

Contact Information

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WEBSITE: There is a lot of information on our website, which we keep updated. It can be found on www.stpeterschailey.org

Our Safeguarding Recruiter (child protection officer) is MaryJane Corver. She can be contacted on 01825 724687 / 07802 524313 / email maryjane.corver@btinternet.com



Please continue to fill your Smartie tubes. Should they overflow you can return them in a bag when church reopens.

We pray you stay safe and well. We miss you all.

Don't forget you can watch online services from Newick and Barcombe by visiting their webpages on Facebook.

www.newickchurch.org
www.Barcombe.net/church

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NEWS IN THE PEWS

Welcome

SUNDAY 7th June 2020
TRINITY SUNDAY

Liturgical Year A



Today's Readings

8am

Revelations 4: 1-11

Page 1236 of your pew bible

John 3: 1-15

Page 1065 of your pew bible

10.00am

2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Page 1167 of your pew bible

Matthew 28: 16-20

Page 1001 of your pew bible

In your prayers this week please remember those who are ill especially

Stephen & Julie, Julian and Troy, Gemma Peacock, Alesha Stepney, Suzi Novis, Pat Stepney, Chris Ruane, John and Gaye Miller Maskell.

We pray too for the recently departed, and for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time, may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

This Sunday, I should have been with you at Chailey enjoying making Eucharist together at both our services. Sadly, it is still not possible to know “when we’ll meet again.”

This Sunday is the day when we are invited to celebrate the Holy Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit that is three persons in one substance or as the hymn says,” Three in one and one in three

I might, then, be expected to use this opportunity to try to explain what it all means.

It may be that like me you have heard countless preachers trying, without success, to explain the doctrine in ways that we might understand. I recall one preacher holding up a matchbox and using it as a prop. He explained the matchbox had an outer part which holds everything together. Then there is the tray which holds the matches. Lastly there is the strike strip which allows the matches to be lit thus fulfilling their purpose. The preacher explained God the Father is the surround. It is He who holds it all together. Jesus is the tray which keeps us together as the Body of Christ. The striking strip is the Holy Spirit who enables us to be on fire with the love of God and thereby fulfil our vocations. There are three distinctive parts of a matchbox but it is regarded as one item. I’m sure that was a worthy attempt on the part of the preacher but to be honest it did not really lead me on to a deeper understanding of the doctrine. St Patrick maybe came a wee bit closer when he held up the three - leafed clover to try to help those early Irish converts understand the breadth and nature of God. The failure of these worthy attempts should not be a total surprise. If I am able to understand what the Holy Trinity is, then it follows that the doctrine becomes smaller than my mind. This doctrine is a Mystery. A Mystery in Christian terms is not the same as say a crime committed in an episode of Morse or the stories of Sherlock Holmes. Those mysteries are presented as conundrums to be unravelled. However, the Mysteries of the Christian Faith are not puzzles to be solved. They defy empirical explanation and their truth is only understood in the light of faith. This should not seem alien to us because in our everyday lives there are many things we can’t explain but nevertheless know to be true because we experience them.

During recent times I have been exposed to a great deal of music. Some pieces I find move me whilst other pieces leave me cold. I find myself being transported to heaven by Parry’s setting of Psalm 122. The phrase in it ‘O pray for the peace of Jerusalem’ brings me what I can only describe as joy. I find myself wanting to play a song again and again which originally I had expected to find trivial. It was played at a recent funeral. The artist is Katie Melua and we played a recording of her singing a song entitled. ‘The closest thing to crazy.’ To my utter surprise I love it but cannot explain to you why that should be so. I find myself near to tears when I hear the folk singer Eric Bogle singing his anti-war song, ‘The Band played Waltzing Matilda.’ It moves me at a very deep level but there are other similar themed songs which I can take or leave. Why do I enjoy the poems of Simon Armitage a lot more than the writings of other poets. I cannot explain these things but I know what I say is true because I experience it. Surely the same is true within our human relationships. It would be difficult to explain why I am fond of some people and not others. Difficult to talk of loving people yet trying to explain why that love is different between deep friendship and partnerships of deep commitment. There is much I know, experience and love but cannot for the life of me tell you why.

We belong to an empirically obsessed generation but the Christian faith we profess has much within it which is incapable of proof. I see this not as a difficulty but rather as a gift. We are liberated from having to explain it all by demanding mere blind acceptance. Such an acceptance is actually an insult to the God who gave us a brain! Instead we are exercising an act of faith.

I believe in the Holy Trinity because I experience God working in our world today. When I walk out every morning through Lindfield High Street on my way to the nature reserve I see a world created by the Father. I see People, trees, animals, grass, buildings, cars which are all signs of God’s creative activity and our use of it.

I see folk prepared to care for me by moving aside at times to protect me from the virus. I see the service that many of the shops are offering by arranging home deliveries of food. I see people going to the post box or the chemist to fetch and carry for those unable to leave their homes. Those acts of kindness and generosity help me to see Jesus, serving others.

I also find him in those who are prepared to accept help. The Jesus who had his feet washed by Mary Magdalene, who took the water from the woman at the Samaritan well and the Jesus who accepted a place to lay his head through the hospitality of Zacchaeus. I rejoice that the Lord had needs like I have and was humble enough to ask for help. He is both servant and served.

I am witnessing many groups of Christians using this present opportunity to spread the Gospel through social media. Groups although deprived of the sacraments still watching the Eucharist and I see Bible Study classes spring up on You tube or Zoom. I see online choirs forming and people’s stress levels being lessened by their singing. In all of this I see the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the Comforter.

I watch the Holy Spirit inspiring people to do things differently. I see them take the stuff of this world to reveal the things of heaven. I cannot explain all this; I cannot understand it all. However, I know it to be true because I experience it. There are many things I cannot prove about my faith. The lesson I take from today’s Feast of the Holy Trinity is not that I have to prove the doctrine intellectually but instead am called to authenticate its truth by moulding my life to be an image of it. We are invited by God to allow others to find something of the Trinity in the way we are to them. We authenticate the doctrine by showing our actions to be the same as God’s actions.

I believe in God the Father, God the Son and Holy Spirit, Three Persons yet one God. It is in their name I send this to you.

Wise words from Father Martin Morgan