

Dear All

Welcome to Keeping In Touch (KIT) 13. Many of us will be looking forward to the relaxing of some of the rules that have been announced, although social distancing will still be important. A shorter version of KIT this week reflects the easing of lockdown and less need for information. However, we will endeavour to continue producing KIT until we are able to worship together again. (*Remember if you no longer wish to receive KIT just email treasurerstmaryschidham@gmail.com to be removed from the list – no offence will be taken!*)

You will doubtless be aware of the government's recent announcement that churches may now open for **individual private prayer**. As I am sure you will expect, this is not simply a case of unlocking the door! We have just received guidance from the Bishop of Chichester outlining what is required to achieve this and will be working on it as quickly as possible. We hope to be bringing you news during the next week.

On the first Thursday after Trinity (which was last Thursday) the Church of England marked '**The Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion**'. It recalls when Jesus instituted the celebration of Holy Communion. It has the status of a Festival in the Anglican Church and its observance is optional. If you click on the link below you can watch the choir of Peterborough cathedral celebrating it this year singing *ave verum corpus* (socially distanced naturally).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKyPcBImHYU>

It is otherwise known of course as **Corpus Christi** and in the Catholic faith this is a major celebration and will be marked this Sunday. You can see below details of a special live broadcast this week on Radio 4.

The feast was inspired by the religious experience of St Juliana (1193-1258), a Belgian nun, who dreamed repeatedly of the Church under a full moon with a black spot. According to legend, the dream was interpreted to her in a vision by Christ. The moon, she said, was the Church's calendar of festivals and the black spot was the lack of a festival to celebrate the holiest element of the Church - the Eucharist. Juliana shared this with her local bishop, who in 1246 issued a decree for such a festival to be celebrated in his territory. The festival was instituted throughout the Church by Pope Urban IV in 1264. Before that there had been no universal festival to mark the sacrament of the Eucharist. *Corpus Christi* was made an obligatory feast for Roman Catholics by Pope Clement V in 1311. *Corpus Christi* was celebrated in England from 1318 until its suppression in 1548 during the Protestant Reformation.

The difference in its significance to the Anglican and Catholic faiths is too big a subject to discuss here but the internet has many and varied sites that detail this.

In medieval times in many parts of Europe, *Corpus Christi* was a time for the performance of mystery and miracle plays which focused on representations of Bible stories. Often they were performed together in cycles which could last for days. Originally performed in Latin and mostly in the form of tableaux with a 'voiceover', the writers and directors of the earliest plays were probably monks and these religious dramas flourished from about the ninth century to the sixteenth. In 1210, suspicious of the growing popularity of miracle plays, Pope Innocent III issued a papal edict forbidding clergy from acting on a public stage. In some of the larger towns and cities the organisation of the dramas then moved to town guilds, after which several changes followed. Vernacular wording replaced Latin, and non-Biblical passages were added along with comic scenes. The acting and characterisation became more elaborate. From the guild control comes the name mystery play or mysteries, from the Latin *ministerium* meaning "occupation" (i.e. that of the guilds).

The most complete cycle is the York cycle of forty-eight pageants. Mystery Plays were a great medieval tradition in York, a way of bringing religious messages to the streets of the city and a huge celebration. Usually starting at 4.30am, the day began with parades through

the streets on waggons. Actors then went on to present the great moments of Christian history at 12 special places on the streets, designated by special city banners. Seating on scaffolding was constructed for wealthier spectators which included Richard II in 1398.

Each guild would perform a play, often one that was most fitting to their members. So the shipwrights presented the building of Noah's Ark, and the marriage of Cana where Christ turned water into wine would be acted out by the vintners. More morbid associations included the metal pinner nailing Christ to the cross and the butchers who performed the death of Christ.

York revived the plays in 1951 and they have been staged periodically ever since. Here is an example of an interpretation of the Crucifixion from 2018:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dp2gzTt3uYA>

There are other examples on YouTube which are worth a browse if you are interested.

Thankyou Stephen for providing the **pewslip**. I hope you are all enjoying the musical links that Stephen adds each week.

SERVICES FOR FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

This week's **Sunday Service** on BBC **Radio 4** comes from Westminster Cathedral at **0810**. Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrates Mass for the **Feast of Corpus Christi** in the first live radio broadcast, and the first radio outside broadcast, of a church service in the UK, since the lockdown. The service will take place behind closed doors and with no congregation present.

There will be the usual **live service** on the **Church of England's website** and on their Facebook page at **9.00am** <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>. *"Marking Corpus Christi, Rev Richard Springer will speak of the agony of the crucified Christ and draw parallels with the pain of those who suffer racism, hunger and homelessness"*.

This week the live streamed service from **Chichester Cathedral** is led by the Chancellor, The **Reverend Canon Dan Inman**. You can access this service live by clicking on the link and it will take you to the page with instructions on how to view. You can also view it later www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/services/live-services

Sunday Worship on **BBC1** is being shown this week at **1045**. The service is from Holy Trinity Platt Church in Manchester, led by Sarah Bradley, youth and children's minister.

The theme for **Songs of Praise** this week is 'Worship in the Great Outdoors'. It will be broadcast at **1.15** on **BBC1**.

This week's **Choral Evensong service** on **BBC Radio 3** at **3.00pm** comes from York Minster.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Chichester Cathedral will be open daily for **individual private prayer** from Monday 15th June, between 12.00 – 4.00pm. Entry will be by the West Door only apart from use of the Cathedral's accessible entrance. Visitors will be limited to a maximum of 60 at one time.

The Cathedral's on-site toilets will remain closed as will the café and shop.

SUSSEX DAY 16th JUNE

To coincide with Sussex Day a new 10 week video series, 'West Sussex Unwrapped', is launching. The first video will show a Sunday School from Three Bridges in Crawley take a trip to Littlehampton. You can find out more from this link:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/a-feast-for-the-eyes-as-west-sussex-unwrapped-launches/>

CHICHESTER SINGERS IN LOCKDOWN

The Chichester Singers have a new You Tube recording and thanks to Bruce Garrett we have a link! Hopefully you can spot Bruce in the video. As Bruce says "optimism reigns" with the chosen title!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akyuWzOKmC4&feature=youtu.be>

TRAVELLING ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Just a reminder that from Monday 15th if you are using public transport you will need to wear a face covering. Exemptions to the rule include young children, disabled people and those with breathing difficulties. It can be as simple as a scarf or bandana that ties behind your head. Remember to sanitise your hands before putting it on and taking it off!

THE LIGHTHEARTED BIT!

Did you find last week's quiz easy cheesy? The answers are attached. This week a quiz pinched from elsewhere. Can you identify these common garden flowers?

BUBBLE, BUBBLE, BUBBLE

There is so much use of the word 'bubble' at the moment but its popularity in England you may remember was also rife in 1720 when practically the whole of England became involved in what has since become known as 'The South Sea Bubble'.

In return for a loan of £7million to finance the war against France, the House of Lords passed the South Sea Bill, which allowed the South Sea Company a monopoly in trade with South or Spanish America. The company underwrote the English National Debt, which stood at £30million, on a promise of 5% interest from the government.

Shares immediately rose to 10 times their value, speculation ran wild and all sorts of companies, some fraudulent, some completely ridiculous and others optimistic were launched. For example, one company floated was to buy Irish bogs, another to manufacture a gun to fire a square cannon ball and possibly the most ludicrous of all, one "*For carrying-on an undertaking of great advantage but no-one to know what it is*"!! Unbelievably £2000 was invested in that one! The country went wild, stocks increased in all of these 'dodgy' schemes and huge fortunes were made.

Then the 'bubble' in London burst. Stocks crashed and people all over the country lost all of their money. Many clergy and bishops lost their life savings and gentry lost money and property. George I became involved as his two mistresses, the Countess of Darlington and the Duchess of Kendal, were heavily involved in the company and were blamed by the populace for being responsible and were jeered when out in their carriages. Even Porters and ladies maids who had bought their own carriages became destitute overnight. Suicides became a daily occurrence. The Postmaster General took poison and his son, who was the Secretary of State, fortuitously avoided disaster by fatally contracting smallpox. The Riot Act was read to restore order.

The directors of the South Sea Company were arrested and after a Parliamentary enquiry the Chancellor of the Exchequer and several MPs were expelled. The scandal brought Robert Walpole, generally considered to be the first British prime minister, to the fore. Although Walpole had been no more prudent than many others and had invested heavily in South Sea stock, he was saved from financial disaster by the foresight of his banker. As he had not been a promoter of the scheme and was therefore free from the stigma of corruption that marked many other ministers, he rose to power. He promised to seek out all those responsible for the scandal, but in the end he sacrificed only some of those involved in order to preserve the reputations of the government's leaders. The South Sea Company itself survived until 1853, having sold most of its rights to the Spanish government in 1750.

At least being part of a 'bubble' today may be less problematic.....or will it??

THE LAST WORD

Just a few final words attributed to some well known people:

"My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go." – Oscar Wilde

Die, my dear doctor, that's the last thing I shall do" – Lord Palmerston

"Take away these pillows, I won't need them any longer" – Lewis Carroll

How were the circus receipts today at Madison Square Garden?" – P.T. Barnum

"I want nothing but death" – Jane Austen

On his deathbed, on hearing a nurse tell a visitor that he was feeling a little better, Henrik Ibsen said *"On the contrary"*

"I'm bored with it all" – Winston Churchill

Allegedly, Nostradamus predicted, *"Tomorrow, at sunrise, I shall no longer be here."* He was right.

And **finally**, a prayer for Corpus Christi:

God our Father

whose Son our Lord Jesus Christ

in a wonderful sacrament

has left us a memorial of his passion:

Grant us so to venerate

the sacred mysteries of his Body and Blood

that we may ever perceive within ourselves

the fruit of his redemption:

who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Enjoy the coming week and the extra freedom but do stay safe

Carol & Willem