

The Parish of Christchurch



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

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Sunday 30th May 2021: Trinity Sunday

Dear Friends

Today the Church keeps Trinity Sunday and I was tempted this week to write about the doctrine of the Trinity as I understand that to be, but on reflection I have decided to leave that to James Robertson who will be preaching at the Priory 10.00am Eucharist and to Graham Newton who will be preaching at the St George's 9.30am Eucharist, after all, there must be some advantages of preparing the Sunday rota for our Services!

In just one month's time from now, our good friend Canon Graham Newton will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. And a date for your diary, Graham will Preside at the Eucharist in the Priory on Sunday 27th June. I dare say that Graham has seen many changes in the provision of ministry during this time. Earlier in the year it was announced that the diocese of Winchester would have to lose 22 stipendiary posts this year, the vast majority of which will come from posts occupied by priests set in our Parishes. In our deanery, our neighbouring Parishes of Burton and Mudeford are to combine as a single Benefice and Sopley will move to be part of the Bransgore Benefice. Please do pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our neighbouring parishes during this time of uncertainty for them.

I write with these details to highlight the fact that the way the Church as a whole is going to provide its ministry moving forward is going to have to be different to that which many of us have been accustomed to for most of our lives. The time when the Vicar did everything has come to an end and this I believe is no bad thing. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are bestowed upon the whole people of God, we need only to read through the Acts of the Apostles and the Pastoral Letters that follow in our bibles to see the truth of this. Some have callings from God in particular areas of ministerial life and are equipped by God and with training by His Church to undertake these roles, but all Christians have a calling to be part of the one body of Christ and to work together in the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. There can be no spectators or onlookers from afar. Ministry belongs to both the laity and the ordained alike and we regularly pray for an increase in such vocations, or for more people to be made aware that God is calling them in His Service.

The provision of Pastoral Care to and for each other is a central part of the ministry in each and every parish. I am delighted that six members of our congregation last year felt called by God to be part of the pastoral care team within our parish. They were supported by the Parish, underwent training from the Diocese and later this year will be commissioned in a Licensing Service to be held at the Cathedral. In the meantime, each of them have received a temporary license so they can begin their work within our parish, work that will include visiting those who are unwell or in any other kind of pastoral need and by praying for them. Most of you will know them. From St George's, Lyn Ellis and Virginia Boakes, from the Priory, Hannah Hoskin and Pat Richards and from both the Priory and St George's, Vicki Semple-Khan. Sadly our sixth successful candidate, Alice Evans decided to move with her husband Jonathan, to Bruton!

So I write to ask you to keep these very special people in your prayers as they begin their Service to Christ amongst us. They each have very special gifts and qualities, that after all is why God chose them and the Church has trained them and very soon will publicly commission them.

I write also to ask you to let me know if you would like to be visited by one of the team. We are a large parish in terms of the individual people who have connections to our three Churches. Further we are still emerging from the pandemic and the lockdown restrictions that has accompanied it. Perhaps you have been suffering or struggling in silence. Please, Please do let me know if this has been and still is the case for you. I am only a phone call or an email away and our visitors (LPV's) are now fully in place. It is a priority, it is also my top priority, to ensure the provision of pastoral care is accessible to all who need it and whenever they require it.

Finally, and again on the theme of ministry, our thanks go once again to Angela and Graham Newton, to James Robertson and David Lund, our retired clergy who assist both Charles and myself in so many different ways and who make it possible for us to hold all the Services that we do on Sundays and throughout the week, to Tom Stuckey who has agreed to continue preaching at the Priory and to Will Howard, whose year's training course to receive the Bishop's Permission to Preach, is coming to its conclusion. All being well, Will's licensing will also take place at the Cathedral later in the autumn.

With my love and my Prayers

Richard.

Morning Coffee and Afternoon Tea in the Marquee on Priory House Lawn.

There are still many places available for the morning coffee or afternoon tea sessions this coming week:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 10.30am and 12pm or in the afternoon between 2.30 and 4pm.

Together with other members of the clergy, Church Wardens and PCC members, I will be present at all of these and we would love to see as many of you as possible. We are only asking people to book so we know that we have enough cake! If you decide to come along without booking, you will still be very welcome.

But if you can book in advance that would be most helpful either by email to **Ian Penny: finance@christchurchpriory.org** or **Telephone 01202 485804 (Option 2)**. If you are coming with others or part of a group, you can give Ian all the names on the one email or phone call.