



Open : Warm : Welcoming

The “Business is Un-usual” Newsletter: Issue 3. June 2020



The Vicar writes: Welcome to the third issue of our Lockdown newsletter. I understand from the pastoral care team that the majority of the community have been able to access our online worship and I hope that it has given everyone the sense of the community continuing together through adversity. Though in some ways we struggle, in other ways we thrive – and plan to take the good we have learned into the next phase of our community life together.

I have publicly thanked members of the congregation who give generously to support the work of the church, but it will not surprise you to know that at this point in the year we are £17k plus down on our expected income. This reflects having been unable to accept envelope donations, decrease in general donations, loss of income from cash given on the plate and in our pedestal and wall safe (and the Gift Aid we are able to claim on these.)

While I am confident in the rigorous and transparent financial oversight of our church, and grateful to the volunteers and staff who support me, the Wardens and the PCC in this, I want to ask for your help.

If we are to continue to move together towards the Huddersfield Parish Church vision of being “Open, Warm and Welcoming” then we need to continue to invest in what we value and believe in. At my interview for this post I spoke with Alan and Michael about ‘hitting the ground running’ (which happened in ways I could never have predicted.) If we now as a community are not to stumble, if we are to gather once again with focus and undimmed vision of all we long to be and all we long to serve – then we need to make up this financial deficit as best we can.

We’re working on ways we can collect giving envelopes from those who usually use these – and we ask you please to keep making your contribution, however

large or small, week by week. If you are someone who would regularly put cash on the plate but who has never used the giving envelopes or Standing Order giving – we ask you to consider that now. We also ask that those who are able consider making a one-off donation to the life and work of the church.

I know that your hearts are full of love for St Peter’s. More importantly I know that together we believe in all St Peter’s can do in the name of Christ - caring for others and inspiring worshippers to live every day in faith, hope and love. I ask you all to invest in that belief and love today.

God has given us so much – and continues to enliven our gifts and skills through the power of the Holy Spirit. All we have is given us by God and our hearts rejoice to offer our first fruits back to God. I sincerely thank you now for your generous response.

Please contact the office for details of how to set up regular giving and ways we can receive donations.

Rachel

A note from the choir vestry: It’s all been very different working with the choir since the start of the lockdown. Other than a couple of fleeting visits to drop off the odd item, no-one has actually seen anyone since mid-March. However, we are busy adapting to new ways of working, and while it’s never the same producing even group projects in glorious isolation, we hope that people have enjoyed at least some of the fruits of our labours. I thought that some of you might be interested in how we go about creating the hymns and anthems for the services.

Putting together hymns and any other music for weekly services takes quite a lot of coordination – Stephen is still selecting hymns for us, and is working very carefully to select hymns that people will know and hopefully feel comfortable singing at home on

their own. He is also looking carefully at the texts, often trimming the number of verses so that people perhaps don't feel quite so self-conscious singing on their own, but making sure that the original meaning of the text is maintained. Once we have the list of hymns, the organ part is recorded, and then sent to all the choir members electronically. Our choir then sing the vocal line for their relevant part and send the recording back. These are mixed together along with the organ part to make the completed sound file. Slides with the hymn words are prepared and dropped into a video alongside the sound file, so that hopefully you can see the correct words matching up with the music! More complex music such as anthems is done in the same way, although we usually use images rather than the words in the videos.

Once the videos are completed they wing their way off to Graeme who puts them in the correct place in the service video ready for you to enjoy them (and hopefully sing to!) on a Sunday morning. As a choir people are pleased with how the videos have turned out, and it certainly keeps people working together and singing together, even if it is a poor substitute for being able to sing live together. Hopefully it won't be too long before everyone is back in the choir stalls again with Stephen resplendent on the organ bench!
Richard

Hurst Virtual Pilgrimage: We received an exciting email in the office last week, from Rev Liz Devall, vicar of St John's Hurst in the Manchester diocese. To raise funds for her church, Liz embarked on a virtual pilgrimage on Pentecost Sunday. Walking the local area, she will 'visit' various churches and holy sites, making contact with the communities there as she does so. The aim is to cover the distance from St John's to Lindisfarne by August the 31st, approximately 300 miles. You can see Rachel's prayer greeting on our Facebook page, and can catch up with Liz's progress by searching for St John's Hurst on Google, or entering 'Hurst virtual pilgrimage' into YouTube. We wish Liz all the best on her journey, and hope to be able to offer her a 'real life' welcome to HPC in the near future.

About the baldacchino: A Baldacchino is a ceremonial canopy of stone, metal, or fabric over an altar, throne, or doorway. The High Altar, Baldacchino, East window and War Memorial tablet in St Peter's were designed by Sir Ninian Comper and dedicated on Saturday 17th November 1923 by the



Right Revd St. John Woolecombe who was the Lord Bishop of Whitby, as a memorial to the fallen of the parish in WW1.

In a photo I've seen from 1953 the pillars were plain and painted, but not long after this were gilded with gold leaf. Interestingly in this photo it is possible to see the tiles which were on the floor of the chancel before they were covered by the present Nave Altar and dais.

Although from a distance the Baldacchino looks good, up close it is rather grubby and the gilded pillars are chipped and scratched. We have had a generous offer to have the whole Baldacchino cleaned and re-gilded. We thought that we would easily get a Faculty for the work, but this was more difficult than either Alan or I had anticipated. However, we do now have the Faculty and a conservator has been appointed.

I have kept in touch by e-mail with him; he is working on buildings in Cambridge at present and is planning the cleaning and gap-filling repairs beginning in the middle of September with a view to carrying out the re-gilding in early October.

The St Peter's community is most grateful to the kind benefactors for making this all possible; we look forward to the completion of the work and hope that a ceremony of re-dedication can take place once we are able to do so.

Mike Bembridge.

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Kirklees Community Response

for anyone who is vulnerable & in need of help.

Under 18s 01484 456848 :

Help with personal care: 01484 414933

Community Response Helpline:

01484 226919

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office@huddersfieldparishchurch.org if you can receive information from us by email or if you have suggestions or contributions for the newsletter. Help us go paperless.

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