

Sunday 28th June 2020

3rd Sunday after Trinity *also Feast of St Peter & St Paul (transferred from 29th June)*

Alleluia, from today, Sunday 28th June Marown Church and St Luke's Church Baldwin are both open for Sunday worship and for private prayer during the rest of the week. Some health measures are still in place so please follow the guidelines and signs in the churches, especially regarding the use of hand sanitiser and contact tracing details.

Our churches will not be exactly as we left them, nor will the services follow their old pattern. **Marown Church will have one service per Sunday morning at 10.30am combining both their congregations (please note the change of time) and St Luke's will resume with their usual 6.30pm service Sunday evenings.** The PCC will review the openings later in July and consider what measures might need to either remain in place or be adapted. In the interests of greater hygiene, it would be very helpful for the monetary collections to be done by bank Standing Order if at all possible, please contact our Parish Treasurer Mrs Sue Waring if you are able to do this and thank you to all those who have continued to support the parish financially.

The last 10.30am Zoom service from the Cathedral is today 28th June. All future services will be actual services live streamed via their website www.cathedral.im. These can be viewed on a PC or laptop and 'cast' by Google chromecast to a television on the same wi-fi network to watch it on 'the big screen'.

This afternoon at 3.30pm The Very Revd Nigel Godfrey, Dean of the cathedral will celebrate 40 years of ordained ministry with a choral Eucharist at the cathedral. All are welcome to attend and we send the Dean our best wishes and thanks for his years of priestly service.

Our Bible readings for today are:

Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8 & 17-18 & Matthew 16: 13-19

We pray for.....

- all those people who are vulnerable or suffering in body, mind or spirit, those facing financial pressures or job losses, the grieving, and those still anxious about the coronavirus.
- our churches and the communities they serve as we meet again for worship. We pray for God's blessing upon our outreach, pastoral care and fellowship and for guidance and wisdom to chart a new path loving and serving our neighbours.
- healing and restoration from the pandemic and from all ills that would divide us from each other, especially in places where racism has created inequality and injustice
- those people who seek to follow the example of St Peter & St Paul, living lives devoted to God and proclaiming the Gospel
- St Paul's Church Foxdale, for the repairs to be completed and church re-opened and we ask for God's blessing to be upon that community

From amongst our own fellowship we continue to pray for; Paul Lemaire, Jenny Ingham, Fleet & Joan Simpson, Bert Winckle, Tanya Thompson, Maud Dawson, Richard Beaumont, Joan Brain, Sally Lister, Eddie Corkill, Wilf Corkish, Les Edwards, Pat Killip, Dee & Mark Whitlock.

RIP Elaine Quayle also Mary Stevenson whose funeral will take place at Marown Church Friday 3rd July 10.30am

Don't forget.....

Judith Ley's Sunday morning 9.30am broadcast on Manx Radio- 'At Your Service' continues. It includes music, scripture, prayers, and reflections.

Churches Bookshop is now open 2 days per week Wednesday & Saturday 11am-3pm or you can leave messages on 01624 621593 or email churchesbookshop@manx.net

The ROOTS community comprises churches, organisations, and individuals, using their own resources to enrich worship and learning. They are offering additional resources to use at home during the pandemic. These are fun, informative, prayerful, and easy to use so give them a go using the links.....

For adults www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome28jun

For families www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome28jun

Daily HOPE is a free national phonenumber 0800 804 8044 aimed particularly at older people who don't have access to the internet. Manx Telecom customers will not be charged for the call from either a landline or mobile. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer. These will be updated daily from Common Worship, and also recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. A section called Hymn Line will also offer callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love' provides a hymn and reflection – and an invitation to sing along!

Prayer time up-date.....

Canon Janice keeps regular prayer times (9am & 6pm). Why not join in from your own homes at those times to so our 'private prayer, silence and reflection' coincide.

If you need support please contact her on the usual vicarage number 851378 or by email revjaniceward@manx.net

Don't forget our Facebook page or website www.marownchurch.im

The Church of England website www.churchofengland.org and the diocesan site www.sodorandman.im

Reflection from Nancy Clague

Today We celebrate the lives of St Peter and St Paul, martyred about 30 years after Jesus' Crucifixion

Also, we can worship in our churches here on Isle of Man, but the virus hasn't gone away & some of us may still need or prefer to meet via zoom.

Our Gospel reading tells of Jesus commissioning Peter to 'build the church' as the foundation stone, a rock for a new movement. No blueprint. But to follow the lead that Jesus had taught, loving God and loving their neighbour. We know the early believers initially worshipped in homes, sharing meals and goods, especially Gentile believers with no connections to the synagogues = centres of worship for Jews outside Jerusalem.

Moses had given the 10 Commandments but over years Pharisees, scribes etc had written over 600 extra additions. By time of Jesus, ritualistic rules, e.g. washing utensils, clean and unclean etc were seeming more important than the love of God and care for neighbour. Many times, Jesus challenged these spiritually empty rituals and legalistic rules. Peter was to 'build the church'. He was the foundation stone, a rock for the new movement.

Peter who as a fisherman had met Jesus and spent 3 years with Jesus. After the Resurrection Jesus met with his disciples, and our Gospel reading tells us Jesus wants to build his church, the rock. No instructions on how, but it meant Peter was putting his fisherman's life behind him and starting afresh. A complete turnaround.

Paul was a tent maker, a Pharisee, so religious in Jewish faith that he opposed the new teachings, and persecuted the first Christians, and then..... a turn around. Paul used all the means available in his day to share the Good News as He spoke to the Gentiles who had been excluded from the faith. He wrote letters, travelled by foot and by ship He went around the then known world, suffering hardships, shipwrecks, stoning and beatings. He wrote in his letter to Timothy, our first reading, how God stayed with him as he preached the good news to the Gentiles. Tom Wright in his book 'Paul' believes that Paul saw Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promise of a Messiah for the people of Israel and that part of the covenant stretching back to Abraham was meant to extend to all nations, so to go beyond the Jewish people and embrace all nations. This meant that The Law (Torah) was superseded by Jesus rather than ignored or abolished. = a turnaround in the traditional Jewish expectation of a military saviour like King David. The Messiah the Jews were expecting was a new king David, Jesus as Messiah was a 'turn around' in ideas and expectation.

Both Peter and Paul were challenged to do 'new things' in order to share the message that Jesus was Lord.

So as lockdown has changed the way we have worshipped for the last 3 months, is it time for us to rise to a challenge of doing 'things new'? a turn around?

An article in church Times last month highlighted how we had been released from our church buildings, [shrines for many] but which soak up energy and resources. The article also points out that the clergy, set apart and trained not simply to take services but to 'pastor, train and mobilise the community of faith' Do they need to rearrange the diary, re- invent the part played by the priest? The article looked at 4 areas, Freeing from 'over churchiness', prayer life, pastoral care and mission, [outreach.]

Let me share some of my thoughts from the last few months.

Zoom, I'd never heard of it, Face time yes, Zoom no. I like this way of worship, far better than a live streaming service with 2 people, leading a Eucharist where we can't receive the bread and wine.

More people worship on a Tuesday with Cathedral Morning prayer than attended the building previously. One lady I know has joined a Bible study, which she hasn't done for 30 years. People are joining Zoom services from across the world, as far as Cayman island and Falklands, all part of God's church. We hear some people are joining services when they wouldn't have gone into a church.

Alex Brown, Pioneer Minister in Douglas has some amazing reflections on his web site, he was sharing morning prayer, with the calm sea as a background. Or a wandering prayer labyrinth, around the island that some of us may not be fit enough to reach. Praying the Keeills week, another casualty of the virus used Face Book to view some sites and add reflections.

A friend during the lockdown was/is reading bedtime stories to her grandchildren 200 miles away, maybe a poor substitute for cuddles but suddenly every evening contact. Lots of families have struggled I know but many have also had joint quiz nights bringing the families together.

Many people have said they have contacted those people they only send Christmas cards to and I've had some interesting conversations with people I've known, but never really talked to.

I'm sure you will have had your own experiences.

Lockdown has eased on the island, but we are still vulnerable, and will be more so when the borders reopen, until there is a vaccine. Now is an ideal time to rethink what is important, and how we reach people.

Zoom enables us to worship together, seeing each other instead of the back of heads, no cold buildings, limited time to set up etc It won't reach everybody, even Sunday worship excludes those working (or without the technology). Do we have to worship in a building?

Praying can be difficult on your own; it's like learning a music instrument. If you have a lesson you are more likely to practice ready for that lesson. But prayer triplets, knowing 2 others are praying at the same time, and meeting at times to share your thoughts.

Outreach like Open the Book and Messy Church may be difficult in the future until the vulnerable groups get protection or a better treatment. But other ways to engage to with the wider community may be card drops; invitations to services, a magazine or even information to a new estate or when you see a new family moving into the street. Things that should be happening, but limited time may have got side lined.

Lockdown is easing. Our Churches opening a Zoom service today, but what of the future. Are we going to return to pre lockdown, meetings after meetings, with no time to visit and share the Good news. Are we going to ease faculties so buildings can meet the 21st century. Rethink how far our 'ritualistic' Eucharist has become from sharing a meal in the home? Are we going to use the lessons we have learned during the last months to rethink how we 'do' church? Do we need so many buildings that need so much maintenance, money, time and energy, with fewer and fewer able-bodied people?

We have learnt that some people prefer Zoom services. Some can't wait to 'get back to normal'!

Peter and Paul had to completely change their way of living. It must have been scary, certainly for Paul, many hardships. Peter and Paul did disagree on theology and both lost their lives for their Lord. [as are Christians in other parts of the world today].

There will be differences of opinions, and opposition to church closures, maybe less services. Change is nothing new as change is always happening but usually more slowly.

Can we rethink, release our clergy and congregations from 'churchiness'. Can we, like Peter and Paul rise to this new challenge....

Jesus had faith in Peter and gave him the keys to the kingdom of heaven, as Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Son of the living God, Paul knew the Lord gave him strength to proclaim the message of the Good News.

To God be the glory.