

Thought for October 2022

by Revd. Claire Claxton

At some point during each year I encourage everyone to reflect on stewardship. Stewardship is the way we look after the things that have been entrusted to us: the world, our neighbours, our own possessions. It is based on the concept that we don't really own anything at all, we are just looking after it for our time on earth. This conviction brings with it a great responsibility. To quote a famous line from the Spiderman film, 'With great power comes great responsibility' but I would like to change it to 'With great wealth comes great responsibility.' We might not think we are wealthy but, compared with much of the world, we are because half of the world's population live on less than £2 a day.

It is not a crime to be wealthy or even 'comfortable.' In fact, our wealth, large or small, is a wonderful gift with a great potential for good. If you are on the electoral roll, you will receive a letter which is designed to thank those who already give to Forest Parish Church, to let everyone know what causes are being supported by the Church and the projects that are underway to improve the building and its grounds. I encourage you to think about your giving of 'time, talents and treasure' because our Church cannot run without them.

Forest Church is a community which worships God and tries to live as He wants us to, in a loving and generous way, welcoming others into the community and also looking outwards to help those beyond our church walls. This month, as we celebrate harvest and thank God for his good gifts to us, let's think carefully about how we can best use them.

CMClaxton



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CONTACTS

Rector: Revd. Claire Claxton

Tel: 238815

e.mail: carillon@cwgsy.net

Licenced Lay Minister (LLM)

Mrs Margaret Boden-Heaume

Tel: 265370

e.mail: mbodenheaume@outlook.com

Peoples' Warden:

Mr Keith Bienvenu

Tel: 238838

e.mail: krbienvenu@cwgsy.net

Rector's Warden:

Mrs Linda Archard

Tel: 266135

e.mail: lmcc@cwgsy.net

Church Flowers in October

October 2nd HARVEST Fatima and everyone

Gifts of tinned and dried goods will be taken to Guernsey

Welfare for distribution to those in need.

October 9th Debbie Dorey

October 16th Debbie Dorey

October 23rd Katie Blampied

October 30th Katie Blampied



A Summer Evening Concert

On the evening of Friday September 16th a full church enjoyed a concert of music with the State of Harmony choir and a very special clarinet and piano trio. Our own Claire Claxton together with Sarah Tennant and Martin Hassell stunned everyone with some memorable playing. The choir sang a pleasing mixture of songs, suitable for all tastes. I especially liked the old spirituals, such lovely harmonies. At the end everyone was welcome to refreshments at the back of church.

The retiring collection including the offerings at the Tumaini service raised over £600.

McMillan Coffee Morning

On Thursday September 22nd church was very busy serving coffee and cakes, with a large number of cakes for sale and a Tombola stall to also raise funds. Forest Church seems to have a supply of dedicated cake makers who never fail to do their best to keep us fed!

The coffee morning raised £350 for the McMillan cause.



Prayers for the sick and bereaved

Each Sunday in our weekly services and in Morning Prayer on Mondays and Thursdays we pray for the sick and the bereaved. There is a notebook in the church next to the Bible lectern in which the names of those we are praying for are written. If you or someone you know would like to be added to the list for regular prayer do let me know.

Claire Claxton

A prayer for those seeking strength:

*May your people be strengthened, O God, by your blessing;
May you be our consolation in times of grief,
our power to endure in times of suffering,
our protection when in danger.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Busy Bats and Chirping Crickets

The second deployment of the bat detector in the churchyard, for four windy days at the beginning of September, produced very similar results to those from April.

Kuhl's Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle and Grey Long Eared bat were all detected in similar numbers to last time. In addition we recorded both the Great Green Bush Cricket (*Tettigonia viridissima*) and the Speckled Bush Cricket (*Leptophyes punctatissima*) chirping away on numerous occasions. Sadly I can no longer hear them but it's great to know they are still there.

You may also notice that a bird feeding station has been added on the South side of the churchyard. It contains 3 types of bird food to help a wide range of small bird species. If you happen to notice any birds making use of them do let me know- it would be very useful to know which type of bird too.

Linda Archard



Great Green Bush Cricket - Image taken from Observation.org



October Dates and News

Tumaini news:

The service for Tumaini (see page 3) on September 4th was very colourful and the church was full of much beautiful work from so many people. Dr Sue Wilson spoke about the joy of the people in the district where these gifts were being sent and how so much progress has been made over the years in such a poor area. It can be cold at night there so the blankets, jumpers and little teddies will be very welcome.



Harvest Bring and Share lunch in church:

Stay after the service on **Sunday October 2nd** and join in the Harvest lunch. Don't worry if you did not bring any food there is always more than enough for everyone.

Knit and Natter

Wednesday 5th October

in church 2pm-4pm come even if you only want to natter!

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 12th October

Our next coffee morning will take place from 10.30am to 12 noon in church. Plenty of space at the back of church now! Do come and join us for a cuppa, some cake and a chat. All are welcome!

Solace

Thursday 6th and 20th October

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

Forest Floral Gardening Club Wednesday 16th November

Speaker-Malcolm Cleal

Welcome to Forest Parish Church Services in October 2022

Sunday 2nd October

11am Family service of Harvest Thanksgiving with baptism of Olivia Carey

Reader: tba

Prayers: Nicola Hoyland-Birch

Sunday 9th October

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Susie Mowbray

2 Kings 5v1-3, 7-15b

2 Timothy v 8-15

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

6.30pm Evensong

Reader: Keith Bienvenu

Sunday 16th October

9am Puppets and Praise

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Peter Gallienne

Genesis 32 v22-31

Timothy ch3 v14 ch4 v1-5

Prayers: Nancy Smith

6.30pm Evensong

Reader: Geoff Harrison

Sunday 23rd October

9am Traditional Service BCP

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Cadance

Ecclesiasticus 35 v12-17

2 Timothy 4 v6-8,16-18

Prayers: Katie Blampied

Sunday 30th October

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Linda Archard

Isaiah 1 v 10-18

2 Thessalonians 1

Prayers: Vivienne Rees