

"A living, loving church without walls"

Notices for Sunday 12th June, Trinity Sunday

We welcome everyone to our Informal Worship Service today- all you need for this service will be displayed on the screen. We hope to show you a short video which shows children in the Ukraine receiving the backpacks full of goodies and donated by many people in this part of Kent.

The readings for today are: Acts, Ch.1, verses 4-5 & 8, and Acts, Ch.2, verses 1-4.

Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength, and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world in this moment of crisis, that we may reach out in solidarity to all those in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.

Janet Thompson is still receiving donations for the **Ukrainian Appeal**, including children's backpacks- please speak to her for further information.



The Tent is an informal worship gathering, giving relaxed space to pray and to worship and encounter the power and presence of the Lord. It will take place this evening in St Francis' Church, Cryol Road, with the theme of "Healing, the Healing Hand of Jesus" The service is open to all- we look forward to seeing you; refreshments are available from 6.00pm onwards, with worship beginning at 6.30pm Andrew Flack will be leading the service, and Cathie will be speaking.



BIKE PILGRIMAGE

Retired vicar Robert de Berry is undertaking a massive sponsored bike ride for persecuted Christians this summer, organized through the charity Release International, and they'll be coming to Ashford on 22 June. Information about this charity can be found on <https://releaseinternational.org/bike-pilgrims>

There will be a special service in the evening at St Mary's Ashford town centre, so you might want to make a note of that.

Can you offer accommodation for one night?

The five riders and a support driver who are undertaking the whole route – North Foreland to Land's End and back again – will need somewhere to stay overnight. Are you able to help by providing accommodation for one or more of them – please let the Parish Office know- email info@ashfordchurches.co.uk or call 01233 620433. We would be most grateful! Thank you.

The Local Leadership Team for Great Chart and St Francis met at the beginning of this week and amongst other things, is looking into creating specific areas of the churchyard that will be "set aside", allowing the grass and wildflowers to grow to create a habitat for bees and other wildlife. We plan to organise a "whole churchyard" cut twice a year inviting everyone from the community who would like to help with this. Lee Hearn, our gardener, will continue with maintaining the other areas of our churchyard and we are also grateful to Rachel Kinghorn for looking after the churchyard extension.



Birthdays in June...

Do you (or anyone else that you know at Great Chart) have a birthday in June, please? - it would be good to wish folk a Happy Birthday (without ages!) in this Newsheet; the next birthday cake for us all to share will be at the end of our morning service on Sunday 3rd July (for birthdays that fall in June)- please do get in touch via the contact details at the end of this newsheet- thank you!

Update on the **Janus Project** (our planned restoration and re-ordering here in St Mary's, the first part of which is to improve the pathway up to the church door).

Regretfully it has been necessary to postpone the concert by Ashford Concert Band that was scheduled to take place this afternoon- we hope to find a new date before long. (If you have bought tickets for this, please speak to Pam Davies or Lin Briscall)



However, we look forward to welcoming everyone to our
Flower & Mouse Festival
to be held here in St Mary's Church over the weekend
16th & 17th July

*One way in which you can help with this venture is to **SPONSOR A FLORAL DISPLAY** - perhaps in memory of a loved one. Each display will have a small card showing the name of the sponsor or of your loved one. Please give your sponsor money and what you want to say on the card to any member of the fundraising team or to Cathie by **4th July**- thank you.*

For anyone who doesn't know, St Mary's in Great Chart and St Francis in Stanhope are part of the whole parish of Ashford which has around twelve churches altogether. Libby and Jacqui in the Parish Office are the administrators for the parish and Jeremy Worthen is our team Rector and Joint Area Dean.

Libby is the one to contact if you need information about what's going in the rest of the parish on 01233 620433 or 07583 418386, Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm, or you can email Libby on libby.varley@ashfordchurches.co.uk "Good News for Ashford" is usually published via email each Friday from the Parish Office.

Rev Richard Coles in his autobiography recalled a conversation with Justin Welby- "As Archbishop of Canterbury I was referred to as "ABC"; before my appointment was ratified I was known as "Archbishop of Canterbury designate elect-"ABCDE!"

Ten years ago, to mark the 60th anniversary of our queen's coronation, the then poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, wrote a poem entitled, *The Crown*. Here it is:

*'The crown translates a woman to a Queen -
endless gold, circling itself, an O like a well,
fathomless, for the years to drown in - history's bride,
anointed, blessed, for a crowning. One head alone
can know its weight, on throne, in pageantry,
and feel it still, in private space, when it's lifted:
not a hollow thing, but a measuring; no halo,
treasure, but a valuing; decades and duty. Time-gifted,
the crown is old light, journeying from skulls of kings
to living Queen.*

*Its jewels glow, virtues; loyalty's ruby, blood-deep;
sapphire's ice resilience; emerald evergreen;
the shy pearl, humility. My whole life, whether it be long
or short, devoted to your service. Not lightly worn.'*

And finally...



If you missed it over last weekend, here are some Jubilee clips!

Notice Sheets emailed to those who'd like it- please let me know!

Please do take this Notice Sheet home with you- if you have anything that you'd like included, please email Tony Shaw at tony.shaw53@hotmail.co.uk, or phone him on 01233 634355 (leaving a short message on the answerphone if there's no reply) at the latest by mid-day on Friday of each week, please.

Next Notice Sheet: Sunday 19th June