

The Parish of Christchurch



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

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Sunday 27th June 2021.

Dear Friends

Those of you who have visited the Priory gift shop since it reopened a few weeks ago now might have noticed a lovely glass ornament for sale which has these words displayed on the front, "Pray more, Worry less." It is such a simple statement, but at the same time, very profound and one that perhaps most of us could reflect upon, each and every day. At the heart of these four words comes the message that we are both to learn to trust more in God, and equally to focus our attention on building up and developing our own personal relationship with God himself, and this through the channel that has always been open to human beings, namely through prayer itself.

As I say, this message is one for us all, but it is particularly true I believe for those called to serve in public ministry positions within the Church of Christ. Over the next two weekends Ordination Services will be held in Cathedrals across our nation. Good and faithful men and women who have felt called to ordained ministry, have had this calling affirmed by their local Churches and been selected by the national Church to receive training for such a ministry, have now arrived at the point where publicly, their own ministry is to begin, following their ordination as either deacon or priest within the Church. I am sure that many will think that this is the "final hurdle" to be overcome in a process that for most will have taken a good number of years, from the initial discernment process, ending with the glorious celebration of ordination itself. In reality however, nothing could be further from the truth. To use a well-known expression, this is not the end, nor even the beginning of the end, but only the end of the beginning.

Very soon, too soon even, the previous worries of assignment deadlines will be replaced with new ones as the responsibilities and challenges that go hand in hand with all public ministry come to the fore and become a living and a daily reality. Questions come thick and fast in this time of formation, or during the period we call "curacy". One that many try and balance, to a greater or lesser extent lies in the question, is my ministry functional or relational? The answer of course has to be both, but which one ends up taking primacy will determine what sort of ministry the chosen person by God, actually ends up living and delivering to his or her flock. Please pray for those who will be ordained over the next few days. The pandemic that we are still living with will make the beginning of their public ministry even more demanding than in years gone by. The challenges that these good and loyal men and women will face in the coming years will be a joy at times and a struggle at other points in their ministry. They will experience many worries, but if their ministry remains rooted and grounded in love of God and of His people, and defined by their daily prayers, then perhaps, just perhaps, in fifty years from now, or in half a century, they may warrant another Service of celebration to mark their own 50th anniversary of ordination.

We, as I hope you all know will be offering just such a Service of Thanksgiving this Sunday (27th). We, all of us, have been truly blessed to have benefited from Canon Graham Newton's ministry in this parish since his retirement. And in the same way that prayer never ceases, so too priests never retire from their calling to serve God. I will always be grateful to Graham for showing me, through his life and his ministry, the best ways to serve as a parish priest, and how central to all of this is the nurturing and the loving of all of God's people as they grow together in faith and discipleship, and how without prayer, none of this is

possible in any meaningful way. So I do hope that many of you will be able to join us at the Priory on Sunday for the 10.00am Eucharist when Graham will Preside, Angela and their family will help in the Service, and each and every one of us, in and through prayer will be able to express our thanks to Graham, and to God for calling his faithful servant to be a priest in His Church all those year ago, and for His continuing Blessing on Graham in all that he does for us all within the parish today, and hopefully, for many more years to come.

With my Love and my Prayers

Richard.

Kinkiizi Appeal.

Last Sunday Canon Charles launched an appeal to help those living in our linked diocese of Kinkiizi. They have already exhausted their entire allocation of the Covid 19 vaccinations and are not expecting any further deliveries in the near future from their government. They now have to purchase their own supplies and we are being asked to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in our linked diocese by providing financial support to achieve this. If you are attending the Priory or St George's on Sunday, please do bring some additional money for this special collection. You can also drop off your donation at the Priory at another time over the next week, but please make sure that it is clearly marked for the Kinkiizi appeal.

The Priory Summer Fete.

The Priory Summer Fete will take place on **Saturday 3rd July on Priory House lawn between 10.30am and 4pm.** Please do come and support this parish event. A full risk assessment has been produced and of course, safety is our first priority. Unfortunately, if the weather is bad we will be forced to cancel the event. With Covid 19 restrictions still in place, it would simply not be possible to move the fete inside the Priory itself. So keep an eye on the website for any updates and pray for good and sunny weather!

Reverend Jonathan Evans.

Jonathan has informed Canon Charles and myself that his Induction as Rector of Bruton and the surrounding Villages will take place in the parish church of Bruton on the afternoon of **Sunday 3rd October.** Further details will follow at a later date, but please do put this date in your diary now. It would be lovely if as many of us as possible could be there in person to support our good friends Jonathan and Alice on this day of celebration for them and the people of God in that Benefice.

In addition, you might recall that it was not possible for us to say a proper thank you to Jonathan and Alice and to wish them well in their new ministry before they left us in January. Canon Charles invited Jonathan to return to preach at a Service of Choral Evensong in the Priory when restrictions had been fully lifted, and for us all to have a chance to see Jonathan after that Service. Well I know that Charles is in contact with Jonathan about this, and that Charles will write about an agreed date for such a Service in the not too distant future.

Organ Recitals.

The Current series of Organ Recitals is already underway on Thursdays at 12.30pm in the Priory. A warm welcome awaits you.

Cloister's Café and the Priory Gift Shop.

The Cloister's café and the Priory gift shop are both open now between 10.00am and 4pm. Why not take advantage of the good weather and meet up with friends and family at the Priory.