

# PARISH MAGAZINE

ABBAY & PARISH CHURCH  
OF  
ST. PETER & ST. PAUL



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF  
BOURNE, CAWTHORPE, DYKE & TWENTY

**WITH CHURCH & PARISH NEWS**

[www.bourneabbey.org.uk](http://www.bourneabbey.org.uk)

**LOCKDOWN EDITION - FEBRUARY 2021**

# **BOURNE ABBEY CHURCH PUBLIC WORSHIP SUSPENDED**

**Dear Friends,**

It is with a heavy heart that the PCC and I have decided to suspend Sunday public worship at the Abbey Church during the current lockdown. All the indices suggest that we are in a worse situation than last March, and with the additional worry of the variant strain of Covid being much more infectious, we feel that this is the right course of action to take.

We are also mindful of the lockdown advice that we should stay home as much as possible in order to reduce the possibility of transmitting or being infected by the disease.

As in the previous lock-downs, I shall post a written 'join-in-at-home' service on our Facebook page and A Church Near You website page on Sundays during this period

The position with regard to re-opening the church to Sunday public worship will be reviewed when the Government lifts the lockdown.

With best wishes for the New Year, and with prayers that you may stay safe.

**Fr. Chris Atkinson, Vicar**

Please note: Private Prayer will continue on Saturdays.

## **The Julian Group - February**

The Julian group is usually meet for silent prayer ever month on the first Monday. We meet at 10.00am in the Abbey church for half an hour.

Until we are able to resume the monthly meetings the usual readings and thoughts will still be here on this page in the church magazine. I hope we can begin to meet soon.

### **For the Farmer (beginning again)**

Before the human mind could warm to itself,  
The hands of the farmer had first to work,  
Creating clearances in the earth's thicket.  
Cut into the thorn-screens of wild briar,  
Uproot the clusters of scrub –bush,  
Dig out loose rock until a field emerged  
Whose clay could be loosened and softened  
To take seed and bring forth crops.

John O Donohue

### **Final Prayers**

Blessed be Thou for all the joy My soul has felt  
today! O let its memory stay with me and never pass  
away. Anne Bronte

'keep your faith in beautiful things: in the sun hidden  
in the Spring when it is gone'

Roy Gibson

### **Music – Spring (Vivaldi)**

**Susan Macey**

## **BOURNE FOODBANK**

Bourne Foodbank is run by Churches Together in Bourne, as a service to Bourne and the surrounding villages. The trustees and volunteers come from many different churches and give of their time freely to ensure that the Foodbank can assist as many people in crisis as is required.

**Bourne Foodbank is currently in need of the following items: Mashed Potato; Tinned vegetables; Angel Delight / Jelly; Rice Pudding; Custard; Sponge Puddings; Biscuits; Coffee / Tea; Milk (UHT cartons); Fruit Juice (cartons); Washing up liquid; Washing powder / liquid; Toilet Rolls; Soap; Shower Gel; Shampoo; Deodorant; Shaving gel / razors; Dog / Cat food; Nappies.**

**We are so grateful for all the donations - we can't thank you enough.**

Thank you

## **COMMUNITY PANTRY**

The Butterfield Community Pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1pm - 3pm at the Butterfield Day centre, North Road, Bourne.

We have lots of food and everyone is welcome.

We are passionate about preventing food waste and this is a delicious way of helping the planet, saving money and feeding the community.

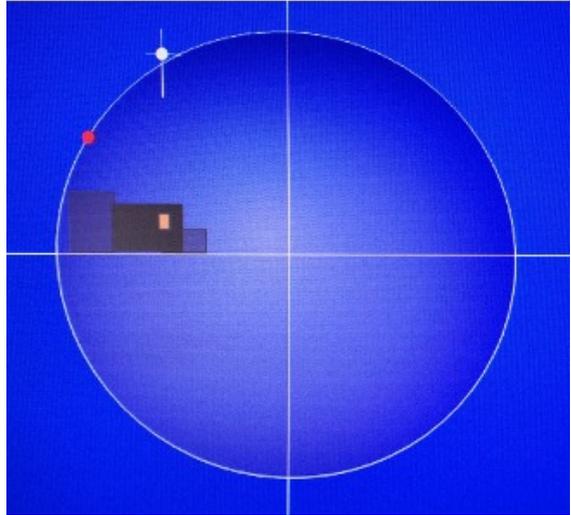
We are operating a pay as you feel policy - Please contribute however you can by donating your time, skills, money or needed items. All donations are ploughed back in to the pantry and our other services.

### **Thought for the Month**

I grumbled because I had no shoes until I saw a man without feet.

# The Bigger Picture

In the January edition, we pictured the Star of Bethlehem, as here repeated in the top left hand corner, guiding the Magi to the infant Jesus.



*Can I let you into a graphic secret? The quarter circle of the star picture was only possible to achieve by first constructing a full circle in the larger.*

This reminded me that the visit of the Magi was one part of the bigger picture of Christ's salvation for us and the cross at the centre a reminder of his divine destiny.

What happened in a corner of the globe two millennia ago?

*"A light to lighten the Gentiles,"* is now good news to the whole world. From the birth of the Child of Destiny [ Luke 2: 34,35 ] has grown a worldwide kingdom which was always foreseen in the big picture, including people of our own times [ John 17: 20,21 ] The conditions, through which this good news is seen vary with mission throughout the world, as I have been reminded when appreciating regular updates from Bishop Hall in Madagascar.

*If we are all in this together, is it not good to know of the bigger picture and the means by which we are all connected to other corners.*

*George Herbert ( 1593 – 1633 ) wrote:*

*Let all the world in every corner sing,  
My God and King!  
The church with psalms must shout,  
No door can keep them out;*

What would George Herbert have made of our current lockdown? Church doors of urgent necessity have been closed. Congregational worship and familiar stories usually heard in buildings, framed with widows of glass, are now displaced outside.

*A man that looks on glass,  
On it may stay his eye;  
Or if it pleaseth, through it pass,  
And then the heaven espy.*

George Herbert's windows were probably of stained glass, framing light with telling images of the faith, but also allowing a further view beyond. But through that glass is the bigger picture, now telescoped through the windows of electronic media around the globe ( through which we are now sharing this journal ) albeit not yet available to all, but increasingly accessible to the four corners of the earth.

I suppose we could call this “looking in” and “looking out.”

We look together into the big picture, as we have received it, and then look out to the world, with any new

windows available to us. If our current lockdown restricts customary gatherings, we know it is also affecting our brothers and sisters worldwide (including the lonely) with whom we are partners in the ongoing big picture.

*Here is some recent news from another corner :*

*“Each Sunday in Nairobi there is a small demonstration of the good news of Jesus being for all nations. As Kenyan Christians have been reaching out to Chinese professionals in their country, a unique African-Chinese bicultural fellowship now meets each Sunday. Give thanks for the witness of this fellowship and pray for the efforts of African and Chinese Christians to model the unity of the body of Christ.”*

If the gospel of our Lord engages the nations like this, how can his partners enjoy the unity for which he prayed alongside his apostles ?

“My prayer is not for them alone.  
I pray also for those who will believe  
in me through their message,  
that all of them may be one,.....[ John 17: 20,21 ]

We give thanks for doors and windows.

**Malcolm Pugh**  
malcolmpugh@btinternet.com

# **‘OUR MAD LIFE’**

## **HOMeward BOUND**

Thank you to all who have expressed their concern and prayed for my safe arrival in England. Here I am enjoying the home comforts of Bourne!

There were three great hurdles to clear before leaving Madagascar: getting my Visa de séjour sorted, getting a negative result for a covid-19 test within 37 hours of departure and filling in and printing the UK Immigration form not more than 48 hours before arrival at Heathrow.

I was due to leave Mahajanga on the overnight bus on the 31st December and the visa was due that afternoon. To lessen the anxiety, I went along to enquire about it the day before only to be told that it wouldn't be ready in time. Not to worry, I was given a paper to take me through police checks. That was fine, but won't be fine when I seek to re-enter the country.

Thus I set off on New Year's Eve wondering what, if anything, would happen at midnight. Half the passengers slept through the witching hour and those who were awake made no audible comment which really surprised me as Malagasy make a big point of wishing each other a Happy New Year on first meeting in the new year. We did pass some fairly wild roadside parties...

At the capital we arrived on time at 6.15 am bang on schedule and there were the dear Sisters FJKM waiting for me with a taxi to take me to the convent at Ambohidratrimo. New Year's Day is a great holiday with no public services so this was marvellous. I had a wonderful welcome from the Community and was invited to celebrate Communion and preach at noon before we all sat down to a fabulous celebratory lunch. Since everything was shut we were able to relax together and leave the problem of the coronavirus test to the next day, Saturday.

On Saturday morning, as is my custom at the convent I celebrated and preached at 6 am. The Bishop of Antananarivo very kindly rang to say that I should go to a certain hospital in the capital by 7.30 am as a great number of people would be there and the test would cost 100,000 ariary (£25). Getting there for 7.30 am was out of the question. We arrived after 9 am and had the greatest of difficulty finding where the test centre was and how to get in the queue. After many enquiries, getting my passport photocopied, going between various offices to register and pay I finally had my nasal test. Nothing could be done about the UK Immigration form as it was not yet within 48 hours of arrival at Heathrow but alarmingly I discovered the Sisters' internet wasn't working.

On Sunday morning I went with the sisters to the local parish church just beside their convent for the 8.30 am Eucharist. The priest was half an hour late but everybody was full of sympathy for him as they knew he would be rushing from another church where the service had begun at 6am. He invited me to celebrate but I declined on the grounds that I hadn't prepared and I didn't know the local way of doing things. It was a full church with a big congregation with lots of children and two anthems were sung with great enthusiasm. When it came to receiving Communion the priest first came to me with the bread which he dipped in the wine and gave to me. (This is what I decreed should be the practice in the diocese of Mahajanga during the pandemic.) Then, to my surprise, all the congregation received the bread and drank individually from the common cup. At the very end I was requested to drink the remainder! Instead of holy thoughts I was wondering, "Is a sip less lethal than four mouthfuls?" I insisted on sharing...

In the afternoon a couple of young ladies arrived at the convent with their laptop to help me confirm my flight and fill in this famous Immigration form – without which I could be fined, etc. Etc.

For reasons unknown to me, perhaps my incompetence, I failed the log-in procedure with Air France and the site told me to go early to the airport to register. Eventually I filled in the UK Immigration form but of course could not print it. I spent a lot of the next 24 hours rehearsing my defence for not having a printed copy. On Monday

morning, day of departure, one of the Sisters spent all her morning going to the hospital in the city to collect my test result while I entertained visitors at the convent.

Kind friends took me and some of the Sisters to the airport. We arrived at 4.30 pm for the 8.45pm flight. I was fully expecting nobody to be there leaving me loads of time for fond farewells. Others had arrived to see me off. To my horror we arrived to find the queue for the flight already stretching out of the terminal into the carpark. What should we do to pass the time? Could I stand in the blazing heat? Before we had time to answer all this the queue suddenly started moving, leaving me only seconds to bid all goodbye. I found myself through all the hoops of check-in, police and health control and in the departure lounge by 5 pm. And nobody had asked to see my precious Covid-19 certificate. The plane was packed. A totally normal flight had me in Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris before 6 am. Before landing each passenger had to fill out an extremely detailed form as to where we had been and where we were going and giving the details of two people who could be contacted to help trace us.

Everywhere in the terminal were detailed notices about face masks, social distancing, etc.

The 10am flight for London left on time. With the great universal excuse of coronavirus there were no refreshments, or any form of service on board – for our safety of course. Then came a shock that I am still recovering from.

At Heathrow, armed with my Covid-19 documentation and reference number for my Immigration form and my excuses, I proceeded to passport control to find a machine which let me through when I placed my passport on it. And that was it. Nobody asked me for anything or enquired as to where I was going or informed me that there is a lockdown nationally or that I should quarantine for x days...

Today's news states that the procedures at Heathrow are to be augmented. Augmenting zero does not fill me with confidence. I can say that the health initiatives and controls in Madagascar are serious

and well organised.

Great to be home. I hear there is a lockdown on!

Yours

+Hall

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January 8th, 2021

## **LOOKING BACK 100 YEARS**

From the Lincolnshire, Rutland and Stamford Mercury,  
Friday, February 24, 1871

### **Bourn**

Mrs. Dodsworth and Miss Mawby have presented to the Abbey church two beautiful brass gas standards, which are placed in the chancel.

The general offertory commenced in Bourn church in October last is satisfactory, as regards the pecuniary results, and it is fully anticipated that the debt incurred by the outlay on the enlargement and improvement in the sacred edifice last year will be liquidated in the course of the present year. The parishioners are anxious to be in a position to order plans and estimates for the recommencement of the works, & thus restore the fine old edifice to its original beauty.

**Compiled by Jonathan Snith, with thanks to the Stamford Mercury Archive Trust**

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

February 5th Christopher David Watson

February 5th Phoebe Louise Carter

February 12th William Cudmore

February 13th Judy Smith

February 20th Theo Mason Carter

February 21st Sue Casey

## **IN MEMORIUM**

February 2nd Roland Adnitt

February 25th James Hilborne

February 27th Marjorie Spencer

February 28th Douglas Reeson

## **CANDLES**

**February 2021**

**15th In memory of Patrick English Nunn**

**Thinking of making or up-dating your will?**

If so, please consider bequeathing a gift to Bourne Abbey. A legacy would help to secure the future of the church and its work with future generations. Don't forget that legacies to charities are free of Inheritance Tax. Thank you.

# WHO'S WHO

## VICAR

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## ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

## STEWARDSHIP /GIFT AID OFFICER

Mrs C Guppy, 16 Gladstone Street, Bourne, PE10 9AX.....01778 423873

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