

The Parish of Christchurch



*The Priory Church of the Holy Trinity, Christchurch
St George, Jumpers • St John at Purewell*

Associate Priest: The Reverend Richard Partridge,
T 07903 252230 E richardpartridge310@btinternet.com

Sunday 14th March 2021

Dear Friends

There is an expression that suggests, "Hope Springs Eternal." At its heart this saying reminds us that even in our darkest hour or most difficult life event, things can get better once again. Every time I think about Sir Captain Tom Moore, I see that sparkle in his eyes and the love radiating from his heart as he says the words, "Tomorrow will be a good day."

We all need hope and the capacity to look forward with optimism. Living with the global pandemic for the last year has tested our ability to hope to the very brink. Our news bulletins have quite correctly highlighted the sad news that has flowed from this virus, the number of people who have died, those hospitalised and critically ill, hard working men and women losing their jobs through no fault of their own, people struggling to pay essential bills or to feed their families and restrictions placed upon all of our lives, the list is endless and serves only to show just how truly desperate the current situation really is for so many people, both here and today.

Sometimes signs of hope comes in ways that we least expect them to do so, others perhaps far less so, and this week as well as our schools being able to open and our children being permitted to return to see their friends and to receive face to face teaching once again, so too another sign of hope in the darkness has dawned, one that I hope will have brought joy, peace, comfort and healing to many local families, perhaps to your own family as well. For this week those living in our local care and nursing homes have been permitted to have one family member visit them, perhaps for the first time in a whole year, and even to hold them by the hand. Tears of happiness have surely flowed in many residential homes this week, tears also filled with hope that this is just the first sign or step in the return to full human interaction and contact with those we love so much and from whom we have been separated for so long, and this weekend as we celebrate Mothering Sunday, this will be even more poignant and real to so many in our local community.

We may differ as a global population as to where we draw our hope from, to the Christian of course the hope that springs eternal comes from the resurrection of Jesus himself, to others it might surface in very different ways. Perhaps it is enough for today to simply agree that hope itself is important to us all, the results of which we have now both started to see and felt personally and hopefully we will all continue to do so in the coming days, weeks and months.

With my love and my Prayers

Richard.

Church Services in the Priory.

As our Vicar wrote in his letter last week, we have taken the decision to hopefully resume public services in The Priory and at St George's from Easter Sunday, 4th April. The 9.30m and 11.30am Eucharist Services in the Priory will be ticketed. Free tickets are available online via the Events page on this website, or by e-mailing colin.bacchus@btinternet.com, or phoning 01425 278862. If requesting tickets by e-mail, please include a telephone number for track & trace purposes. You do not need a ticket to attend Said Evensong at 6.30pm on Sundays nor the Eucharist at St George's on a Sunday at 9.30m. Please note that from Sunday 11th April the Eucharist in the Priory will be at 10.00am once again.

Full details of our current plans for the re-opening of our Churches for public Worship appear on the parish website and in the pastoral letter dated 7th March, also available via the website.

Evening Prayer in the Great Quire will resume from **Monday 5th April**. (Monday to Saturday.)

Details of other weekday Services across the parish will be published later this month.

Easter Lilies.

As in previous years we will decorate both The Priory and St George's with beautiful lilies for Easter Sunday. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of these flowers there are two ways to do this. If you decide to give by bank transfer, please use the following account details "PCC of Christchurch General Account": sort code 52-21-34, account number 52427900; and in the space for the reference, please type "Easter lilies". If you are able to apply Gift Aid to your donation, please also send Ian Penny an email at prioryhouse@christchurchpriory.org

If you would prefer to give by cheque, please make it payable to PCC of Christchurch General Account: send your donation to: the Administrator, Priory House, Quay Road, Christchurch, BH23 1BX, again indicating whether Gift Aid may be applied and clearly marked with "Easter lilies" written on the envelope.

If you do make a donation and would like the name of a loved one included on the list that will be placed on the High Altar during the Easter Season, please also use this email address for this purpose or include these details in the letter you send to the Administrator.

Electoral Roll

Robert Phillipson, Parish of Christchurch Electoral Roll Officer, writes Notice is hereby given that the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christchurch Electoral Roll is being REVISED.

Any person whose name is NOT ALREADY on the Electoral Roll needs to fill out a form,

- or if you have changed your address since this time last year,
- or if you know of anybody whose name is on the Roll but who has either died,
- or have moved during the year.

When filled out, please return the form to me either by email electoralroll@christchurchpriory.org, via the Priory Vestry, or directly by the 4th April 2021 at the latest. Failure to have your name on our Electoral Roll will mean you will be unable to vote at the Parish AGM, stand for a member of the PCC, Deanery Synod or Churchwarden. In line with the Diocese, you are being asked to provide telephone numbers and an email address (if you have one). This extra information will make it much easier for the clergy to make contact should the need arise, as they use the Electoral Roll as a means of identifying and communicating with members of their congregation. It is, therefore, essential that the Roll is kept up to date.