

SOME IMPORTANT WEBSITES TO LOOK OUT FOR

Unity Update cannot be produced in paper version as the Church of England's guidance asks us not to deliver leaflets in large quantities to people's homes. Therefore this is purely an online version. Nonetheless the online world has special importance at this time. Here are though some very important websites that all should be aware of.

Children and Families work across the Team.

This is carrying on apace with various Facebook pages such as Whitstable Kids Team and lots of other resources being shared.

Red Zebra

Immense credit must go to all those within the wider Whitstable community, including those from our churches who have helped, in creating a network of support for those struggling at this critical time. Do ensure everyone you know who is vulnerable are aware of the resources available. The best website to find out what is available is www.redzebra.org.uk/whitstablecares

Other sites

Canterbury City Council have also recently published a really helpful resource too which is highly recommended as a way of supporting local businesses www.canterbury.gov.uk/delivery

The Canterbury Diocese has very helpful information regarding to how churches should respond to the present crisis. It is also possible to subscribe to a weekly newsletter as well as follow the Calendar of Intercessions <https://www.canterburydiocese.org>

From the Church of England website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>

Lack of space prevents a thorough reprinting of all church contact details but emails are as follows as this is an online version only of Unity Update

Rev Rachel Webbley – vicar@stalphege.org.uk

Rev Paulette Stubbings- seasaltervicar@gmail.com

Rev Simon Tillotson – simon@teamvicar.org

Rev David Vannerley (retiring from post as Team Vicar this month though will have Permission to officiate in the Team with immediate effect) – vannerley@aol.com

UNITY UPDATE

JUNE 2020

Rev Rachel Webbley writes:

Lockdown has brought opportunities as well as challenges. I had the luxury of attending an online lecture by Walter Brueggemann as part of the HeartEdge material by St Martin-in-the-Fields. It was part of a lecture series called 'Living God's Future Now', and was a fascinating theological reflection on the CoronaVirus, which Brueggemann described as 'A summons to rethink what we're all about'.

Part of what we're all about as Christians is patterning our life on Jesus, placing all parts of our lives in God's light. This month we reflect on the mystery of the Trinity, that uniquely Christian understanding of the divine: God, creating, redeeming and sustaining. We are preparing for an important morning together to go more deeply into the doctrine of the Trinity, thinking about what the implications are for the way we work together as a parish, and then continue in intentional prayer for our shared future. (On Saturday 17th October if



you would like to put that date in your diary.)

During the lecture the striking image here was shared and we considered the suffering we have experienced first hand or heard about in so many tragic individual stories. Here, God the crucified Son experiences in flesh the suffering of humanity. The health workers around the patient represent the Holy Spirit's constant healing and comforting presence. But where is God the Father? God the Father is outside in the waiting room in anxious grief for the Son, answered Brueggemann.

However you observe Trinity Sunday this month, I pray that the mysterious presence of God will encircle you and protect you, drawing you ever more deeply into God's loving energy and compassion. Amen.



ON-LINE

Week of Accompanied Prayer

19 – 25 July 2020

We are planning a second On-line Week of Accompanied Prayer. The Week is for all who feel drawn to spending time in prayer. If you are interested, whether or not you have done anything like this before, please do feel free to get in touch to find out more.

During the week, you are simply encouraged to put aside some time each day for prayer – we suggest 30 minutes. You will be paired with a Prayer Accompanier, who will either phone you, or make contact via computer, at the same time each day for 20–30 minutes.

The intention is for you to listen to God through praying with scripture and in talking and reflecting with your Accompanier.

There are limited spaces. If you would like to find out more, or to book a place, please contact Jayne Bartholomew – 01795 535654 or jaynebartholomew@gmail.com by 15 June to request a booking form.

Please do join us in online Morning Prayer (9am), Evening Prayer (5pm), Compline (8pm) most days of the week at Facebook Group Whitstable Team Resources or your church Facebook page

Song to the Holy Spirit by James K Baxter

Lord, Holy Spirit,
You blow like the wind in a thousand paddocks,
Inside and outside the fences,
You blow where you wish to blow.

Lord, Holy Spirit,
You are the sun who shines on the little plant,
You warm him gently, you give him life,
You raise him up to become a tree with many leaves.

Lord, Holy Spirit,
You are the mother eagle with her young,
Holding them in peace under your feathers.
On the highest mountain you have built your nest,
Above the valley, above the storms of the world,
Where no hunter ever comes.

Lord, Holy Spirit,
You are the bright cloud in whom we hide,
In whom we know already that the battle has been won.
You bring us to our Brother Jesus
To rest our heads upon his shoulder.

Lord, Holy Spirit,
You are the kind fire who does not cease to burn,
Consuming us with flames of love and peace,
Driving us out like sparks to set the world on fire.

Lord, Holy Spirit,
In the love of friends you are building a new house,
Heaven is with us when you are with us.
You are singing your songs in the hearts of the poor
Guide us, wound us, heal us. Bring us to the Father.

From: *Collected Poems* (ed. John Edward Weir; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979).