

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
Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

Covenant to the People

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Gerry Penfold on (0118) 9811247 during April and Bill Reilly on (0118) 9813784 DURING May.

**NEWSLETTER 26th APRIL—2nd May
2020 AD**

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Wednesday 29th April—St Catherine of Sienna (Feast)

Catherine was born around 1347^{AD} in Sienna, one of the great City States of the country we now call Italy. An attractive woman, she refused all attempts of her parents to get her married. She chose to become a lay member of the Dominican Order, living at home and engaged in constant and deep prayer.

A group of priests, lay people, both simple and rich, old and young, gathered around her, becoming the 'Caterinati'. In 1375^{AD} she tried to arrange a peace between the Papal Government and other independent communes, urging the Pope to leave France and return to Rome. Popes were not popular, and in 1378^{AD} the Great Schism began, which lasted for 40 years and resulted in two men claiming to be Popes! Catherine committed herself to resolving this scandal and, unable to write, got her supporters to write fiery and straightforward letters to church and civil leaders to resolve the matter. She was often ignored. She died in 1380^{AD}.

She might be described as a 'mulier fortis', a strong woman, and she was not the most diplomatic person. Yet one has only to read her spiritual works—dictated to others—and one encounters a mystic of remarkable and attractive holiness. She was declared, rightly so, a Patron of Europe by Pope Saint John Paul II.

The BREXIT problem has not gone away, so let us pray to her this week for a resolution fair to all by the end of this year. Our government has recently declared its intention to leave the European Union, whatever the circumstances, by 2020^{AD}. Let us also pray for Francis our Pope, who has called that the Union return to its fundamental values, established by its Catholic Founders of France, Germany and Italy—**SOLIDARITY AND THE COMMON GOOD**.

A DIFFERENT CHURCH?

'A tension between disorder and harmony: this is the Church that must come out of the crisis'. If you ask me which book of Theology can best help you understand this, it would be the Acts of the Apostles. There you will see how the Holy Spirit de-institutionalises what is no longer of use, and institutionalises the future of the Church. That is the Church that needs to come out of the crisis.'

Pope Francis made these observations at the end of March, as the pandemic took hold across Europe, and began to affect the United States. It is timely of him to direct us towards Saint Luke's account of The Early Church, especially as we are in The Year of The Word, seeking the nourishment of Sacred Scripture in our 'lockdown'.

That Early Church emerged from the 'shock' of The Resurrection into a time of spiritual upheaval and an uncertain future. The one

constant factor, as Luke outlines in his graceful history, is The Holy Spirit—the Spirit who forms out of argument and crisis an institution which endures for this moment in our History.

In a different context, the words of WB Yeats from Easter 1916 are appropriate -

'All changed, changed utterly:

A terrible beauty is born.'

How will we adapt to an institution which may have to accept Social Distancing as a reality for religious worship for some time? Or possibly our churches still closed, like other venues for large gatherings, for many months? Or many of our long-standing helpers still in isolation for age reasons? Or diminished numbers because of the fear of gathering while the virus still persists?

Where will we discern The Holy Spirit in all this, rejecting our sense of fear and calling us to new ways of private worship? There were no churches available in the time after Resurrection, except house churches!

Pope Francis muses about this: 'You ask me about a "Home Church" ... At home we need an apostolic creativity, a creativity shorn of so many useless things, but with a yearning to express our faith in community, as the people of God'.

It is a good time to ask The Holy Spirit to help us discern the way forward, to be open to new ways of practising our Faith—realising that in many parts of our world, where there are no regular Masses and isolated communities which rarely see a priest, many Christians have been doing this for a long time!

BAD HAIR DAY!

Having failed to get a hair-cut before hairdressers were obliged to cease work because of the Coronavirus, Fr Patrick has been wondering if his 'style' will soon resemble that of the Cavaliers of the English Civil War in the 17th Century. They applied the term 'Roundhead' to their enemies because many Puritans had closely cropped hair.

The fine Radio 4, *ANY QUESTIONS*, broadcast on Friday evenings at 8.00 pm, debates the many serious issues of the day—but often ends with a light-hearted question on a peripheral issue.

On Friday 17th April, the panellists were asked if the closure of hairdressing establishments was creating problems for them! A delightful exchange developed!

The Pensions Minister said that she was looking forward to having her hair done as soon as possible, and believed that many women were in the same frame of mind. In the meantime it would grow!

The Welsh Minister on the panel said that he was doing his best to prevent his wife dealing with his hair, whilst another commentator said that she had no intention of allowing her husband to go near her hair!

Very reassuring. Fr Patrick will become a Cavalier! Does anyone know of a good milliner?

CTAT CONFERENCE CALL (21st April 2020)

The Reverends Richard Harlow and Gill Sakakini, Reverend Kay Blackwell, Pastor Greg Whittick and Fr Patrick spent more than an hour in fruitful conversation last Tuesday. There follows a brief outline of their discussion. The Reverend Ruth Midcalf is preparing for her Mother's funeral, so please keep her in prayer.

(1) How did Easter Go?

Generally, for all it was 'weird' being divorced from our communities. The use of technology has its advantages, but also disadvantages!

Using ZOOM, The Reverend Rob at Silchester was able to engage a larger number of people on Easter Day than in normal circumstances, as was The Reverend Kay. Fr Patrick and The Reverend Richard initiated a discussion on the use of technology for those not used to it, their colleagues agreeing that they felt that assistance was needed in trying to lead a Service with it. People 'joining' the celebration of Services, especially during a sermon or power point display or The Lord's Prayer, create some problems. The Lord has a sense of humour!

Fr Patrick and The Reverend Richard wondered whether 'streaming' worked if it was not presented well, with few hitches, and about the ability of Christians to engage in prayer and reflection without always using technology. How will this impact on our future Christian worship—will some expect 'streamed' services alongside 'real' ones according to preference??

(11) Who Decides?

The Tadley Town Council initiative, enabling people to vote for three charities to receive funding last 7th March, resulted in CTAT Arts Festival being granted £1,800. This can be carried over to 2021^{AD} in the present crisis. Many thanks to all who made the effort to vote that day, and Fr Patrick enjoyed meeting Parishioners and others at it. Our thanks also to The Council for hosting a welcoming event for local charities.

(111) The Hub

Mandy Atkinson invites deliveries of items of food each Tuesday between 10.30 am—1.30 pm at The Point (The Community Centre opposite Tadley Common Methodist Church). Demand for this is 'manageable' at the moment as there has not been a great need.

(1V) Bereavement Support

The Reverend Richard outlined the co-operation with local GPs and Undertakers which he is co-ordinating with Pastor Gregg. It is now the case that for the bereaved and other bodies involved in death, a different experience is developing. There can be only limited personal contact by clergy, funeral directors and doctors with grieving families, and for many telephone 'support' is the only link with these groups. There is also the problem that one cannot go beyond this, unless there is a structured system of counselling in accordance with established protocols.

The Reverend Richard will report back on this in our Con-

ference Call next week, following his meeting on the matter. He also reported that Sainsbury's in Tadley is continuing its Food Box for voluntary donations, launched by CTAT.

(V) Communications

There was extended discussion on the need to communicate more effectively with all members of local churches and to engage these to volunteer to lead projects. The probability that the 'lockdown' is going to continue in one form or another for some considerable time necessitates this. Communication will be discussed next week.

CATHOLICS ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS

It is suggested 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 would appreciate the Catholic Chaplaincy Service. It is also advised that the family contact the Hospital Chaplaincy Service at the hospital to request support from the Catholic Chaplaincy Service for the patient.

TEMPORARY MORTUARY

In response to the current crisis, plans are in place for a temporary mortuary to be established alongside the airfield at Southampton Airport, serving Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. Hampshire County Council wishes to reassure families and friends that their loved ones will be afforded every possible respect, and that they 'have been liaising closely with faith leaders to ensure that required customs and practices will be observed at all times'.

TADLEY HUB— 'NEED HELP? LET US KNOW'

If you need someone to shop for you, collect your prescription, walk your dog, or just hear a friendly voice, please get in touch with Tadley Hub.

If you are struggling to feed your family, please contact the Hub, as you may qualify for additional support.

TADLEY HUB **0118 9814538**

MARRIAGE CARE

Marriage Care is still able to provide counselling support for couples, using the internet ZOOM application. Details are available on the website:

www.marriagecare.org.uk

Marriage Care is still able to provide marriage preparation using FOCCUS and hopes to restart their usual Preparing Together sessions in the autumn.

Any financial donations towards this charity would be much appreciated especially during the current situation.

SPAM EMAIL

We have been advised of several Parishioners receiving

an email purported to be from Fr Patrick with his sending address as parishpastor7203@gmail.com asking for contact to be made. THIS IS SPAM AND NOT FROM FR P. Please check your emails and Junk box To secure your system, it is suggested that you change your password to secure and access your email account.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

During these difficult times the number of domestic incidents has increased significantly and many people are at continuing risk. The Government has said that those suffering from domestic abuse can leave their homes to access help.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. Please also contact your safeguarding officer: refer allegations to the safeguarding officer as follows:

Tadley = Kath Murtagh 01189 814658
Burghfield Common = Ellen Goodall 01189 833332

If there is no reply, please just leave your name and contact number and request an urgent call back. You can also contact CSAS by telephoning 0207 901 1920 or via email at admin@csa.uk.net. All safeguarding officers will know of support organisations which may be of assistance to those concerned.

NEWS AND INFO FROM GERRY & PAULINE PENFOLD, GEOFF & GINA POULTER & SARAH HUNNEMAN

Our thanks to the above Parishioners who have compiled and organised the following:

Geoff, Gina, Gerry and Pauline would like to offer the Parish the opportunity to take part in an online course on the Holy Spirit called 'The Wild Goose' by Fr Dave Pivonka of the Franciscans. The course aims to deepen one's relationship with the Holy Spirit and builds on previous courses such as The Gift and Alpha. The course comprises 14 videos (30mins each) with a clear and helpful study guide. The course is free, but donations welcome.

Preview: [The Wild Goose — THE MINISTRY OF THE WILD GOOSE](#)

The team suggest that the Parish could journey together, during lockdown, studying one video a week, culminating in a weekly call (via Skype or ZOOM) to discuss questions or what was found beneficial.

If you wish to take part in this organised course please RSVP to:

gerry.penfold@yahoo.co.uk

Or

geoffpoulter@hotmail.com

COVID 19 IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

FOOD CRISIS Phone line for Burghfield & Morttimer
01635 760560 (Please note St Oswalds Centre Closed)

TADLEY HUB—0118 9814538 (see opposite paragraph)

CARITAS INSIGHT helpline—**07787 456955** (help for those in urgent need including hot meals delivered twice a week)

PRAYER & LISTENING SERVICE—<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/prayer-support>
If you do not have access to a computer, please contact

Gerry Penfold who can liaise with you to set this up.
Gerry: 0118 9811247

Sarah advised that she 'used the 'Pray as you App' which for me is great as the daily reflections are all about 10 mins in length and can be paused, rewound and replayed.'

Download from Google Play or the iOS App Store or visit:

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

FINALLY...

The Diocese have authorised that Barbara may continue in office, until the end of May, when the situation will again be reviewed.

A message from Barbara:

May I express my sincere thanks to all of you for your help, assistance and encouragement in supporting me in my role. It is so greatly appreciated and it has been inspiring to see such generosity, kindness and concern enacted throughout the community. A very big thank you.

