

Thought for July 2025

By Reverend Claire Claxton

As I head towards my retirement as Rector of Forest Parish Church at the end of July, a number of people have asked how I feel about retiring. The answer is that I have mixed feelings. I have loved being Curate in Charge of Forest Church from February 2017 and then Rector from May 2018. The decision to retire was a difficult one to make and I pondered and prayed for quite a while in order to decide when the right time would be. I will be sad to leave Forest Church because endings are hard and when you love your work there will always be certain aspects and people that you miss. However, as I said when I announced my retirement, I would like to see more of my family and I'm sure that I will still be able to serve God as a retired priest.



When things come to an end and the future is uncertain it can be easy to be fearful. When I am fearful, I often turn to the Bible for reassurance. There are so many promises from God that He will be with us in all that we go through. My favourite is probably these verses from Isaiah chapter 43:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.”

“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”

If you are fearful about the future, I pray that you may know God's reassurance too. I will continue to pray for Forest Parish Church and all those connected to it.

CMClaxton

God bless you.

Ste Marguerite de la Foret



July 2025

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July Letter

Church flowers in July 2025

6th July. Katie Blampied

13th July. Katie Blampied

20th July. Dorothy Freeman

27th July. Dorothy Freeman

3rd August. Debbie Dorey

Greeting

6th July. Debbie Dorey

13th July. Rose Marquand

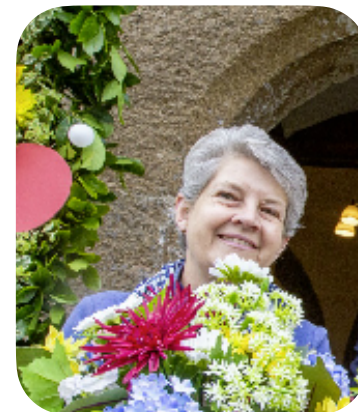
20th July. Brenda Tostevin

27th July. Dorothy Freeman

3rd August. Sara Dorey

Revd. Claire Claxton

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to our Rector, Claire, who is retiring at the end of July. We will miss her very much, her calm ways, her ministry, her very interesting and informative addresses and her real friendship to everyone. We have been very fortunate to have had her here in Forest for the last 8 years.



Claire can now see more of her family some of whom are in England and in Ireland and we wish her well in her travels and her joy of music. How lucky we have been to hear the lovely clarinet tones in our church. I hope she will come and play for us again sometime

Baptisms

We have had a spate of baptisms in the last few weeks with another to come in July. It is wonderful to see these young children being welcomed into the Church as the newest members of God's family and we pray for Joseph, Rupert, Nate-Grey, Rafael, Ava and their families.



Bishop's letter

Some of the joys of a bishop's ministry are Confirmation Services, we have had a good number so far this year and many more in the diary. The service is both corporate, as the congregation prays for each candidate, and personal, as each candidate makes promises, is prayed for and is anointed with oil. The words of the anointing remind all of us who have been confirmed that God calls us by name.



This Pentecost we launched across the diocese a simple 'Rule of Life' as part of our discipleship and vocation work. Being called by God means being called to discipleship. Simply put a 'rule of life' is our response to what God has done for us. It takes some the teachings of Christ into our own lives. Therefore, we continue a life of inner transformation through prayer, Bible reading, and regular worship; and we contribute to the transformation of the world through generous giving, seeking justice and using our time and talents in the service of God.

This all gives us the opportunity to consider our response to God's love, to the one who calls us. It may be that the Holy Spirit is nudging us to serve in particular ways in the life of the local church, or to live out our Christian life more courageously in the world. Do pick up a postcard from your local church if you have not already been given one and be part of our diocesan vision, not only Making Jesus known but being called so all may flourish and grow.

Bishop Karen

Music in the church

In June we had the pleasure of three wonderful evenings of music, all so different and all very well attended and appreciated. There is never any need for volume enhancement as the church building itself resounds with sound.

The first concert was by Mariposa strings, a lovely group of different string instruments playing a medley of well known music.

The second concert was by GU10 a well known men's group who sing sea shanties and joyful tunes for everyone.

The third concert was by organist Andrew Cooper with guest Claire Claxton on clarinet.



Don't despair if you have missed them, there is another one on July 5th at 7.30pm when the choir, State of Harmony will sing at 7.30pm

Church Events in July

Flower Festival

The annual church Flower Festival will be from Thursday 3rd of July - Sunday 6th July.

Church open 10.00-5.00

The theme this year is "Our Island". This will be part of the judging for Floral Guernsey.

Wednesday 9th July 10.30-12.00

Coffee morning in church. All welcome.

Wednesday 9th July 2pm-4pm

Knit & Natter in church



Concert: State of Harmony Choir.

Saturday 5th July 7.30pm

Free entrance and refreshments, retiring collection for church and charities.

Sunday July 20th

St Marguerite's Day
Afternoon tea in the garden of Dorothy & Mark Freeman (opposite the church)
parking in glebe field, donations. Event kindly sponsored by States Dairy



Welcome to Forest Parish Church

July 2025

Sunday July 6th 11am. Family Service

Reader: TBA

Prayers: Nicola Hoyland Birch

Sunday July 13th. 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Keith Wallace. Deuteronomy 30 v9-14
Colossians 1 v1-14

Prayers: Katie Blampied

Sunday July 20th 11am Parish Communion

Celebration of our patron saint Saint Marguerite

Reader: Mark Freeman Genesis 18 v1-10a

Colossians 1 v15-28

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

Sunday July 27th 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Tim Peet. Genesis 18 v20-32
Colossians 2 v6-15

Prayers: Nancy Smith

Sunday August 3rd. 11am Family Service

Reader:

Prayers: