

A Message from Canon Ivor Moody: Bradwell Chapel

Monday 22nd June marks the hundredth anniversary of the re-consecration of Bradwell Chapel, St. Peter's on the wall. The site is one of our oldest historical links with a saint of the past, St. Cedd, who landed there from Lindisfarne and who built it out of the remains of a Roman fort, and which looks out onto the River Blackwater and the North Sea.

The Chapel is the oldest Romano-English sacred building still in use, so the anniversary is an especially poignant and significant one. The Chapel is in the care of Chelmsford Cathedral which works closely with St. Thomas' Church in Bradwell, the Othona Community and others, not least on the anniversary celebrations which have had to be put on hold for the time being.



As you approach the Chapel on foot or by car this simple but solid structure looms up at you, standing resolute and alone surrounded by green fields. Amongst much else it always has been important for me for one simple reason. It is a reminder that Christ's church has been built upon rock, and in an age and at a time when so much else seems precarious and uncertain it is a vivid icon of our need to remember the immovability of God and the unshakable nature of his love.

This is what makes it such a powerful place for pilgrimage. Standing within its simple stone frame, amid the deafening silence of its sacred interior, it's time to ask- if God seems distant in your life, if he seems to have drifted away from your consciousness- who has moved?

Dean Nicholas Henshall is preaching at a pre-recorded service to mark the anniversary this Sunday.

Contact Us:

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2020 Year of Pilgrimage:

2020 is the year of Pilgrimage and on a wet and windy March day (pre-lockdown), the Cathedral team tried out the pilgrimage walk between Pleshey Retreat House and Chelmsford Cathedral. As restrictions are now eased, it is again possible to drive to the Retreat House at Pleshey where the walk starts. The website has been updated and now includes a video, full walk instructions and a new leaflet about Pilgrimage. The page can be accessed from the Cathedral menu tab at the top of the website, the page is called 2020 Year of Pilgrimage. Do let us know how you get on and send in any photos. It is a beautiful walk and the muddy conditions we experienced in March have gone!



Pray with Us:

This Sunday is Refugee Sunday: Please pray for all who flee to other countries, or are internally displaced within their own country, due to famines, plagues, war, persecution, discrimination, natural disasters like floods and earthquakes, and to escape dire poverty. Pray too, for all organisations, churches and communities who are working tirelessly to care for refugees.

Please pray for the Ascension with All Saints Church, City Centre

Pray for the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), The Most Revd Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba, Metropolitan and Primate

Pray for those who are unwell: Jim, Brenda and Chris Cole, Jean Cooper, Rita James, Winnie Towers, Jill Withams and all those in need of our prayers.



Study with Us:

Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel: 21 June 2020

Romans 6.1b-11

Ps 69.8-18

Matthew 10.24-39

Jesus instructed the Twelve: 'Do not be afraid'.

Today's readings are very apt for our current times, where many of us are experiencing vulnerability, tension, and unpredictability. Yet as followers of Christ, we are being called to trust in God our Father, who knows us intimately and understands our needs.

Paul teaches that the consequence of sin is 'death': a death that includes the death of our friendship with God. But Paul also emphasises the abundant reality of divine grace; a free gift introduced into the world through Christ Jesus (**First Reading**).

The **Psalm** is a cry of anguish from one in great danger. Yet despite his distress, the psalmist has confidence in the great love of God.

In today's **Gospel**, Jesus reminds the Twelve in the most challenging way of what "success" looks like for followers of Jesus: taking up the cross; losing our lives in order to save them; facing everything that the world can throw at us. And yet without despair. The Father's tender care will never desert them. God is on their side: not as a remote figure, but as a Father who has intimate knowledge of and care for each of them.

In these our own times of trial and vulnerability, we pray for God's guidance and teaching. 'Lord, you invite us to cry out with complete confidence in the Father's boundless love. This day we offer you praise and thanks for your abundant gifts to us in our poverty and weakness.'

Daily Gospel Readings for this week, to use in your daily prayer:

Monday: Matthew 7. 1-5

Tuesday: Matthew 7.6, 12-14

Wednesday: Luke 1.57-66, 80

Thursday: Matthew 7. 21-29

Friday: Matthew 8. 1-4

Saturday: Matthew 8. 5-17



The Next Bishop of Chelmsford: please do play your part in the consultation. Simply go to the Diocesan website <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/> and click on the button on the home page marked “find out more”. This will take you to the consultation questionnaire.

Online giving on the website: you can now donate on-line to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. This is particularly important at the moment as the Cathedral works hard to continue ministering through these challenging times and begins to build for the future. If you want to donate now on-line, simply go to the home page of the website and click on the link, or click <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/0c7bf37c-62f7-4011-b9f0-854ead22f93a>

Being Resourced:

If you would like to receive the Dean's letter emailed to you once a week and you do not already receive it, please email clare.broome@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Growing in Faith resources in a weekly email. If you would like to receive it, please sign up via the ‘Church at Home’ page of the website or email imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Stations of the Resurrection: How do we encounter the Risen Lord in this time of darkness? Join with the Rev'd Canon Imogen and others as they lead us through personal encounters with the Risen Jesus, look at the website, or sign up to the Growing in Faith mailing, details above.

Social Time:

Book Group – This month we are reading Gulliver’s Travels (an interesting choice by the Church Times!) We will be meeting via Zoom to discuss the book on Monday June 29th at 7.30. All are welcome to join us – email sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk for more information

A congregational ‘Let's meet for a Coffee ...’

After the Quiz last Saturday several people said how good it was to SEE friends from the Cathedral. So, if you are free, let's meet for a coffee this Saturday, 20th June (on Zoom) at 11am - sorry I can't supply the coffee! If you would like to join email Yvonne Spence yvonnespence@hotmail.com and she will send an invitation to zoom. Or if you have not used zoom before or want more information call her- tel 01245 465108 or 07889610048.

Yvonne Spence