



# Newsletter

## Hanging on to hope

With Easter being so late this year this letter finds us half in Lent and half in Easter season. These are the two emotional extremes of our Christian life the lowest and the highest up alongside one another. It's as if our sports team concedes an equaliser in the dying seconds of a match [oh] only to score immediately before the final whistle [hurrah].

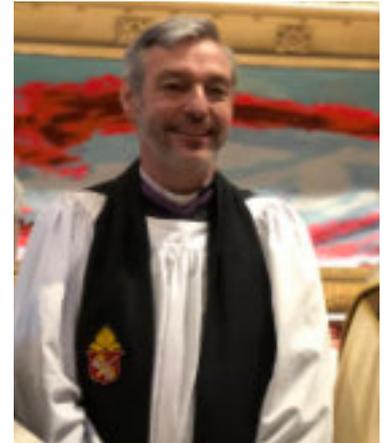
Then this year overarching that reality is the invasion of Ukraine which lead me to wonder where can the hope of Easter be glimpsed in the morass of Lent.

The answer can be found on the first Easter morning when Mary still in her grief goes to the tomb to find it empty and asks the 'gardener' what he has done with Jesus' body. When she realises that it is Jesus she clings to him for dear life and he has to prise her away knowing that he can stay here just for her or go to the father to be for everyone.

For many in our world right now hope seems a long way off and indeed it is. The answer to the question how do you hang onto hope when it has all but disappeared is, by your fingertips, but nevertheless tenaciously because what else would we do.

We worship a God whom we are soon to celebrate passes through death and rises again to give living hope to all who would cling on. Keep hanging in and praying for the world because Sundays coming.

Mike



## Easter Services

### **Maundy Thursday, 14th of April**

7pm Silent Communion

A remarkable service.

### **Good Friday, 15th of April**

Walk of Witness

10.55am at church for 11.15am Service at

Fisherman's walk bandstand

### **Easter Day, 17th of April**

Celebration Eucharist 9.30am

Join us for the highlight of the Christian year.

There may be chocolate.

## Covid Update

As mentioned in Mike's notices in church the PCC discussed the current Covid guidance and our position. We had a good exchange of thoughts and have made the decision that we would like to give the option of taking communion of wine as well as bread. This is reverting to our previous position and is clearly an individual choice for each of us, remembering a blessing or just the taking of bread is no less an option.

We acknowledge that cases are rising in the community and very aware of how that will make some feel.

We will make this change for our Easter Day service.

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - 6pm

Instead of Evensong, the choir is singing 'Behold your King' which is a series of readings and music for the lead up to Easter.

Please do come and join us for this service and enjoy fellowship together. We are very blessed to have the choir we have at All Saints.

### PCC Meeting

Our PCC met on Monday 14th March when full discussion took place around Covid restrictions and how our Church should move forward. It was a unanimous decision that from Easter Sunday the choir could resume their normal seating positions and a majority vote that we would return to an 'optional' shared cup.



#### Plans for Queen's Platinum Jubilee and 'Generous June'

Plans were discussed for The Platinum Jubilee and 'Generous June'. We will be holding a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Messy Church on Thursday 3rd June at 10.00am for the younger

members of ours and Immanuel Church, followed by a barbecue. On Friday 4th June Immanuel Church will be holding a celebration Tea to which we will all be invited. On the weekend of the Jubilee Celebrations people will be encouraged to bring photos and memories of the Coronation and previous jubilees to the Family Communion Service.

Publicity for both our Easter Services and Queen's Platinum Jubilee events will be through a card drop which will be double sided. Offers of help for distribution of these will be much appreciated.

The 'Generous June' initiative will run from the 12th of June until 3rd July with a series of resources which, for us, includes Bishop Debbie joining us at our service on the 26th June.

Full details for these will be announced in due course.

#### Finance, Annexe and repairs

Full details of our financial position will be available at our AGM but David reported that our position was stable. The use of Bouncy Castles in our halls was discussed due to the increased regulations etc with Health & Safety. As all other churches in the area had now decided that they would no longer allow these in their halls, it was agreed that we would follow suit. However, it was agreed that the existing bookings would be honoured.

The outside lights had now been fixed and the ramp drainage is still to be investigated.

#### Any other business

AGM will follow our church service on Sunday 2nd April. David would be stepping down as churchwarden but would continue to fulfil treasury functions.

It was agreed by PCC that Mike should register the church as being a hub place for Ukrainian refugee placement and to lobby the Diocese to consider using vacant vicarages.

Angela arranging flowers for Mothering Sunday.

Rebecca to arrange to plant up the bank in the rear garden to keep the weeds down.

Mike has been appointed a governor of The Bishop of Winchester Academy.

David requested that our Evensong be more widely advertised, ie to other churches in the area.

### Fellowship Group



Six of us met at The Commodore in March and had a very amusing lunch. The next lunch will be on Tuesday 26th April. The venue to be decided at a later date.

Rose .



This half term we are getting some useful practical experience during our meetings. We had a Blind Tasting session where our Brownies blind-tasted three categories ("cheapest", "supermarket brand" and "branded") of common foods such as cheese, chocolate cookies, squash and crisps. We asked the girls to rank their favourites and

they also had a go at guessing which product belonged to each category. There were some strong-held views with regard to taste and interesting findings on price: more expensive doesn't always mean yummiier!

We have also had a session on DIY tools, learning the names of common tools and what they are for. Our brownies tried their skills at using hammers, screwdrivers and spirit levels. We were very happy to find lots of nicely levelled surfaces in the Hall.

Finally, we are saying goodbye to Molly, one of our young volunteers. She will be sorely missed and we wish her all the best with her new job. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Girlguiding - or know anyone who might be - please get in touch with us!

Thank you,  
Maria



The Guides and Rangers are looking forward to joining you in church on Mothering Sunday.

We have been busy working our way through the Guide Programme doing our First Aid Skill Builder and celebrating Thinking Day together a little late after a cancelled evening due to Storm Eunice.

For Thinking Day each Guide was given a random flag and the task of finding out what country the flag was from and something about the country to share with us. We had a visit from Maisie who has returned from her travels, she showed us her pictures of Lapland where she was helping Santa meet lots of children.

We have had a visit from the Royal Navy who did some team building exercises with us and gave us some super size Meccano sets to make an aerial out of. Like everyone we have been hit by this latest round of Covid and many of the girls have had to miss weeks but mostly it feels more like Guides and Rangers used to be. Rangers went up to London very early at the beginning of March to take part in Monopoly Run Live which was great fun and very good exercise.

Christine, Emma, Tegan, Krysti & Irene  
Guides and Rangers



What a busy month it has been seeing the scouts prepare for the night activity.

We've been orienteering over Kings Park, and of course we attended the Bournemouth District night activity in Six Penny Hanley,

So, after a cold evening and beautiful spring day, the results were out for the 35 teams who entered. We had three teams, one scout (10-14) team came 7th and the

other scout team came 1st overall. The third team was made up of Explorer scouts (14-16years) who came second in their competition. We are extremely proud of them all, for their hard work and determination to achieve great results.



# All Saints Dramatic Society

# Betty Knight

Don't forget it is pantomime time - oh yes it is!! See attached poster for details and do come along to support your local Dramatic Society in what will be the Society's 71st year. Nina Eyre - Publicity for All Saints Dramatic Society



A message from her daughter:

I am pleased to say that Mum is settling very well in her new home. One of the family sees her every week. She is eating and sleeping well and joins in with as much as she is able and appreciates the 'Church' gathering that takes place in the home on a Sunday morning.



## Lower hall decorating working group

As promised in last weeks email, here are some photos of the hard work that went into decorating our lower hall. Again a big thank to everyone who came along and helped us. I think all will agree that it is a massive improvement and also shows what we can do together as well as have a great time. I am sure there will be more opportunities coming !



### Parish Office

Open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9.30am–12.30pm

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