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‘THE LOOKOUT’

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

**The church building will be open
at the following times for private prayer:**

MONDAY - SATURDAY 1400 - 1500

We look forward to welcoming you!

**IT IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT YOU MUST WEAR A FACEMASK
WHEN COMING TO CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER OR SERVICES**

Fr Anthony is saying prayers on behalf of the Parish at 0900 and 1700 each day.
Join him spiritually whether you are at home or at work.

By 1000 each Sunday there is a pre-recorded Service of the Word
on our website www.stmargaret.org.uk

This will include the week's readings, a homily and intercessions.

Do share with those who do not have internet access that they can listen to the service
on the 'phone by dialling **01273 92 12 32** at a standard call rate.

The service is also available on Alexa

First time: **“Alexa, enable St Margaret's Church, Rottingdean”**

Thereafter: **“Alexa, open St Margaret's Church, Rottingdean”**

*Do join us by listening at 1000 on Sundays or at some point in the week and encourage your friends
and neighbours to listen too. And please pray for our church congregation, the wider community
and all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.*

Opening Hymn (recorded service only) Now thank we all our God

The Collect (Opening Prayer) for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Reading from the Old Testament – Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus told this parable: 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Prayers of Intercession

The sick and those who care for them: John Leech, Esmé von Habsburg, Andrew West, Jenny Edwards, Margaret Montagu, Deirdre West, Barbara Webb, Beryl Scott, Elizabeth Perkis, Pippa, Jill Crossland, Susan Wiltshire, Ian Aslett, Phil Gervait, Anne Smith, Sarah Neve, Gwendoline Lee, Chloe Grenier, Jean Talbot, Patrick Mills, Lissy Mason, Kate, Martina Hallinan, Jean Hughes, Terry Bourne, Anne Prout, David Crofts, Jim Heath, Kathleen Williams, Ann Hayes, Giles Henry, Geoff Blakey

The recently departed: Frederick Kemp

Anniversaries of death this week: Belle Hanny (20th); Reg France (20th); Daphne Figg (22nd); Bill Norwood (22nd); Mary Moppett (24th); Trevor Mann (24th); Eddie Pyle (25th); Moya Waltman (25th); Robert Vane (25th)

Funerals this week:

Post-Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS – THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 21)

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Matthew 21:23-32

Related readings – Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13

SUPPORT FOR THE FOODBANK IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

Leave your donation in the porch on Sunday mornings or during private prayer opening hours:

Monday – Saturday 1400-1500

Financial donations can be made here:

<https://thewhitehawk.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>



Desperately needed this week: rice pudding, tea, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, carbonara sauce, long-life juice, meatballs, curry sauce, tinned curry (chicken/vegetable), toilet roll. You can now make your donation through online supermarket shops. More details can be found here -

<https://thewhitehawk.foodbank.org.uk/2019/06/21/ordering-food-delivery-foodbank/>. Many thanks for your ongoing support of the Foodbank. Please pray for its work and volunteers, and for the increasing number of people who rely on its services.

Christmas Family & Elderly Shoebox Appeal

Yes, the Shoebox Appeal is taking place this year, although the number of boxes sent is likely to be substantially fewer than in previous years, and we are modifying procedures for obvious reasons. I am willing to deliver leaflets, provide shoeboxes and collect them when ready, which must be by 31st October. So please, as individuals, support the Appeal. If you prefer to donate cash instead of goods for the boxes or donate by cheque (payable to Link to Hope), I am also willing to collect, maintaining physical distancing, of course. Thank you. *David Hunt*

St Margaret's Cottage

At its online Zoom meeting on 18th July, the Parochial Church Council gave some considerable time to discussing our current and future use of the Cottage. It was noted that with Covid-19 restrictions it is currently not possible to use the space – no bookings are being taken because there is so much uncertainty, especially with a second lockdown an imminent possibility. The PCC also recorded its gratitude to Joyce Bourne and Marie Wilcockson who have contributed so much to the running of the Cottage for many years but who have now decided to step back from running big events. It was decided that we use this time well to assess the condition of the building and so an independent Health & Safety inspection was requested and carried out. The findings were mixed. The report comments on the good hygiene of the building and the fact that it has been well cared for by volunteers. There are however serious problems with accessibility to the building itself and especially to the toilet – someone using a wheelchair would be seriously impeded. Some fire safety issues were detected, the most significant one being that there is no fire escape from the upper floor where one room is currently let out as office space. The flooring in the main hall does not meet current legal guidelines (it needs to be a sealed floor) so it is not suitable especially for children's activities or floor-work exercises such as pilates or yoga. The report concluded that the Cottage is not fit for purpose as a church hall or for commercial hire, and that 'tens of thousands' of pounds will be needed to bring it up to standard. I realise that this will come as a great blow and disappointment to many in our community, not just the congregation. In the weeks and months to come we will need to decide what to do, bearing in mind the money we also need to raise to do urgent repair and improvement works in the church building. The PCC, as Trustees of the charity, need to make decisions that see good practice being done and our assets and resources used well to the benefit the charity as a whole. I have over the summer been exploring various options and members of the PCC have made a range of suggestions. If anyone in the congregation or the village has any ideas, comments or a miracle solution, please do be in touch with me or Dawn Davidson. The PCC minutes conclude with this: 'No immediate decision will be taken: further discussion will be needed on this significant and sensitive matter.' In the meantime, some of the lesser fire safety issues have been addressed by me to enable Professionals UK to continue to use the office for the time being, to allow some breathing space as they decide their own future and we ours. *Fr Anthony*

GIVING TO ST MARGARET'S

If you are new to our church and are planning to become a regular worshipper with us – **welcome!** Our members give generously of their time, their talents and their wealth. If you have a particular **skill or interest** that you might be able to offer, please speak with Fr Anthony.

Please consider signing up to the **Parish Giving Scheme** of regular donations to support our day-to-day activities: please ask for a form.

Please also consider leaving a **legacy** to St Margaret's when writing your Will, and help to secure the building and our resources for future generations.

You might also be interested (when these things are possible again) in **sponsoring a concert** in our [Music at St Margaret's](#) series – sponsorship covers the cost of performers' fees and expenses and ensures that all monies raised from ticket sales can support the life and upkeep of our church.

Floodlighting – suggested donation £32.50 for a month

The church is being floodlit in the month of September by Elaine Eardley in loving memory of her husband, Paul, a priest, whose anniversary fell on 26th August.

Service 'phoneline - suggested donation £35.00 for a month

The Service 'phoneline was sponsored in the month of June by Mary Hanna and also by David Hunt.

If you would like to sponsor the church floodlighting or the 'phoneline please contact Fr Anthony.