

# Newsletter –23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020



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

## *Today's Readings*

2 Peter 1 v16-21



For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty. He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 17: v 1-9

## The Transfiguration

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. 'Get up,' he said. 'Don't be afraid.' When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, 'Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

## ***Ash Wednesday Service***

**26<sup>th</sup> February at 11am:**

At St Marys. A service of Holy Communion with an invitation to receive a cross of ash on the forehead. All are welcome.



## ***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 Reid's mother. For Peter Dewar and Donna as she cares for him. For Joyce Jameson as she awaits an operation on her knee.



## ***Lent 2020***

A sequence of services and times of reflection in St Marys Church during the period of Lent



**.4<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 to 9:00pm** listening to God with a time of prayer by candlelight following by Compline (short service of evening prayer)

**11<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 to 9:00pm** sacred space by candlelight with music and discussion

**18<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 to 9:00pm** Psalm 86: Hear my prayer O Lord.

**25<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 to 9:00pm** The Servant King, encounters with Jesus

**1<sup>st</sup> April 7:30 to 9:00pm** Holy Communion and worship by candlelight

Cake and coffee on arrival

## ***Services – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020***

We are delighted to welcome back The Venerable Dr Edward Dowler, Archdeacon of Hastings who will be leading and preaching at our morning services.

### ***Deanery Synod***

Please note that the meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March is an **Open Meeting** and all who would like to hear Debbie Beer, our Diocesan Environment Officer, would be most welcome.

Venue: All Saints Crowborough Time: 7:30pm

### **Letter from the Bishop of Chichester**



I was recently asked by a reporter whether in the diocese of Chichester Ash Wednesday has become more popular – like Christmas is.

My own experience of offering “ashes to go” outside Brighton station was very informative.

Generally, people on their way to work were not very interested and sometimes hostile.

People with a bit of Christian formation and experience were more pleased to see us. I sensed that for some of them, this was an invitation to re-connect with the season of Lent and the renewal of their faith.

For others, it was encouraging, giving permission for the hidden, private practice of their faith to be affirmed by someone else in public.

The message of Lent is cheering and simple: God loves you and the Church is starting preparations to celebrate that fact at Easter.

But this year, in particular, the ashes with which we began this season of Lent offered a serious statement of protest. As destructive fires raged in Australia, ash was everywhere. Our ashes were an identification with all who are the victim of climate change and environmental damage. But perhaps more importantly, ash was an even clearer symbol of the Christian call to repentance, a radical change of heart.

Extinction protests have certainly become more popular. But we might have more yet to do to make the Lenten discipline of repentance more popular within the Church, in order to become a catalyst for repentance in society and global change.

My hope and prayer is that we might emerge from this Lent with a greater sense of reverence for the earth and all its inhabitants. The celebration of Easter will then be marked by a different, freer, lighter way of living, rather than a return to damaging habits we had tried to give up for the time being.

**+Martin**

### ***Open the Book***

Open the Book (OtB) acts out Bible stories for St Mary the Virgin C of E Primary School. The stories are well received, with children always eager for another story. Our volunteer team uses drama, props, costume and especially the children

to tell the stories. We use books provided by the Bible Society. ([www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net))

Most of our assemblies are now in the school hall, making it easier for children to rehearse with us.

OtB is a lively ministry team and we have a lot of fun and are always blessed in telling God's story. The team is: Rosie Hewson, Ian Burns, Elaine Tocher, Diana Jones, Val Ball, Liz Eggleton and John Cope. If you are interested in joining us, as a storyteller or as props / costuming support, do speak with one of us and arrange to visit an assembly.

We also enjoy occasionally supporting the sermon slot in our church services. Some of you have taken parts to great effect! ***Rosie Hewson***

### ***World Day of Prayer***

6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 2:00pm at Holy Trinity Church.



### **Theme: Rise! Take your mat and walk**

Prepared by Christian women of Zimbabwe.

Everyone welcome.

Refreshments after the service in Trinity Hall

## ***Trinity Café***

Dates for your diary:

27th February - St David

12th March - St Patrick



## ***Church Street Community Café***

Dates for your diary:

5<sup>th</sup> March

19<sup>th</sup> March



## **Next Week's Services**

**March 1st      First Sunday of Lent**

St Mary's      9:30am Morning Praise *with Sunday Discoverers  
and Big Breakfast*

Holy Trinity      11am Matins  
6:30pm Choral Evensong

Readings:      Romans 5: 12-19 Matt.4: 1-11

## ***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

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*Day off for Rector is a Monday*

### Licensed Lay Reader:

Donna Dewar 01342 326424

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### 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:

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