

Dear friends,

And so the fine and hot weather continues - I guess we've never had such a plentiful opportunity to make the most of it in our lockdown gardens, and the surrounding country side. A little night-time rain would be appreciated by my lawn, but then I guess we had our year's quota of rain last winter!

It seems that lockdown lifting gradually continues in various ways and I'm sure we're all grateful for that. Sadly, I suspect a return to full use of our churches is some way off yet and so we shall continue to make use of our new-found digital means of 'going to church' and staying in touch. I'm sure that many, like me, have appreciated the opportunity to 'visit' other churches (and not just in the UK!) and to listen-in to different styles of worship.

I start as usual with mentioning our ABE parish services and church news for this Sunday 31 May (Pentecost).

St Mary's Aldingbourne

Morning Prayer: Fr Tony will lead his usual on-line service of Morning Prayer at 10am. All members of the parish are invited to join this service via Zoom, please click on this link to join:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87890473700?pwd=UlhDdHBIRzJMZWJScEFSQWRiY01CQT09>.

Coffee Morning: The usual online coffee gathering and chat will be held next Thursday at 10.30am via Zoom. To receive the link for this, please email Sarah on nicholsarah8@gmail.com.

St Mary's Barnham

St Mary's concludes its Easter celebrations with two Pentecost recorded Masses on Sunday, celebrated by Fr Graham at 9.30am and 11.15am. The 9.30am service will follow the order of the Book of Common Prayer.

On Saturday 6th June the church will celebrate its monthly Walsingham Cell Mass.

Steven has advised that St Mary's bookstall has recently been moved from its usual place inside the church to the lych gate (weather conditions permitting), so that anyone visiting Church Lane can take a look. This has proved to be very successful – do go and have a look (picture attached). The stall has raised over £50 in just six days, all funds going towards St Mary Barnham Church's toilet fund – a worthy cause indeed! I'm sure the churchwardens are feeling quite flushed with success (sorry, I couldn't resist!).

St George's Eastergate

Revd Sheila will be leading the usual service of Holy Communion from the church, available to view from about 10am. The service includes prayers, readings and other contributions from various members of the congregation.

After Sunday's Pentecost service, at 11.30am, we will be meeting together via Zoom to celebrate this special festival. To join the Zoom gathering, please click on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81847032556?pwd=ejAzcTlaZks4M2NLRnBBdiVYSnhldz09>. Everybody from across the parish is very welcome to attend. Bring your cup of coffee – and maybe a piece of birthday cake!

Next Sunday, 7 June, will be a Family Service celebrating Trinity Sunday. This is a great way for us all to encourage family-friendly worship for our young people – and many of us older folk as well!

Please remember that more video messages from members of the congregation will be welcomed for the St George's Family Check-in each week – please refer to my previous emails for details, and let Sheila or me know if you can provide a message.

All recorded services from St George's Eastergate and St Mary's Barnham continue to be available to view on our parish YouTube channel. [Click here](#) to view, or type 'Parish of ABE' into the YouTube search box and select 'Parish of ABE Recorded Services'. A link to this channel, along with links to our Facebook pages, can also be found on our Parish website www.parihofabe.org.uk, which also gives other useful information and resources.

Interregnum Update

The PCC has now fixed a date (15 July) for the all-important 'Section 11' meeting, during which several key matters will be agreed relating to the selection process for our new incumbent. This will include the appointment from within the PCC of two or three Parish Representatives who, with the Archdeacon, will be responsible for interviewing applicants and appointing someone for the post.

More good news has come this morning with an announcement from the Diocesan property office that contracts are due to be exchanged today (Friday) on the purchase of ABE's new rectory property in Chantry Mead (off Downview Road), Barnham. So things are, at last, moving forward!

It would be good if we can all pray, throughout the parish, for a successful outcome to the process of finding our new Rector. We pray that God will provide for us the right person, that he or she will have the energy and vision to lead us forward as a united parish.

I attach a list of the particular qualities that we seek in our new Rector, as indicated by various members of our congregations. Please pray for the future of our parish, and that the right person having these qualities is ready and able to lead us forward.

Contact Newsheet, Prayer Diary for June and Parish News magazine

This week's Contact Newsheet is attached. This includes the bible readings for this Sunday which you might like to read during the services (the second sheet gives the readings for Aldingbourne and Eastergate and the third sheet gives those for Barnham). The prayer diary for June is now also attached.

The May parish magazine continues to be available to view online at <https://www.parishofabe.org.uk/parish-mag>, and some printed copies are still available if you would like one, please call or email me and I will arrange for one to be delivered to you.

Parish Prayer Group

The weekly Prayer Group continues to meet from 5.30 to 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings to pray for the parish generally and for individuals who we know are in need and have asked to be prayed for. During this period of lockdown, all are invited to join the group to pray together in spirit in their own homes. It is a lovely way to feel connected with others in the parish and to feel our Lord's presence with us all. If you would like a list of detailed prayers emailed to you, or delivered if you would prefer, please let Maggie know (courtnadge@outlook.com or call 552099 or 07740 543974). Maggie has put some general prayers on the Parish website which you may wish to use during this time of prayer.

Food Bank

The Bognor Food Bank has expressed its gratitude to ABE parish for its food contributions, which continue to be well maintained during this lockdown period. Please continue to support the Foodbank by placing food items in the baskets in the Barnham Co-op store or the Trading Post. Further details of this valuable service, and a list of the most needed food items, is given on the attached Contact sheet.

St Mary's Barnham - a Bee Hive history

Following mention of the 'Barnham Bees' in recent copies of this newsletter, several people have been interested in how the church bee hive came about. Steven has given me a little history. Last spring a swarm of bees took up residence at Barnham Primary School and the local council beekeeper was called to remove them. Local resident and apiculturist, D'Arcy Myers, was offered the bees but he didn't have the space to keep them (bees require a quiet area with space to live). D'Arcy and family have attended St Mary's over the years, and knowing the area well, he asked if the church could host the bees, which the wardens said they were happy to do.

The bees arrived in a temporary plastic hive and a few weeks later a two-storey, traditional wooden hive arrived and the bees moved in. D'Arcy and his daughter have been looking after the bees and the Barnham congregations have taken a great interest in them and can often be seen watching the bees leaving and arriving (apparently it looks like a busy

Heathrow!) D'Arcy has been keeping the congregation up-to-date with hive updates: hopefully this year they will get some honey. Last year D'Arcy was able to make a few bars of honeycomb bars of soap!

The bees are generally friendly, however they are not keen on some smells (Steven says he changed his hair gel and they didn't like it!!). It's also a good idea to keep a safe distance from the hive. In order to keep the bees in our churchyard, permission was needed from Church House in Hove and from Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Finally

I wish health and happiness to you all, and your families, this coming week.

Best wishes,

Gary