

Thought for May 2023

By Revd. Claire Claxton

Each year at our Annual Congregational Meeting I thank those who work so hard to keep our lovely Church running. There are numerous different tasks, many completed unseen or un-noticed by others, to keep the church building and grounds looking beautiful, help worship run smoothly and make people feel welcome. However, I always have the feeling that I have forgotten to thank someone which is why I have included the Beatitudes for the Forest Parish Church (see page 4).

No-one is left out!

Showing gratitude is very important. Have you ever worked hard to make something happen and not been given any credit? Or given a present to someone which has not been acknowledged in any way? I know I have and it can make you feel very upset or let down.

I'm not suggesting that God feels upset or let down when we don't thank Him for his many blessings but I do believe that giving thanks to God should be an important part of our prayer life. There is an acronym which can help give structure to our prayers: TSP, memorable as the abbreviation for teaspoon but which also stands for Thank you, Sorry, Please, the three elements that it is helpful to include when we pray.

An 'attitude of gratitude' is something that we can all develop and, apparently, it does wonders for our sense of well-being. However difficult life is, if we can find something to be grateful for each day it can really lift our spirits.

As we celebrate and give thanks at Forest Church over the next few weeks for the Coronation of King Charles III, Liberation Day, the weddings of the couples getting married, the baptism of baby Charlotte, and, most of all, God's never-ending love, shown through Jesus, I pray that you will find things for which you can give thanks too.

God bless you.

CMClaxton

STE MARGUERITE DE LA FORÊT



MAY - 2023

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Church Flowers in May

*May 7th Easter/Liberation/
Coronation: Nancy Smith and
everyone*

May 14th: Nancy Smith

May 21st: Linda Archard

May 28th: Pentecost: Linda Archard

June 4th Nicola Hoyland Birch

Greeters

Sunday 7th May Brenda

Sunday 14th May Nancy

Sunday 21st May Dorothy

Sunday 28th May Debbie

The April ACM

1) *Agenda*

2) *Minutes of AGM 2022*

3) *Rector's Report*

4) *Rector's Warden Report (Linda Archard) - revised*

5) *Churchwarden Report (Keith Bienvenu)*

6) *Treasurer's Report (Richard Heaume)*

7) *Licensed Lay Minister's Report (Margaret Boden-Heaume)*

8) *Constitution for Forest Parish Church*

Following the morning service on the 23rd April the church held its annual AGM, now renamed as ACM- Annual Congegational Meeting, when last years reports were read and approved. The treasurer also reported that we had paid the Share in full and the remaining cost for the organ repairs is being paid back monthly via a loan from the Deanery.

The Rector's warden then explained that, as the church was a registered charity it had to comply with regulations to safeguard against its accounts being used for money laundering or terrorist financing. This meant formalising existing procedures into a written Constitution, Financial Controls Policy and various other duties as required under the legislation.

Please contact Rev. Claire or the churchwardens if you would like a copy of any of the reports or a further explanation.

* Forest Parish Rate-payers' meeting *

This will take place on Wednesday 25th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Forest Douzaine Room. At this meeting the remède (the amount of money the Church has requested from the parish for repairs and maintenance) is voted on. If you live in the Forest Parish please could you make every effort to attend the meeting to support the Church.



A new seat by the cemetery wall, a place in the sun for a quiet rest on your walk.



I hate when a couple argues in public and I missed the beginning and I don't know whose side I am on.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

Sixty might be the new forty but 9.00 is the new midnight.

I run like the winded.



About three months ago the UK bell ringers had a circular from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers urging them to attempt to train new ringers so that all the churches with rings of bells would be able to be rung for the Coronation of King Charles III.

Duncan Loweth the tower captain of Town Church has taken the idea on board. He teaches at Elizabeth College, and has a set of training “Dumb Bells” installed at the College. With this facility he had been able to train a number of people of all ages be able to handle a bell rung “Full Circle” without any sound being heard from outside. The bell sound is heard in side by loudspeaker, the position of the bell at strike is picked up by electronic sensors so that the student can hear his bell strike and be ready to progress to ringing on tower bells. This has now been achieved, and the students have been visiting Vale, St Peters and Forest Church, together with gaining experience on the heavy ring of eight bells at Town Church.

It has been a lot of work for Duncan and his team, but has certainly been worthwhile and certainly all four Ringing Peals will be able to be rung on the day of the Coronation. An interesting question is of course how many of the new ringers will stay after that date, and which church if any they will attach themselves to.

From the Forest Church point of view we will hope to ring from 10.15am. on the morning of the Coronation and I will try to arrange ringing for during the Saturday Afternoon on that day.

Peter Gallienne



May Dates and News

Knit and Natter

Please note there will be no Knit and Natter meeting in May

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 10th May Our next coffee morning will take place from 10.30am to 12 noon in church.

Thursday 18th May Ascension Day

9am Morning Prayers

Solace

Thursday 4th & 18th May

Solace is a support group for bereaved friends. (Regular meetings are at St Martin's Community Centre from 10.30-noon).

'A colleague shared this poem she had written which I have adapted slightly for our lovely Church members!' Claire.

The Beatitudes for Forest Parish Church

Blessèd are the coffee makers, the cake bakers and minute takers.
Blessèd are the bell ringers, the song singers and people bringers.
Blessèd are the clock winders, the bargain finders and stay behinders.
Blessèd are the ACC-ers, the drop-in IT-ers and the "Lord, is it me-ers?"
The readers and teachers, the prayers and preachers,
The stretchers and reachers who keep the gutters clean.
The visitors and talkers, the Flower Festival hawkers,
The writers who show where the walkers have been.
The sweepers and dusters, the ones who bring lustre,
And those who can magically muster a team.
The ones who sow; the ones who sew; and the ones who help keep things
'just so'.
For all those who serve, so often unseen,
Who fetch and carry and count and clean.
For all those who touch someone's heart with a word,
Whose wisdom and kindness are quietly heard.
We are so blessed by all that you do.
May God's blessing always rest on you.

Welcome to Forest Parish Church Services in May 2023

Sunday 7th May

11am Family Communion and celebration of the
Coronation of King Charles

Reader: tba

Prayers: Vivienne Rees

Sunday 14th May

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Stephen Le Poidevin

Acts ch17 v22-31
1 Peter ch3 v13-end

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

6.30pm Evensong - talk by Peter Gallienne

Reader: Vivienne Rees

Thursday 18th May Ascension Day

9am Morning Prayers

Sunday 21st May

9am Puppets and Praise

11am Family Communion & Baptism of Charlotte Roland

Reader: Linda Archard

Acts 1 v6-14
1 Peter ch4 v12-14, ch5 v6-11

Prayers: Nancy Smith

6.30pm Evensong

Reader: Geoff Harrison

Sunday 28th May Whit Sunday

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Suzie Pentecost

Acts 2 v1-21
1 Corinthians ch12 v3b-13

Prayers: Katie Blampied

Sunday 4th June Family Communion