

Dick says I just wanted to share this brief message from Bishop Rachel (Diocese of Gloucester) to young people

This week I am giving thanks for all the ways you shape life around you for good, simply by being you. I am also deeply aware that this time of viral pandemic has impacted your lives in many different ways, not least those of you who have been awarded exam grades or who are still waiting. Whether you are celebrating, confused or upset, may you come to know the truth that however the next steps of your future have been determined your identity and worth is not measured by data and processes but that your value is immeasurable. You are unique and precious, created in the image of God, equal to all around you, and with potential yet to be lived and discovered, however winding the path.

May we also join together in praying for schools, colleges and universities as they continue to respond to government decisions in their own decision-making and planning. May there be wisdom, compassion and courage amid struggle and hard choices.

'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.' Isaiah 43:1

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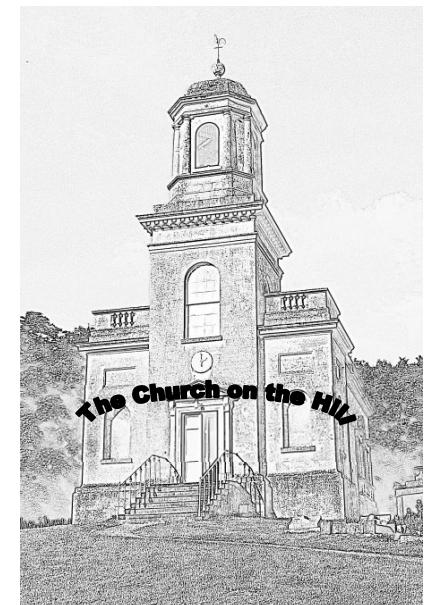
St. Nicholas News

September 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	13 th September	4.00pm	St. Nicholas
Sunday	27 th September	4.00pm	St. Nicholas
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 – Forgiving the Small Stuff –

Throughout August we looked at the story of Joseph, the climax of the story is the moment when Joseph forgives the brothers who tried to kill him and then sold him into slavery.

Some people find themselves in a Joseph position where something massive has happened, something that could overwhelm them with bitterness if they can't forgive and move on.

But - I think - it's usually the smaller day-to-day stuff that really bothers us. The stuff people say or do that wind us up. Stuff we struggle to forgive.

We may not want to admit it because if we claim to be Christian we are supposed to be forgiving people right?

But the Church is a hospital for sinners not a museum of saints. Every single one of us gets annoyed by other people. Sometimes they're family members, sometimes they're neighbours, sometimes they're even people from church. We all encounter people who say and do things that really get our stress levels up and these people aren't particularly sorry, they just carry on like that.

So, at worst, we bad mouth them or we scheme against them and, at best, we just let our blood boil and they become a distraction away from living the life of love that God wants.

We have to work hard to overcome and forgive. The Bible specifically teaches us to do so:

In Ephesians 4 Paul says ***Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.***

Whilst 1 Peter 3: vv8-9 says "***be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing***"

Jesus also taught us as he hung dying. In Luke 23:34 he forgave his murderers saying: "***Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.***"

You may be struggling to forgive someone and that line from Jesus isn't helpful because you feel that they know exactly what they're doing. I wonder if that's fully true.

Do people always understand just how much they frustrate us? just how much of a distraction their actions are to us living lives of love? Do they know we are struggling to forgive and it's creating a barrier between us and God?

Maybe if they knew the potential eternal consequence to their actions they would ask God to help them change. But maybe not. Maybe some people don't deserve forgiveness and that's when we really have to work at it. We have to work hard to say: "*I forgive and you don't deserve it, but neither do I.*"

Because do any of us deserve the forgiveness that Jesus worked so hard for? And can we definitely say we don't need the forgiveness of others? We are probably guilty of saying or doing things that hurt others and we maybe aren't even aware of it. The point I'm getting at is John 8:7: "***Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone***"

We all need the forgiveness of others, we all need the forgiveness of God and we all need to work hard at forgiving the small stuff so it doesn't build up into a huge distraction and a barrier between us and God.

Tom Hunton

Ride+Stride given go ahead for Saturday 12 September 2020

Over 40 churches in the Diocese of Bristol are excited to join with 90 churches in Salisbury in this years Wiltshire Ride+Stride. Most of the churches will be open on the day, and many will have someone to welcome participants with refreshments.

Last year, over 400 individual sponsored participants participated in the Wiltshire Ride+Stride, raising a total of £60,000!

This year, supporters also have the options simply donating to the Trust, if they don't feel able to partake physically in the event.

Nigel Jackson, Secretary of Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and Ride+Stride organiser, said:

"The annual Wiltshire Ride & Stride is an enjoyable and purposeful sponsored event that raises much-needed funds to help with repairs and community enhancements in Wiltshire churches and chapels. In this very difficult year, it is hoped that churches will turn out to ride and stride in line with the outdoors exercise guidance from the Government and enjoy whatever they choose to do and the contribution that they make to this crucial Wiltshire fundraising event."

Ride+Stride is a sponsored bike ride or walk supported by the National Churches Trust and organised by local historic churches trusts. Cyclists, walkers, and horse riders raise money by being sponsored to visit local churches on any route of their choice.

For more information about Ride+Stride and how to participate, please view the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust website.

The money raised by Ride+Stride is shared evenly between the participant's chosen parish and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. This enables the Trust to further support local churches by making grants for critical church repairs and church facilities.

Mary Gubbins

The Bishop of Bristol, Rt Revd Vivienne Faull, is pleased to announce that Revd Mary Gubbins has been appointed to the post of part-time SSM (Self-Supporting Minister) Team Vicar in the Greater Corsham and Lacock Team. Mary was ordained in the 1990s but took a break from formal ministry to bring up three children. Mary and her family moved to Chippenham in October 2009, where her husband is Priest in Charge of St Peter's Chippenham. She joins the Greater Corsham and Lacock Team from the Bybrook Benefice, where she has been serving as Associate Minister over the last twelve months.

The Revd Mary Gubbins said:

"I am very pleased to have been offered a part-time SSM Team Vicar post in the Greater Corsham and Lacock Benefice. I am looking forward to getting to know people and places and discovering our shared journey ahead, with God and with each other."

The Archdeacon of Malmesbury, Revd Christopher Bryan said:

"I enjoyed my conversation with Mary at her interview. She is a thoughtful and pastoral priest, with theological integrity and wisdom. Mary can draw on a wide range of experiences as a minister and as a parent, and the two days a week plus Sundays that she can offer will be a huge help to the Corsham Team."

Mary will be licensed via Zoom on Tuesday 1 September at 10:00 am.