

Bishop Viv's week in the House of Lords

Parliament returned from recess this week and met on Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 September, with the Lord Bishop of Bristol beginning each sitting day in the House of Lords with prayers. Over the two days, the Bishop also raised questions relating to spending on international aid, the effects of long-COVID and the government's response to the refugee crisis.

On Wednesday 2 September in the House of Lords, the Lord Bishop of Bristol, Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, asked the government about the reports of their intent to overturn the legal commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income on aid.

The links to the questions asked are available on the Diocese of Bristol website and also on you tube

<https://youtu.be/yopKIE4v9a0>, <https://youtu.be/t7OeroPk4HA>,
<https://youtu.be/JXwGoq8WTxE>

St Nicholas' APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) is on Sunday 11th October. immediately after the 4pm service. You will need to come to the services to attend this meeting in person

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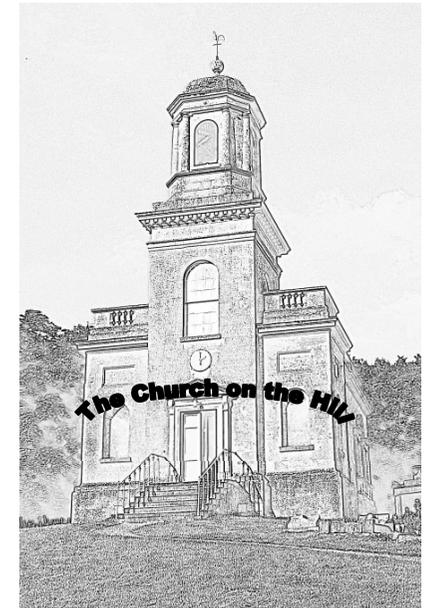
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St. Nicholas News October 2020

The Rt Rev Maurice Wood (1916-2007)
Bishop Maurice Wood prayer seems appropriate for Hardenhuish:
"Make us like a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden; so that men and women and children may find Christ as the light of the world, and his church as the family of the redeemed, and eternal life as the gift of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord"



Sunday	4 th October	10.30am	St. Peters. L.Burrell
Sunday	11 th October	4.00pm	St.Nicholas
Sunday	25 th October	4.00pm	St.Nicholas
Sunday	1 st November	10.30am	St. Peters. L.Burrell
Sunday	8 th November	4.00pm	St.Nicholas
Sunday	22 nd November	4.00pm	St.Nicholas
Sunday	6 th December	10.30am	St. Peters. L.Burrell
Sunday	13 th December	4.00pm	St.Nicholas
Thursday	24 th December	9.30pm	St.Nicholas First Communion of Christmas

Ministry Musings -

One of the best-known first lines in English poetry, “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” was written by John Keats just over 200 years ago in his ode To Autumn. In the poem he pondered over the beauty of the changing seasons.

In this month of October we notice the softening of light and changing colours across the country. Autumn has arrived. and with Autumn comes harvest, it’s the season of ‘mellow fruitfulness’. A time to be thankful for the generosity and goodness of God. We are truly blessed in the UK to have an abundance of harvest, and living in rural England we are more aware of it than some. But we can’t be inward looking and keep the blessings of God to ourselves.

The account of the four lepers in 2 Kings ch 7 comes to mind. They were outcasts from the city because of their leprous condition. And to make matters worse there was a famine in the land. In desperation, that particular evening, they went to the camp of the Syrians to surrender themselves in the hope they might be given food and allowed to live. But there was no one there!

God had caused the Syrians to hear the clattering of speeding chariots and the sound of a mighty army charging towards them. So they panicked and fled into the night, abandoning their tents, horses, and everything else. There was plenty of food and drink plus silver, gold and clothes available for the four lepers to enjoy. They began to have a great time, eating, drinking and hiding some of the valuables but then they remembered the starving people back in the city where they belonged. They said to each other “This isn’t right. This is wonderful news and we aren’t sharing it with anyone!” So they went back to the city and shared their discovery with the people there and many lives were saved.

Those words “This is wonderful news and we aren’t sharing it with anyone” is a challenge for us all. Of course, if we can help practically, looking out for

those who are less fortunate than ourselves, then we should do so. There is so much need and poverty in our world – God means us to share generously with all those who are needy.

But also, it speaks of the wonderful gift of knowing Jesus, recognising all he has done for us so that we can have a relationship with our Creator God and a home in heaven, a bright hope for the future.

This beautiful little church, Saint Nicholas, set on a hill, is like a beacon shining out over Chippenham. Over many years it has been used to introduce people to Jesus.

Lets make sure it continues to shine with the love and power of Christ. As a church family and as individuals lets use every opportunity to share the wonder of His love and reflect Him in all that we are and do. We have some wonderful news and now, more than ever, people need to hear it.

Life has been very difficult and challenging this year, but remember - our God reigns. He is the all-sufficient One, the One who knows the end from the beginning and we can trust Him totally.

As we read His Word and pray - pondering on the challenges and promises He gives us, we will grow deeper into Him and have the resources to share His amazing love and grace with those around us.

I pray that the love of the Lord Jesus will draw you to Himself; the power of the Lord Jesus will strengthen you in His service; and the joy of the Lord Jesus will fill your hearts.

God bless

Installation of the Revd Canon Dr Mandy Ford as Dean of Bristol marks a first for the Church of England

On Saturday 3 October the Revd Dr Mandy Ford will be instituted and installed as the 43rd Dean of Bristol. The service will be broadcast live at 3.30pm.

Dr Ford's appointment means that for the first time in a Diocese in the Church of England both the Bishop and Dean are women.

Dr Ford will take over from Canon Michael Johnson, who has been Acting Dean of Bristol since the Very Revd Dr David Hoyle left to take up the office of Dean of Westminster in November 2019.

Canon Michael says,

We are delighted that Canon Mandy is to be installed as our new Dean. We look forward to her leading the Cathedral community into the next phase of its life and assure her of a very warm welcome as she and Anne move to Bristol. Mandy comes with a background in education and a wealth of experience in education, was interim Director of Ministry Division of the Church of England and for the last six years has been Canon Chancellor of Southwark Cathedral and Director of Discipleship and Ministry for the Diocese of Southwark. She is passionate about seeing people grow in confidence in their faith and enabling clergy being leaders in mission. We pray for her as she takes up her new role.

Dr Ford will lead the life of the Cathedral community, both in prayer and worship, as well as in its service to the city of Bristol and the wider Diocese of Bristol, working closely with the Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, Bishop of Bristol.

Bishop Viv says,

The Diocese of Bristol has led the way in supporting the ministry of lay and ordained ministry, most notably in the first ordinations of women in the

Church of England in 1994, so I am delighted that we are celebrating another important moment.

Mandy brings extensive experience of cathedrals and their communities, along with commitment to working alongside those who are vulnerable in our great cities. I look forward with excitement to developing our partnership in the gospel and to welcoming Mandy and Anne to the Diocese.

Owing to restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic, attendees at the service will be strictly limited, but the service will be broadcast live on Bristol Cathedral's social media channels.

Dr Ford says,

I'm thrilled to be taking up this role with all its opportunities and challenges, following in distinguished footsteps and building on a wonderful heritage as we enter a new season bringing hope and love to the city of Bristol and its diverse communities in the months and years to come.

We look forward to welcoming Dr Ford and hope that she and Anne will find in Bristol a welcoming and vibrant community.

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