



Green time

The festival season is over – the white and gold altar frontal and vestments have been folded away, as have the flame red drapes of Pentecost. Today the colour is Green – for the Trinity season and for Ordinary Time. For this is what we are back to – ordinary time. The green season, a time for growth and consolidation. A time for rest in green pastures. A time just to be.

Living where we do, we are used to the rhythm of the seasons, the need for waiting patiently. Fields left to lie fallow for a year to rest and be renewed turn green before the season is out. The periods between fast and feast, between penitence and celebration, are there to restore us, to re-centre us. God loves the ordinary.

Remember the story of the Curé d’Ars, a holy man who had a habit of sitting in the church, before the altar, for long periods of time. ‘What are you doing there?’ he was asked. His reply: ‘I look at him and he looks at me.’ The Curé was content simply to ‘be’ in the presence of God. This in itself is a form of prayer, and recognised by the fact that the Curé d’Ars is honoured as the patron saint of priests.

Think of the teachings of Jesus. They are full of everyday examples: a seed, a field, a tiny bird. Men hanging round the equivalent of the labour exchange. The giving of a cup of water, the washing of feet, the lighting of a lamp, the sweeping of a room. The breaking of bread.

God loves the ordinary, the everyday lives and situations he has put us in. He is with us every day, in the home, in the office, in the car, in the supermarket and in the countryside. We don’t have to wait until Sunday morning to encounter him. He has already come into our world to encounter us. And now during the long, green season of Trinity, of Ordinary Time, we can enjoy the knowledge of that miracle as we go about our daily lives while our faith grows gently in the background .

Richenda

BRAYDON BROOK NEWS

Sunday Services	18 June <i>Trinity 1</i>	25 June <i>Trinity 2</i>	2 July <i>Trinity 4</i>	9 July <i>Trinity 5</i>
Ashley	Morning Prayer 9.30am	Holy Communion 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) 8.30am	Evening Prayer 6pm
Charlton	Holy Communion 9.30am	Evensong 6pm	Family Service 9.30am	Group Communion 10am
Crudwell	Holy Communion 9.30am	All Age Worship 11am	Morning Worship 11am	Strawberry Fayre Service 9:30am
Hankerton	Informal Worship 11am	No Service	Holy Communion 9.30am	No Service
Minety	Holy Communion (BCP) 8.30am Service of the Word 10am	Service of the Word 10am	Open-air Festival Service and Communion 11am	Service of the Word 10am
Oaksey	Family Service 11am	Holy Communion 11am	Matins 11am	No Service

CONTACT DETAILS

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Gospel Reading (NRSV)

Matthew 9.35-10.8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.'

Other Reading

Romans 5.1-8

Next Sunday's Readings

Genesis 21.8-21

Psalms 86.1-10, 16-end

Romans 6.1b-11

Matthew 10.24-39

For reflection:

What do you think Jesus means when he says 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few'? Could he be asking you to become one of his workforce in the 21st century?

We are told a little (not very much) about the twelve men who made up that frontline. We know from earlier in the Gospel that four were fishermen. We also learn that one was a tax-collector, one was probably from a radical political group and one was a traitor. How far they were from perfect!

Just because we are not perfect does not mean that God cannot use us too. Jesus tells these twelve men to go out and to do exactly what he has been doing – proclaim good news, heal, fight evil. What might he be telling us to do today?

Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Diary

Monday 19th Jun

8:30am Morning Prayer at Hankerton

6:30pm Youth Group, Crudwell

Tuesday 20th Jun

8:30am Morning Prayer at Hankerton

9:30am Little Saints, All Saint's church Crudwell

9:30am–11:30am Minety Handbells at Church

10:00am Community Group Upper Minety

10:45am Funeral of Tom Searle, Charlton

5:00pm Fishermen's Friends, Charlton

7:30pm Exploring Christianity at Stanton St Quintin

Wednesday 21st Jun

8:30am Morning Prayer at Hankerton

4:30pm Evening Prayer at Crudwell

7:45pm Community Group Minety School

Thursday 22nd Jun

Phil—extra day off for June

8:30am Morning prayer at Hankerton

7:30pm to 9:00pm Bell Ringing practice at Charlton

Saturday 24th Jun

10:30am Coffee and Chat in the North Aisle, Hankerton

3:00pm Wedding at Crudwell

24-Hour bike Ride Crudwell

Community groups

Community groups have started a new series "Two ways to live" - exploring how the Holy Spirit influences our lives, focusing especially on the fruits of the Spirit, see diary for details of timings and venues. Everyone welcome!

Contact Brian or Karen Senior

01666 860475 or email

ba.senior@hotmail.co.uk

Notices / Events

Open Day

St Leonard's church Minety are having an open day **25th June** with floral displays Minety musicians from 11.30 until 1.00pm and art by local artists. The church will be open between 11.00 am and 5 pm

Congratulations!

Prayers for David and Atiya who were married at Charlton yesterday and for James and Sophie on their wedding at Crudwell this coming Saturday. We hope you have a fantastic day and a blessed life together!

Thy Kingdom Come

Many thanks to Sarah for arranging a season of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost in our churches, and to all who joined her for prayer at Crudwell. At a time of often distressing news, and with some painful accidents and events in our own communities, prayer enables us to bring the needs of the world before God, and it also encourages us to act for the good of all. Please do keep praying—for our world, for our country, for our communities, our families and friends, and for ourselves. And do contact me or a member of the ministry team if you would like us to pray for any concern that you might have.

Prayers:

For all those affected by the attacks in London and Manchester, and for all those who have suffered in the fire in London. For members of our communities who have been affected by accident and family tragedy recently.

For comfort and strength for all who mourn, especially the family and friends of Tom Searle, whose funeral is at Charlton on Tuesday.