

# St Peter & St Paul West Mersea Newsletter – October 2020



Pray, Pray, Pray!



## Government – Blame or Pray

It's one of our great national sports to criticise our government.

Indeed, when you look at more oppressive regimes, you realise how fortunate we are to have the freedom to do this, but in one of our recent readings, in Romans 13, Paul makes it clear that all authority comes from God, and governments are administering His delegated authority. Therefore we should respect them. That doesn't mean they are always right. They are made up of fallible men and women who need to be challenged from time to time.

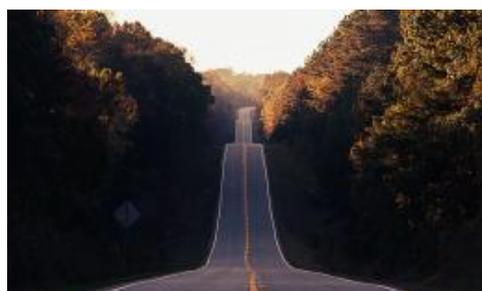
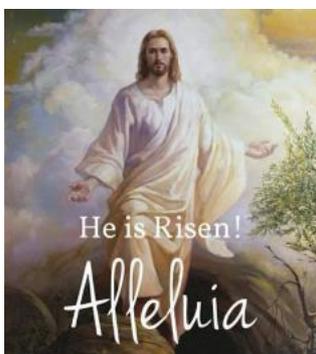
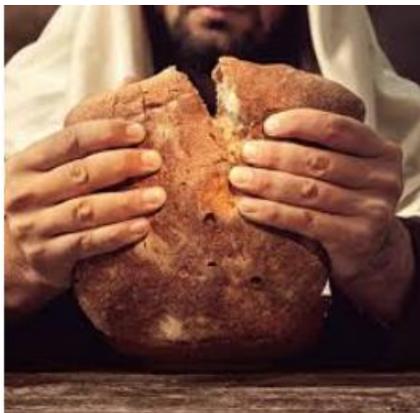
Indeed, the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist included, were called by God to do this. Paul goes on to say that they 'bear the sword' as servants of God to punish wrong doing. Justice is necessary and good. Indeed, our justice system was built on the Christian faith that was at the heart of our nation for so many centuries. No wonder in 1 Timothy 2 Paul implores Christians to pray for 'all those in authority that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness'. So a simple challenge - Do I pray for those in authority more than I criticise them? National and local government, police, headteachers and bosses at work - All need our prayer, never more so than at this difficult time. Pray on!

David Willey



**Rev. Martin Clark Writes.....**

Do you know who you are? In today's gospel passage from Matthew ch. 16 Jesus asks his disciples who people thought he was. They replied: some thought he was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. So Jesus asks his disciples who they thought he was. Impetuous Peter declares that he is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. And because of this, Jesus calls him blessed, and confers great responsibility upon him. He will become the rock, upon which the Church is built. That rock is faith. When Jesus asks us who we think he is, we answer in faith that he is the Saviour of the world. Our pictures today describe who Jesus said he was: the bread of life, the light of the world, the gate into the kingdom, the good Shepherd, the resurrection and the life; the way, the truth and the life



## **APCM Report by retiring Churchwarden, Val Bocking**

At last we can meet and hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This has been an eventful year but my remarks refer to the previous year which most of us struggle to remember in detail so I will put together a few thoughts that bring us up to date.

Our church is continuing to move forward, and we are in good shape in all aspects of our church life waiting for the one God is calling to lead us on into a new stage of development.

Our stability is because of the vast number of our church family who are involved in so many aspects of church life.

I would love to start a thank you list but if I did you would miss your Sunday lunch, so this is a great big thank you to everyone!

I am content to pass on the work to Barbara who with Alan will continue to guide and support you all until we have our new rector.

There is one person I want to thank who is here at this meeting. Someone who has supported me, dropped me off and picked me up at the gate numerous times and quietly served the church behind the scenes – that is my husband Ray.

Thank you Ray.

So, we must move on to new challenges, adventures and growth as we all, as different parts of the body, continue to serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

God Bless you all and encourage you in all you do to grow Gods kingdom here in our Mersea community.



**New Churchwardens: Alan Brook & Barbara Peter**

## Wedding

Darren, Kirsty, and I would like to extend our very sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who helped make their wedding on Saturday 5th September such a happy and memorable day.

Our lovely Terry has been so supportive and understanding through three changes of date and time due to covid lock down and reception booking difficulties. Terry put Darren and Kirsty at ease from the first time they met him, Terry has been so kind and understanding and he made the service beautiful, thank you Terry.



Then there's Rosemarie with her gift for flower arranging who made the church look so beautiful and even loaned a special cloth to go on the table for signing the register and was down the church with me till 10p.m on the Thursday night, she went the extra mile with me, so thank you so much.



Bridgette Smith rang the bells, Sue Brook loaned bunting and Alan was verger. Carol Binmore helped with printing orders of service, Alan Hammond came and put the heating on and swept paths, and last but not least our very talented Ian who sang and played his way through the order of service beautifully as always.

Our beautiful Church was brought back from looking a little sad to her full beauty in a matter of days. I only had one weeks notice to turn the hall into a wedding reception but with prayer, the support of church family, determination, plus some stress It came together. The sun shone and a very Happy and memorable wedding took place.



Kirsty said the congregation wearing face masks did not detract from the service at all and thirty in the Church made it very meaningful as you choose carefully the people who are really important In your life. I can't put into words how much everyone's love and support meant or what an amazing day you helped to create but thank you so much my wonderful church family.

We all enjoyed summer in different ways this year, here are some family photos



David and Liz Willey taught their grandsons to sail



Georgie Hewes grandchildren picking tomatoes from the allotment



Alison Ward's granddaughter, Lily, enjoying a day at the zoo



Lucy Hurst's family enjoying a windy day at the beach

## Notices

### PCC Jottings 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020:

The church is in good order. The bells have been inspected and thanks to the Fabric Team, who made a few minor adjustments, should ring for some time to come.

The new PA System has been installed and awaits completion.

Roland Gardener has urged us to search for another person to share the financial work of the church.

Roland also carries out a number of other jobs which could be undertaken by others, to lighten his load.

Giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders have been maintained, but there may be those who have been unable to give because of the loss of the physical 9.30am and 11.00am services.

This has been reflected in a shortfall of £2,500 in offerings.

The Electoral Roll has been updated and will be available for the APCM to be held in the Church.

Cathy Roberts and the Church Wardens have been working hard to follow Government Guidelines with regard to the use of the Church for services, private prayer, weddings and funerals.

The zoom service has maintained a level of over forty screens. The PCC expressed thanks to the retired Clergy and to Peter Easy and Ian Jewitt for making this possible.

Alan Brook has been in contact with the Archdeacon, emphasizing our great longing to have a new Rector in post urgently.

Alan Brook invited the PCC to express their appreciation of all Val Bocking's hard work on her forthcoming retirement, after many years as Churchwarden, by giving a zoom Reaction!

#### West Mersea

The Sunday Morning 10am Zoom Services of United Worship & Spiritual Communion will continue for the foreseeable future.

**Sundays 8am** Book of Common Prayer communion service. Only bread will be offered

**Wednesday 10am** Prayer service or Holy Communion, alternate weeks.

**09:30-12:00** Church will be open for private prayer

#### East Mersea

We are opening on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Sunday Morning: 09:30 service only at present.

#### Great Wigborough

St. Stephen's will remain closed due to ongoing refurbishments and concerns regarding safety for private prayer.

#### Fundraising Haircut for Macmillan

We usually hold a big Macmillan Coffee morning at Mersea Court. It wasn't possible this year so to raise money Val said she would have her long plait cut off.



If you would like to support Macmillan Cancer Support you could drop your donation in at Cathy's shop, No 4, next to the butchers or phone Val and she will collect. (01206 386750)

If you have any news and/or photos for our November Newsletter, please send them to Val Bocking on [bocking@keme.co.uk](mailto:bocking@keme.co.uk) or phone 01206 386750

Stay Safe, Keep Praying and thank God for all the positives  
**Val Bocking - Editor**