

Mark and Barbara

As many of you will know, Revd Mark learned after the service last Sunday that his son, Richard, had died as a result of an underlying medical condition.

All of those in the church who became aware of this have been praying for Mark, Barbara, their family and Richard's friends and loved ones. Needless to say these prayers will continue, as will whatever practical support Mark and Barbara may find helpful.

Mark and Barbara have asked for their thanks to be extended to all who have prayed for and supported them over the past traumatic week. They are very grateful.

For routine church matters we would ask that, in the current circumstances, you contact the Churchwardens in the first instance.

Weekly Prayer Diary

The plan is to start the Prayer Diary again from the beginning of September.

Forthcoming Services in the Benefice

Sunday 23rd August

9.30am: Holy Communion at Combe Florey.

11.00am: Holy Communion at West Bagborough.

6.00pm: Evensong at Cothelstone.

Sunday 30th August

10.30am: Eucharist at Cothelstone.

Sunday 6th September

9.30am: Patronal Festival Eucharist at Bishops Lydeard (CW)

11.00am: Morning Prayer at West Bagborough (CW)

11.15am: Morning Prayer at Lydeard St. Lawrence (CW)

11.15am: Holy Communion at Cothelstone (CW)

Sunday 13th September

9.30am: Morning Prayer at Bishops Lydeard (CW)

9.30am: Holy Communion at Combe Florey (CW)

11.00am: Eucharist at West Bagborough (CW)

11.15am: Matins at Cothelstone (BCP)

Services for later in September may be found on the website.

Your Events Calendar

No events notified

Please inform Adrian of all meetings and events for inclusion in the Benefice/Website Calendars/notices.

Email: adrianandkatharine@gmail.com

A letter from Bishop Peter

I am writing this whilst receiving treatment in hospital, although by the time you read this, I hope that I may be back home having completed my first course of chemotherapy. The first thing I want to say, and I am sure this is echoed by so many, is what wonderful treatment and care I have received from everyone in the hospital. Their kindness, concern and professionalism are beyond words.

What is an unusual experience for me however, is that I have not been allowed to leave my room and the doors and windows have been kept firmly shut. Looking out of my window and craning my neck upwards I am just able to get a glimpse of the sky outside. Without that I would not know whether it was sunny or cloudy or raining outside. Not that I am in any way complaining. I am safe and receiving the best care imaginable. It is also important whatever may happen to keep a sense of proportion. I vividly recall hearing Terry Waite speak when he came to the diocese on one occasion. It is unimaginable what he went through in those 1763 days in Beirut – the first four years of which were spent in solitary confinement, blindfolded, in a basement room with no windows, with no books or papers, chained to a radiator and sleeping on the floor. His courage and faith are remarkable and have inspired so many people since. I remember him once being interviewed and being asked what the happiest moment of his life was, one that he would cherish forever. He replied: 'When my blindfold was taken off during my release in November 1991. I'd been in the dark – in a basement or blindfolded - for years. For the first time in five years I saw the sky, the grass, the colours, and I felt the wind on my face.'

Terry Waite is also very clear about how the prayers of so many others supported him through those years. As I write I am also very aware of all the prayers that have and are being said for me. That is both humbling and encouraging and once I am getting out and about again, I look forward to being able to thank you personally.

With my thanks, best wishes and prayers for you,

Bishop Peter

Priest-in-Charge: Revd. Mark Hurley 01823 432222 (*Mark's day off is usually Friday*)

Associate Priest: Revd. Maureen Young 01984 667472 (*Maureen's day off is usually Thursday*)

Reader: Katharine Smith 01823 325425 Churchwarden: David Smart 01823 432531

Churchwarden: Adrian Smith 07787 281215 Church Centre bookings: Jo Wainwright 01823 433738

Benefice website: bishopslydeardbenefice.org

Please email items for the notice sheet, website and calendar to Adrian: adrianandkatharine@gmail.com by 12.00 noon on Friday.