

VICAR: THE REV'D DR ANTHONY MOORE

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'THE LOOKOUT'

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2020
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The church building will be open 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) A new commandment I give unto you

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

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 – Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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: Jack Fernley (27th); John Bromley (27th); Chris Rice (28th); Arthur Stringer (29th); Christine Fall (30th); Eric Hatley (30th); Jack Edwards (30th); Pam Sullivan (1st October); Mary Leigh (2nd); John Black (3rd)

Funerals this week:

Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS – THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 22)

Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 21:33-46

Related readings – Psalm 80:7-14; Philippians 3:4b-14

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.

Second Sunday Service

With a tightening of Government restrictions, it's difficult to know how to proceed but for now, as the number of people wishing to attend church has been exceeding our agreed safe limit of 30 (4 people sat outside last week, and two went home), I will offer a second repeat service at 1130 from next Sunday, 4th October. If numbers drop down again, I'll revise that. It would be helpful if you would kindly give the Churchwardens an indication of which service you might attend – we don't want everyone having a long lie-in, a leisurely breakfast and all arriving for 1130! *Fr Anthony*

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 – updated (changes from last week in italics)

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: *the Prime Minister has stated that the latest restrictions are likely to be in place for six months.* 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 *such as the 2-3 day festivals, although they're very happy to continue with smaller scale 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 in the short and longer terms, 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 of the charity as a whole. *I am delighted that Michael Maddox, who already sits on the PCC, has offered to serve as our Development Project Manager, overseeing the future plans of both the Church and the Cottage. He, with others, will liaise with advisors and contractors and make recommendations to the PCC. Michael has served as Churchwarden in another parish in the past and was involved in a significant development project there, so we are in very capable and experienced hands.* 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 is sponsored in late September/October by Gill Clarke.

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