detailed instructions and recommendations with a view to keeping everyone safe and preparing them for the differences they will encounter. I am grateful to members of the PCC Standing Committee who have been so helpful in getting us to this point. It does make your brain hurt trying to think of how to deal with every eventuality in terms of Covid safety and yet still provide a sense of peace and holiness for worship. My PCC colleagues at Guestling, Neil and Val, have done sterling work in getting the church clean and sanitized. There is still more to do but we hope to be able to hold our first service on Sunday 9th August at 11am which will be the day of St Laurence’s patronal festival. The lessons we have learned at Westfield will be invaluable in helping us re-open Guestling safely and with confidence so thank you all. It has been a busy week getting to this stage and I want to thank Jim, Valerie, Monika and Cathy for their contributions to the newsletter this week which have been so helpful for your editor who is suffering from a temporary spell of word drought! The lavender bushes lining the main path at Westfield are looking marvellous—such a rich deep purple. There are lots of butterflies about and the noise of the grasshoppers is deafening. The prayer at the bottom of page 3 talks about serving the Lord in ‘godly quietness.’ How I miss

the early days of lockdown when the roads were empty. We have two noisy motorbikes using Croft Road as a race track and the noise of deliveries to the Church Hall opposite as its conversion into flats begins. Give me grasshoppers any day! This comes with my love and prayers for you all, Joy

Monika writes

I have been going for a walk in the evening after work, two or three times a week, along an isolated lane from my cottage and walk to Staplecross and back almost 7 miles. (only one or two cars ever and the odd cyclist). During this lockdown we have seen the daffodils, tulips, bluebells, wood anemones then red campion and the cow parsley on to dog roses and honeysuckle, which only lasted a week, and now ferns and the blackberries which have lost their blossom and are forming the blackberries (very early), apples growing on the trees, fields drilled, and now hay cutting and baling. Birds have laid their eggs, chicks raised and flown the nest, lambs born and now on their own and all the sheep are shorn. I heard 'As the Deer pants for the Water' in Gaelic one morning and thought of Molly and all our friends, here and now and those that have gone before us. The old regulars at Guestling who have gone - Alan Parks, John Jury and my Dad (the three incorrigibles) Maisie, Marguerite Smith and her friend who used to catch the bus from Tenterden to come to church, Doreen and Ken, Mary Breeds, Bob who used to wash up with us and so many more. All our lives have been enriched by so many people. It was as if the last few months were in a fast forward time lapse in a film. God is still there, being stretched to his limit I would think, but he is there.

show where two groups were working together but there were still lots of separate groups. Then he drew a cross in the middle of the circle and joined each group in turn to the central cross like the spokes of a wheel. When differing groups of people all have Jesus in the centre, he explained, they will all be united.

In verse 21, Jesus shows us that our unity with him and each other helps other people to understand that Jesus is as one with the Father. People take note of what they see in us; some oppose what they see, but others are drawn to Jesus because we reflect something of Jesus' and the Father's glory. In verse 23, he says, *we are one: I in them and you in me*. Jesus, the Father and us, his followers, are to be models of unity and love in a fragmented, fearful and sometimes hate-filled world.

John chapter 17 verses 24 to 26

Jesus then prays that we may experience the glory and love of the Father in heaven too. Eternal life is a continuation of the relationship we have now with Jesus, but much more exciting. Just as it might be difficult for a caterpillar to imagine life as a butterfly, we find it hard to imagine what heaven might be like, but Jesus certainly wants to share something wonderful with us.

In the last two verses of his prayer, Jesus acknowledges that many people in the world do not understand or know the Father, but he reassures us, his followers, that, if we know him, we know the Father. Jesus left his earthly life shortly after he prayed this prayer, but his Holy Spirit was soon given to his followers in answer to his prayer. Now, we and all

CV19 Homegroup

While we are still waiting to be able to meet together again, I thought we would look at the prayer that Jesus prayed for his followers. It is in John Chapter 17, verses 20 to 26.

Jesus has just been praying for his disciples because he knows he is about to leave them. He asks the Father to protect them so that they will remain united in mind and spirit, to fill them with joy, to protect them from the evil one and to sanctify them through God's word. In the section we are reading, Jesus prays for everyone else who will hear the disciples' message and decide to follow Jesus.

John chapter 17 verses 20 and 23

Jesus prays for us, people who believe because of the message first spoken by the disciples. His first request for us is *that all of them may be one*. Does that mean I have to agree with everything my fellow Christians think? That would seem to be quite impossible; I have Christian friends with very different views on a wide range of matters!!! Jesus explains that the unity he prays for is *that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you*. We can have true, deep fellowship with anyone who has Jesus in their heart. Our unity is not based on a set of theological points but on our relationship with Jesus. (See also John 15 verses 9 to 17).

I can remember a much-respected Youth Leader explaining this to us as teenagers. He wrote the names of a wide variety of denominations and Christian groups in a circle on a piece of paper. He drew arrows between some of them to

Fifth Sunday after Trinity July 12th 2020

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Westfield

Sermon series: The Community of the Spirit

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

BCP Readings: for Fifth Sunday after Trinity

1 Peter 3.8-15a Luke 5:1-11

Guestling

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 55:10-13 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Please check the website on Sunday for services for

Westfield <http://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-sreivices-for-westfield-church/>

Guestling . <https://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-guestling-church/>

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Natural History of Westfield (with apologies to GW)

10th July. Swifts have been seen on the wing more than



swallows and house martins this year. Winged ants swarmed on Tuesday, so the insect-feeders will have dined well. Worker ants make tunnels for the others to emerge from the nest.

Our properties near the Surgery stand on the site of a former market garden, which long-term residents say they remember. The soil is a sandy loam rather than the clay found generally in the village. Asparagus grows well, rhubarb will not.



Pigeons landed on the summer cabbages (Primos) and were pecking the outer leaves while swaying in the strong wind (Luke 12, verse 24). Ravens have not been residents of Westfield but they are nesting on the cliffs around Lewes.

Two black and white cats have taken over our garden. One has no tail but they are both like Nimrod (Genesis 10, verses 8,9) scaring off the visiting rabbits. JG

Caring and Sharing

During this time the way we help the children in Colombia at Casa Walsingham has changed.

We won't be using the usual box in church for donations. Instead if you would like to continue to support the work of the Street Educators in Medellin please send your gift directly to the treasurer of 'Caring and Sharing'. Please do mention that you would like your gift to go to the Colombia project.

You can send a cheque to 'Caring and Sharing East Sussex' to
Mrs Holly Stevenson
130 Cooden Drive
Bexhill on Sea
TN39 3AW

Alternatively by BACS
Account Name 'Bishop of Lewes Caring and Sharing East Sussex'.
Barclays Bank
Account Number 40638293
Sort Code 20 27 91
Reference Colombia



Thanks again for your continued support of this work.
Valerie Richardson

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