

# Newsletter – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020



St. Mary the Virgin, Hartfield  
Holy Trinity, Colemans Hatch

## ***Tim Jackson writes..***



When I began studying at St Augustine's over six years ago, I was uncertain about what to expect but thought I would give it a go. It has turned out to be one of the best decisions that I have made.

The course is incredibly flexible, and you can study at a pace that suits you. I have been studying part-time, taken a year out, and I am now 18 months away from completing an honours degree in "Theology, Ministry & Mission". If I had wanted I could have left the course with a lower level qualification after two or four years of study. Many people did so.

I have attended formal study sessions on Monday evenings at Southwark Diocesan offices 10 minutes from London Bridge Station and study days on alternative Fridays at the beautiful West Malling Abbey.

People on the course are independent students such as myself, people training as lay readers or for ordination. They come from all over South East England. This year am I studying with people from Brighton, Dover, Bedford, Cambridge, and from many locations in south London.

It is a real mixture of people from inner city area, rural locations, towns, and regional cities.

My studies have significantly deepened my faith, greatly increased my understanding and considerably enhanced my worship. I have also made many new friends. While completing two assignments of 2,500 words every term can be demanding it is also very rewarding and means that you really have to think through what you have been studying.

It is not all one-way either. In my last assignment I used material from Ephesians that we are current enjoying studying in our weekly house groups.

If you want to know about my course or St Augustine's please contact me.

Thank you to all of you that have taken an interest in my studies and have prayed for me in my efforts. Your continued support and prayers are very much appreciated. In particular, please pray that I may continue to deepen in my Christian understanding and faith, and that I may find ways of sharing that faith with all in our local community.

***Tim Jackson***

### **A prayer for today.**

Father God, we bring our offering of worship and with it the service of our lives through this coming week. May we go from this place knowing that we have met with you and been blessed by your Spirit, to live and work to your glory. Amen

## ***Today's Readings***

Old Testament: Isaiah 49: v 1-7



### **The servant of the Lord**

Listen to me, you islands;  
hear this, you distant nations:  
before I was born the Lord called me;  
from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.  
He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me into a polished arrow  
and concealed me in his quiver.

He said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will display my splendour.'  
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.  
Yet what is due to me is in the Lord's hand,  
and my reward is with my God.'  
And now the Lord says –  
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant  
to bring Jacob back to him  
and gather Israel to himself,  
for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord  
and my God has been my strength –  
he says:  
'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.’  
This is what the Lord says –  
the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel –  
to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,  
to the servant of rulers:  
‘Kings will see you and stand up,  
princes will see and bow down,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.’

New Testament: John 1: v 29-42

### **John testifies about Jesus**

The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, “A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.” I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptising with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.’

Then John gave this testimony: ‘I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, “The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.” I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.’

## **John's disciples follow Jesus**

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, 'Look, the Lamb of God!'

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning round, Jesus saw them following and asked, 'What do you want?'

They said, 'Rabbi' (which means 'Teacher'), 'where are you staying?'

'Come,' he replied, 'and you will see.'

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas' (which, when translated, is Peter).

## ***For Your Prayers***

Pray for all who are undergoing tests or suffering with ill health at this time. We especially pray for Carol ( Joanne's Mum ) as she recovers from her knee operation. Also for Sue, Phil Reids mother as she undergoes tests. God our Father, we bring before you today those who suffer from illness or disability—those whose lives are profoundly affected by their illness.



*When they feel fragile and broken,  
remind them that you call them by name  
and hold them in the palm of your hand.*

*When they feel devalued, remind them  
that they are made in the image Jesus.*

*When they are reminded of different times in  
the past,*

*lead them to grow in the faith that you love  
them today, as they are,*

*in the reality of their lives this day.*

*When they feel uncertain and fearful about  
the future,*

*lead them to that perfect love which casts out  
all fear.*

*When situations remind them not of what they  
can do,*

*but of what they cannot do, remind them that  
love never fails.*

*May all of us, whatever our circumstances,  
never be so taken up with our own concerns  
that we do not see or respond to the needs of  
others, especially those who suffer in our  
midst. May we live with courage to respond to  
the challenges that each of us faces.*

*Amen.*

## ***Funerals***



Please pray for the families of:

Mr David William Mitchell who died on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Funeral service to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> January at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium at 1pm.

John Edward Divall who died on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Service to be held at Holy Trinity on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 11am.

## ***Baptism or Confirmation***



**Baptism** You are never too young or too old to start a journey of faith. A Christening is the same as a Baptism, and it is an outward sign in the form of a special service in church, where people make a commitment to follow Jesus. If it is a young child that is being Christened, adults will make promises on their behalf to help them on their journey of faith, learning about Jesus. When they get older they can confirm that they make these promises for themselves, at a service of Confirmation.

It may be that you were not baptised as a baby and would now like to consider being baptised as a young person or an adult. If so, please contact Rev Julie to find out more.

**Confirmation** is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized. If you were baptized at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf.

As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you. The local Bishop will lay their hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life. I would love to talk to you if you would like to know more. **Rev Julie**

### ***Trinity Café***

Over the past five years, we have seen the success of Trinity Café in Coleman's Hatch make a real difference for and with the community, providing home-made cakes and a warm welcome for all ages, all donations going to the upkeep of Trinity Hall and local charities. Thank you for all your support.

It was a great joy to present a cheque of £3,000 to the Bevern Trust from the proceeds of Trinity Café. What an amazing amount. This years chosen charity will be the **Crowborough First Responders.**

Our next café is on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and then on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of every month. 9:30am to 12noon.



## ***Church Street Community Café***

We had a great response to our first gathering at the café. Thank you to the team. The next café will meet on the 30<sup>th</sup> January and then 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month. New flyers are available with all the dates to August 20<sup>th</sup>. A place where people can feel connected, make friendships and enjoy home-made cakes, coffee and tea. Everyone is welcome. ***Revd Julie and Team***



### **Next Week's Services**

#### **January 26<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Epiphany**

St Mary's	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
St Mary's	9:30am Morning Praise
Holy Trinity	11am Holy Communion
Readings:	Isaiah 9 v 1-4 Matthew 4 v 12-23

### ***Administrator***

If you have items for our newsletter please contact Trevor Sear [tgsear57@outlook.com](mailto:tgsear57@outlook.com) Working days Tuesday am and Thursday.

#### Websites

[www.hartfieldchurch.org](http://www.hartfieldchurch.org)

[www.colemanshatchchurch.org](http://www.colemanshatchchurch.org)

## Churches Information

### Rector:

The Reverend Julie Sear 01892 770436

[revjuliesear1@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliesear1@gmail.com)

*Day off for Rector is a Monday*

### Licensed Lay Reader:

Donna Dewar 01342 326424

[dewardonna@gmail.com](mailto:dewardonna@gmail.com)

### Retired Clergy:

Reverend Tom Hewson and Reverend Rosie Hewson 01342 319027

*With responsibility for Small Groups and Open the Book*

Administrator: [tgsear57@outlook.com](mailto:tgsear57@outlook.com)

### Safeguarding Officer:

Andrea McGlew 01342 850992

### PCC Treasurer:

Tim Jackson 01342 850902

### Church Wardens for St Mary's:

Kathy Green 01892 770208

Linda Graham 01892 770487

### Hon. Secretary & Church Electoral Roll Officer:

Ian Burns 01892 771014

### Church Wardens for Holy Trinity:

Paul Double

John Van Maurik (on sabbatical)

### Hon. Secretary:

CJ Payne [cipayne@hotmail.com](mailto:cipayne@hotmail.com)

### Hon. Treasurer:

Donald Clarke [drc.scc1897@gmail.com](mailto:drc.scc1897@gmail.com)