

**NORTH WEST**

**HAMPSHIRE**

**PASTORAL AREA**

**Serving the Parishes of**

**ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE, HOOK,  
TADLEY AND BURGHFIELD COMMON**



**St Michael's Parish, Tadley,  
Kingsclere,  
and St Oswald's Church,  
Burghfield Common**

**St Michael's Church**

Bishopswood Road, Tadley  
RG26 4HG

**St Oswald's Church:**

Abbey Park, Burghfield Common,  
RG7 3HQ

**Parish Priest:**

Rev Fr Patrick Tansey  
0118 981 4572

**Safeguarding Officers:**

Mrs Kath Murtagh (Tadley)  
0118 981 4658

Mrs Ellen Goodall (Burghfield Common)  
0118 983 3332

**Parish Secretary:**

Mrs Barbara Davis  
Email: [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Website: [www.stmandsto.org.uk](http://www.stmandsto.org.uk)

### Covenant to the People

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Bill Reilly on (0118) 9813784 during May.

**NEWSLETTER 3rd May—9th May 2020 AD**

## **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

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### **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

This is the title given to the 4th Sunday of Easter, when we are called to think especially in our time of Vocations to the Priesthood, the Permanent Diaconate and to the Religious Orders. In particular we are asked to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and normally there would be a 2nd collection for the Clergy Training Fund. As suggested by Helen Warner, it would be good for parishioners who use envelopes to put money aside for this collection this Sunday in preparation for the reordering of collections when we return to whatever is considered normal.

As we enter the month of May, which is specially dedicated to Our Lady, alongside October, Bishop Philip suggests that we say the Rosary during this month for Vocations to the Priesthood. Our Lady is rightly called 'Queen of the Clergy' as in all things she leads us to Christ, the High Priest, in whose Ministerial Priesthood all priests share. Let us ask her in prayer to inspire more men to respond to the call of Priesthood as it is a free choice, whereby the Lord calls, but the one He calls has to respond to God's Grace.

Pope Francis especially stresses the importance of the Rosary in this month.

Full details in our diocesan E-News.

### **VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY—A CASUALTY OF CORONAVIRUS**

In his speech on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, on his return from convalescence, Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke of the present pandemic as the greatest crisis the United Kingdom is facing since The Second World War. One of the casualties of this "invisible enemy" is the cancellation of any public remembrance of VE Day, which is kept on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May as a Bank Holiday.

On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the remembrance planned by Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) was discussed by the Tadley Clergy with The Reverend Richard Harlow, the Anglican Dean. Those present supported his suggestion of planning a public Walk with The Town Council, involving the Royal British Legion, cadet forces and other organisations. It was hoped that a representative of The American Embassy in London be invited, as there was an airlanding facility in the present Franklin Avenue for American Forces. Hopefully there would be a Service of Remembrance at the conclusion of the Walk and a Lunch or Afternoon Tea.

A Service involving all our Christian churches would have been most appropriate that day. Why? Because one of the valuable things, as the late Cardinal Heenan said, that emerged from the War in Europe was a greater understanding of the work of Ecumenism, the work of Christian Unity. This was especially so with the Christian members of that which is sometimes called The German Resistance Movement. They should not be forgotten as we remember.

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of the execution of the Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Poignantly, the anniversary fell on Holy Thursday and the celebration of Passover by our elder brothers and sisters of Judaism. He died as American artillery fire could be heard drawing closer to his prison of Flossenbürg Concentration Camp, which was liberated soon after his death.

On this anniversary, Cardinal Gerhard Müller, the German former Prefect of The Congregation for the Doctrine of The Faith, spoke of Bonhoeffer as a "martyr of the whole of Christianity"; of his ecumenical role during the "anti-Christian persecution" of the Church by the Nazis.

Born in 1906, he studied Theology in Germany, Rome and New York and came to know the Anglican Bishop Bell of Chichester whilst in London. As Nazi ideology took hold of all levels of German society in the 1930's, he was supported by Bell in becoming a minister of The Confessing Church in Germany. This group of German Lutherans rejected Hitler's control of the national Lutheran Church and contained many German clergy opposed to Nazism. The link with Bell became important once The Second World War began. George Bell became a major supporter of The German Resistance, pressing their cause with Churchill's Government. However, Bell's criticism of the deliberate bombing of civilian areas as the war developed did not endear him to Churchill. Bonhoeffer's last message, through a British officer who was a prisoner with him, to Bell declared: "I believe in the principle of our Universal Christian brotherhood which rises above all national interests, and that our victory is certain".

Bonhoeffer's position had become more dangerous as the war developed, but in 1940 General Hans Oster, Deputy Commander of The Abwehr, the German Intelligence Service, made him a member of the organisation. Oster, a fellow Lutheran, would also die at Flossenbürg Camp. A forgotten hero, Oster deliberately betrayed intelligence and through his Catholic agent, Josef Müller, informed Pius XII of the coming invasion of Belgium and Holland in 1940. It is now recognised that Pope Pius forwarded this information as well as he could to the British Government, but it was not acted upon. Oster also enabled Bonhoeffer to smuggle Jews out of Germany, but in 1943 their activities were uncovered.

In the July 1944 Bomb Plot, the remarkable Catholic Officer Count von Stauffenberg attempted to assassinate Hitler, assisted by Catholic and Lutheran officers. The explosives used were captured British stock held by the Abwehr. Both Bonhoeffer, formally a pacifist, and Oster were linked to the plot. They deserve to be in our prayers, alongside the work for Christian Unity, on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

### [FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND APPEAL](#)

Those who travelled to The Holy Land with Bill and Joy Reily in October 2019AD, and other parishioners, will be interested to know that The Friends of The Holy Land charity is launching a PENTECOST CHALLENGE

to help with the coronavirus crisis impact on the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

Three long standing supporters have together pledged to double any donations to FHL Pentecost up to the sum of £100,000 if donations are received by 31st May 2020AD (The Solemnity of Pentecost).

Tourism is a key industry for Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jordan and other sacred sites in The Holy Land. Approximately 4.5 million visitors came in 2019AD, a record year. Predictions are that tourism will be "wiped out" in 2020AD because of the crisis. This will affect many Christians and Muslims engaged in the industry, to say nothing of those who work in Israel, but can no longer do so because of the tight "lock-down" in place across the area.

If you are interested in supporting this invitation, the following details may be of help:

### FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Farmer Ward Road

Kenilworth,

WARWICKSHIRE CV8 2DH

Telephone: 01926 512980

Email: [office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

Website: [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

Bishop Philip authorised the 2019AD Christmas Crib Collections to go to The Friends.

### [CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED](#)

A request from Jo Lewry, Community Participation Co-Ordinator:

*"Could you inspire young people to make a difference? Could YOU be a CAFOD school volunteer? School Volunteers are a vital part of our work bringing Catholic social teaching to the next generation—but there is a shortage in Portsmouth Diocese and we need your help. By becoming a CAFOD School Volunteer you will have the opportunity to be part of a global movement building a fairer world, inspiring young people to get involved. It only takes a few hours a week to visit schools, and with that time, you can help make an impact on future generations. Training and support is provided for more information; please contact Jo Lewry [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk) or call 07710 094447*

### [CTAT CONFERENCE CALL \(29th April 2020\)](#)

The Reverends Richard Harlow and Gill Sakakini, The Reverend Kay Blackwell, Pastor Greg Whittick and Father Patrick had an extended discussion on 29th April. The last part of the meeting was joined by Paul Gross for a consideration of the issue of communication in CTAT in the present crisis.

The Hub is continuing to accept food stuff, for those in need, at The Link, formerly called The Community Centre, in Tadley.

The Foodbank is adapting in respect of recommendations for help being given in the crisis.

Work continues by The Reverend Richard and Pastor Greg in

respect of Bereavement Support locally. Local general practitioners are happy to have people referred to them, but this whole area needs to be considered carefully because of the sensitive nature of the present situation surrounding bereavement and grief.

There was further discussion about memorial Services when "lock-down" ends. Whenever it does, social distancing will apply for some time, and churches may still be closed, alongside other places like theatres and cinemas where large groups gather.

If Services are possible, it may be good to host one monthly on a Sunday afternoon, each of our churches taking a turn, involving all wishing for a Service. Also, it is important to consider that people may not necessarily want a religious Service, but would prefer an opportunity to talk socially, avoiding difficult memories of a time when they were unable to gather to say farewell to a loved one. Coronavirus is impacting, quite possibly, on traditional ways of addressing death.

Other areas which will probably need attention in the future are Finance, with people becoming redundant and getting into unplanned debt, and Mental Health Issues which are rising.

The Reverend Kay spoke of an initiative she is promoting of people making face masks, and which seems to be developing very well. It was agreed that this be furthered as a CTAT project if possible.

Paul agreed, with the help of members of the clergy, to bring together items of information to be publicised through our CTAT churches.

A very interesting meeting, which lasted longer than the intended hour! We meet again next week, and hope that The Reverend Ruth Midcalf will soon be back in post to join us. Please keep her in prayer following her mother's funeral, which was joined "virtually" by a large congregation.

## CATHOLICS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL—NEWS UPDATE

It is advised that when a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the patient has a note with them to give to hospital staff advising them they are Catholic and that if in danger of death it would be appreciated if the oncall Catholic priest was notified.

### Basingstoke Hospital

Fathers Rutledge and Whelan have agreed that their respective churches will look after Basingstoke Hospital a week at a time. The Hospital Chaplaincy and switchboard have the rota and will call both priests on their mobiles as necessary. **Please keep them in prayer at this time.**

### Royal Berkshire Hospital

Father Pat Madden of Christ the King Church, Reading, has sent the following information for those who may have relatives admitted to The Royal Berkshire Hospital. He is one of three acting Chaplains, and people from the Burghfield Common Area are often admitted there.

### **Father Pat writes:**

*"Following on from what the Bishop has said, the best advice is that the family or patient carries a note to give to hospital staff. On admission to the RBH the patient or family notify the staff that they are Catholic and that in danger of death it would be really appreciated if the oncall Catholic priest was notified. Concerned parishioners could also leave a message or text to me, Fr Pat Madden on 07510182722 if they feel that a request for a priest is not followed up. The family should also try to make a follow up call to the ward where their loved one is. If I or the other priest do manage to give the last rites or if we cannot get access to the ward due to limited PPE equipment, we will give the "Apostolic Pardon" from a distance.*

*I or the other oncall chaplain will notify the family, if they wish, to reassure them that we have been to see their loved one."*

**Please keep Father Pat and the other Reading Chaplains in your prayers.**

## PARISH CONDOLENCES

On behalf of many parishioners, Fr Patrick extends our prayers and sympathy to Kath Murtagh and Family on the recent death of her mother, Dorothy. Sadly, as she lived some distance away, Kath could not be there.

## CARMEL HARDING RIP

Fr Patrick expresses his thanks to Peter Hughes for letting us know that Carmel died in Winchester Hospital last week, and to Bill Reilly for e-mailing the news to our Tadley community. It was good to learn that one of the Winchester priests was able to give her The Last Rites and was with her and her son and daughter when she died.

Although Fr Patrick did not know her well, he realised who she was when news of her death came. He remembers her from a Tadley Funeral and, despite her disabilities, as a lady of spirit and fun. Keep her in your prayers, as she was part of our Parish for many years.

## WELCOME BACK, THERESA ZAJAC

Theresa Zajac has returned from her short stay in Winchester Hospital following a possible slight stroke. Father Mark Hogan let Father Patrick know at the weekend that he visited and gave her Holy Communion. Please keep Theresa in your prayers, and Father Mark and the Chaplains at Winchester Hospital.

## THURSDAY CLIPPING AT 8.00 PM

Bishop Philip has asked that when we clap for our NHS workers on Thursday evenings at 8.00 pm, we also include a clap for our Hospital Chaplains. Fr Patrick joined the clapping in Bishopswood Road last Thursday and remembered especially our Hospital Chaplains.

## PARISH THANKS...

Father Patrick expresses our thanks to the following, amongst others, who are contributing to the continuation of Parish Life in the present extraordinary circumstances. Personally, he thanks them for supporting his ministry as Parish Priest, spiritually and otherwise:

Carole Brookes -

in spite of ill health, for ensuring that there is a regular supply of clean purificators and other linen for the celebration of Mass.

Andy Hunneman, Barry Rockhill and Rick Wallis -

for checking that all is well at St Oswald's Church, ensuring that Fr Patrick does not have to travel constantly to Burghfield Common.

Bill Reilly, Irene Perry and Sarah Davis -

for sending e-mail messages and updates to all our communities, allowing many to keep in touch.

Christine Caren -

for her help and contributions in updating the Parish Website to keep all informed.

Gerry Penfold -

For ensuring that Fr Patrick gets urgent Diocesan and other important information.

## IT IS GOOD TO SERVE A SPLENDID PARISH AREA



**DIETRICH BONHOEFFER**

**1906—1945**