



The Edgemoor Group of Parishes

Charles.HighBray.NorthMolton.Twitchen.BishopsNympton.Mariansleigh.RoseAsh.Knowstone.EastAnstey.WestAnstey.Molland.

Easter May 2020

Our Church is Open but Different

Dear Friends,

I thought it was time to write to all of you to update you on the current situation in the Edgemoor Group of Churches and our thoughts for the future.

It is hard to think of a time when churches have been asked to literally close the church door and take no services. Easter was particularly hard, the celebrations from Palm Sunday through Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Saturday Easter Vigil then rising at 6.30 am for the Easter Sunrise service on the Moor, none of which could take place.

Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, wrote:

"We are all having to get used to being the Church differently. It is not easy. However, our belonging to Christ has never been measured by the number of people in church on a Sunday morning but by the service we offer to others."

In the Autumn last year, as a group of churches we were sharing our stories, looking ahead at 'The Next Chapter' of the Edgemoor Group. First what was clearly coming from that time was a message about our 'welcome', just how accessible are we? For example, what stops people entering the church? Secondly, are we a little too comfortable in our pews, our faith all now simply a routine? The message being "comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable."

These have become prophetic words, now we are thinking hard about how accessible is Church, what does that mean in a time of lockdown? Then "comfort the disturbed", the care being shown across the church communities, phone calls, visits, reassuring friends and neighbours. "Disturb the comfortable" what does our faith mean now we are unable to go to church on Sundays? I believe that we need to gently hold those thoughts, to listen, to continue to care and to pray.

“We are all having to get used to being the Church differently. It is not easy.”

And we are doing Church differently.



On Sundays the Eucharist is celebrated on behalf of the Parishes at the Vicarage North Molton at the 10.00am Zoom service. (*Zoom is video communications through a computer screen or certain mobile phones. People can see each other, talk and connect.*)



Alastair is offering ‘The Word from the Shed’ as a YouTube video, a short reflection in the week and a longer message at the weekend. A bible study is now being planned.



CoCo the Christian Parrot, aka Richard Holloway has reached his 100th blog !



Susan Bew and Penny have put together a Local House of Prayer Zoom service, 5.00pm Fridays.



Michael Rogers is looking at ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost, May 21st - May 31st 2020.



In many of the church porches prayer stations have been set up, prayer cards, service information along with mini food and toy banks.



Frances and David Evans along with Richard Holloway and Penny Lawson have set up Food Boxes which have been distributed.



George Campbell went shopping with his Dad and put together Children’s Activity packs.



There is now an ‘Edgemoor Community Support Fund’ which people can donate to. A discretionary fund administered by the Ministry Team for people experiencing particular hardship at this time.



There are prayers being offered each day, through out the day, at 8.00am, 12 noon and 5.00pm, following a simple order of service.

Our Church is Open but Different.

- The Ministry Team, Clergy and Group Leaders are meeting through Zoom every fortnight, an opportunity to raise any concerns, to support each other and to plan.
- There are regular updates from Bishop Robert, Deanery Chapter are meeting every fortnight.

Our Church is Open but Different.

Coming out of any lock down will be gradual and take time. It is not going to be like VE Day, a single day, time that can be marked and then move on, instead there will be a measured, steady, coming back together which may take several months. What is clear, we cannot simply go back to where we were.

What is the plan?

1. Once it is safe to do so, there will be a meeting with all Churchwardens and the Ministry Team to address any concerns, assess any immediate need and offer further care and support to all.
2. A further meeting will be called for all Treasurers, again to address concerns and assess need. In the meantime please read carefully the attached letter regarding Covid-19 and Parish Finances.
3. The Ministry Team, Clergy and Group Leaders will then gather for what may be a number of meetings to work through a strategy for the Edgemoor Group. There will be opportunities to consult with PCC's and congregations, we will move forward together.

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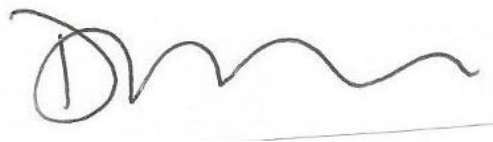
We need to be asking the question 'What is God saying through all of this?'

Further Information and News:

- A number of weddings have had to be cancelled, we pray for those couples as we do for the families whose child's Baptism has been postponed.
- We also must remember those who have died, their families and friends, no service in the church and for some funerals no members of the family present.

- Our Archdeacon Mark Butchers is on the move to head up South West Ministry Training Course, (SWMTC). Prebendary Giles King-Smith has been appointed as acting Archdeacon of Barnstaple from June onwards.
- Revd Alastair Forman and Alison will be staying for a further year after receiving an extension, from Bishop Jackie, to Alastair's licence.
- Revd Penny Lawson will be receiving her full license to minister and also Richard Holloway as Reader.
- Revd Alison Rogers will soon complete her Diaconal year and we look forward to her Ordination as Priest, hopefully, in the Autumn.
- Clare Campbell starts her training for ministry with the South West Ministry Training Course, SWMTC.
- Sadly my planned sabbatical was cancelled.
- A decision was taken not to print the In Touch magazine following guidance from the Church of England. Articles and news can still be submitted by 7th May to Debbie Carder, InTouch.Edgemoor@gmail.com which will be uploaded onto the Edgemoor web site.
- **Safeguarding.**
Please be alert to any concerns regarding a persons wellbeing of what ever age. Domestic Abuse is a current issue, be aware and contact Richard Carder, Edgemoor Group of Parishes Safeguarding Lead telephone: 0785 8038 092 or a member of the Ministry Team if you have any concerns.

Prayers and Blessings



Revd David Baker Team Rector

Ministry Team, Clergy and Group Leaders

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Revd David Baker</i> | <i>Revd Alastair Forman</i> | <i>Revd Penny Lawson</i> |
| <i>Revd Chris Whinney</i> | <i>Revd Alison Rogers</i> | <i>Revd Michael Rogers</i> |
| <i>Revd Bryant Sanders</i> | <i>Revd Jonathan Richards</i> | <i>Richard Holloway</i> |
| <i>Frances Evans</i> | <i>Susan Bew</i> | <i>Clare Cooke</i> |
| <i>Rachel Holland</i> | <i>Clare Campbell</i> | <i>Mac & Fran Bridger</i> |

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A Prayer originally by Sir Francis Drake, adapted by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

*Disturb us, O Lord
when we are too well-pleased with ourselves
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, O Lord
when with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life
when, having fallen in love with time,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.*

*Stir us, O Lord
to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas
where storms show Thy mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes
and invited the brave to follow. Amen*



NEW.

The Edgemoor Community Support Fund.

*The discretionary fund is administered by the Ministry Team
for people experiencing particular hardship at this time.*

Donations can be sent to:

Team Treasurer, Mrs S. Wilson, Crossways, West Street, Bishops Nympton EX36 4PH
clearly marking cheques on the back 'The Edgemoor Community Support Fund'
or if you prefer by direct bank transfer, again clearly labelling 'The ECS Fund'

Account name: Oakmoor Group of Churches
Sort Code: 55 – 50 - 29
Account number: 610 110 10

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0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Church of England's free dial-in service offers worship for people not online

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free telephone line, Daily Hope, to give more people access to worship, prayer, and reflections while churches are closed.

Daily Hope runs for 24 hours a day. It provides Church of England prayers, hymns, and reflections for those who dial in. The number is **0800 8048044**.

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### There will be regular updates on the Edgemoor Group

**website and by email.** If you cannot access either please contact me 01598 740325 or by letter to: Administration, c/o The Vicarage, East Street, North Molton EX36 3HX. I am happy to print off any information, service sheets for yourselves, friends or neighbours and post them back to you.

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Helpful web links:

www.edgemoorparishes.org.uk

www.pray-as-you-go.org

www.christianparrot.com

YouTube: *The Word From The Shed. Alastair Forman*

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### Prayer Request:

*Revd Julie Cartwright, Head of Spiritual Care Northern Devon Healthcare Trust, on Thursday wrote: In your prayers for this hospital please pray especially for staff who are now very tired and many facing challenges at home that are putting a further strain on them, it's like being in a marathon where the finishing line keeps moving forward!*