

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

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Editorial Team:

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Today's contribution has been provided by the Revd Dr Lawson Nagel, former Vicar of Aldwick for 25 years also Canon of Popondota Cathedral, Papua New Guinea



Thurs 2nd July - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Today's Gospel Reading: Mathew 11: 25 - 30

Childhood is a complicated time. Children can be very kind and also very cruel, generous one minute and greedy the next. Perhaps that's another way of saying that there are two aspects to being a child, being child-*ish* and being child-*like*. The first we hope to grow out of, the second we hope will flourish into a mature and authentic way of adulthood, especially in our relationship with God.

Being child-*like* refers to the positive side of childhood where we learn to trust, to love, to make friends, and to ask big questions. It is of the child-likeness that Jesus says, 'Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Jesus also says that his burden is light. We can be burdened with all kinds of things. Christians sometimes carry the burdens of moral watchdogs who tell others what they can and can't do or eat or drink or watch or think. Moral watchdogs are inclined to forget that rules and guidelines in religion are useful only to the extent that they lead us to God, to the love and freedom he offers. We also have the burdens placed on us by our consumerist society pressurising us to buy more, to have the latest, the newest. And then we have the burdens of others' unreasonable expectations and demands: the overbearing parent, the demanding boss, the nosy neighbour. Add to this our own burdens of guilt, our low self-esteem, the unattainable goals we set ourselves, our poor self-image, and we can feel crippled by burdens.

Jesus invites us to put his 'yoke' on our shoulders. Normally being yoked like a beast of burden may not seem an attractive option: it implies forced labour and servitude. But Christ's yoke is light because the gift of the Spirit moves us to enjoy carrying out the will of God, even though at times we fail. 'My yoke is easy and my burden is light,' Christ says to us. His commandments are not complicated and burdensome: Jesus asks us simply to love God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. In doing this,

we are following him, we are loving as Christ has loved us; and we can know that, as we do so, he himself will help us to shoulder the yoke. Compared to the complicated and constant requirements of the old law, Christ's yoke is very light. The teaching of Christ, if accepted with childlike openness, allows us to begin, even in this life, to enjoy friendship with God which will blossom in eternity.

We thank Father Lawson again for this week's contribution to our newsletter

Although no longer a parish priest Fr Lawson streams his celebrations on Facebook, Sundays at 10am and Thursdays at 7pm. The videos are not available publicly but anyone who would to join his Facebook group 'Father Lawson's Mass Community' are very welcome. Go onto Facebook and request to become his friend and he will invite you to join his community.

Update on the opening of St George's Church for Sunday Services

The guidance from the Government and Church of England has been received regarding the introduction of collective worship. There is a lot to take in and a risk assessment must be carried out before considering the commencement of Sunday Mass. We also need to establish whether a priest is willing, health wise, to conduct the service. If it proves possible to commence on Sunday 12th July, we will send out a mid-week newsletter advising of this.

St George's continues to be open to anyone and everyone for private prayer, reflection or just to light a candle and relax awhile.

Tuesdays and Thursday 10.30am – 4.30pm

Saturdays and Sundays 9.30am – 12.30pm

Meanwhile, with the Government's commencement of relaxing the social distancing guidelines, members of your Fund-Raising Social Activities Team have been putting their heads together regarding organising some form of social event, so.....



Saturday 18th July 10.30am – 12.30am

We propose holding a Coffee Morning with stalls to include garden produce, crafts and books.

To help raise funds for the church we will be happy to accept donations for refreshments and there will be a waitress service to tempt you.

Items on the stalls will be priced beforehand and if you have any unwanted gifts, garden produce etc you would like to donate please contact Sue Bainbridge on 784424 or Geraldine on 539620 during the week commencing 13th to arrange collection.

This is an event to bring members of St George's family together, it's been such a long time and we would love to see you, you have been missed. Please be assured your wellbeing will be uppermost in our social distancing arrangements, weather permitting you may be able to sit outside.

More information on this in next week's newsletter.

Commencement of services at Chichester Cathedral

The Cathedral has announced they will commence services as of this Sunday, 5th July as follows:
Sunday 8.00am Morning Prayer 9.30am & 11.00am Eucharist 3.30pm Said Evening Prayer
Weekdays 8.00am Morning Prayer 8.45am Matins 5.00pm Evening Prayer

For each service, the number of attendees allowed are limited and it is strongly advised to book a seat on line by visiting the Chichester Cathedral's website.

For those unable to access this facility there will be some allocated seats but you will be required to provide your name and contact number on arrival.

Update on Rumboldswyke Primary School

"We are continuing to have very positive meetings with Mr Hindman, the Head of Bishop Luffa. He is keen for parents and families to contact him direct on ahindman@bishopluffa.org.uk should they have any queries or questions.

It has been an absolute pleasure to hear of the collaborative working between the two schools already taking place. The Regional Schools' Commissioner is also keeping a close eye on how things are progressing. We believe that residents can rest assured that Rumboldswyke School is now in excellent hands."

Best wishes Sarah Sharp 07789 843556 or 01243 790077



With the gradual lifting of lockdown the church and surrounds has been receiving a springclean in that the car-park has had its white lines refreshed enabling motorists to park more considerately, including the various steps, the wrought iron handrail leading up to the West Doors has received a coat of black paint and this week the wood surround of the South Porch has been oiled, internally and externally. As you can see it's looking good and solid. We have Peter May to thank for carrying out these tasks for us and Peter will continue to keep the lawns neat and tidy at the rectory (our responsibility) as he has done in the past for Fr Tim.

There has been a lot of weed removing and we thank those lovely volunteers, you know who you are, for pulling and digging as well as planting up the side garden adjacent to the war memorial. As always, at this time of

the year weeds will continue to shoot up, almost overnight, so if anyone feels like just turning up for a pulling session you are so very welcome. There is a green garden waste bin near to the war memorial. You can't go wrong, if they are short and green, pull them out! **Thank you!**



Summer is the festival of bloom and song and light.

The gardens blaze, the air is sweet, the corn is green and bright

It's as if God bids us rub our eyes and look and see.....

His glory in the loveliness of field and flower and tree.

SOME SIXTEENTH CENTURY RECTORS OF RUMBOLDSWYKE

We know little about the parish during the middle years of the 16th Century, however we do have records relating to the various rectors. In those times it was the practice for the Cathedral choir to be made up of a dozen or so ordained priests known as Vicars Choral. Besides singing their duties included taking part in the daily round of services held in the Cathedral.

To supplement their income Vicars Choral were often given appointments in local parishes and as the patronage of the living of Rumboldswyke was in the hands of the Dean and Chapter many of the rectors during this age were appointed from their ranks.

They lived in the Cathedral precincts, either in the Vicars' Hall or in one of the houses in Vicars' Close. It is possible that they rarely visited the parish, appointing deacons or vicars to carry out the services. Burial records show that on their demise, they were often interred in the Cathedral's Subdeanery Churchyard.

From the records it would appear the vicars choral were a mixed bunch as details of some of our rector's show.

Appointed to Rumboldswyke in 1551 John Mekyns was already one of the vicars choral. In July that year he was brought before the Dean and Chapter charged with having uttered insulting words in the Close against Anthony Clerke, the Prebendary of Firle and to have struck him with his fist. Mekyns was given a warning. However his misdemeanours must have persisted, for in 1555 he was deprived of his position as Rector; unfortunately why this was is not recorded.

Thomas Thorpp was admitted to the Cathedral as a vicar choral in 1550, he was given the Rectory of 'Rowmbollesweke' in 1555 on the deprivation of John Mekyns. He later became clerk to the Cathedral Chapter still retaining his position as the parish rector, he died in 1563.

On Thorpp's death John Wheale took his place as a vicar choral in the Cathedral and in August 1563 succeeded him as Rector of 'Roumbollesweke'. Wheale seems to have been something of an entrepreneur for he leased out the fees for all 'weddings, churchings and burying's' in the parish for five years to David Strange a smith from Chichester for the sum of £7 6s 8d. Maybe as a result of his financial skills he was appointed as the Cathedral sub-treasurer in 1566.

Edward Tickeridge had been a vicar choral at the Cathedral for one year when appointed as rector in 1590. In 1594 he was admonished that, by serving elsewhere, presumably at Rumboldswyke, he caused the Cathedral to have insufficient vicars choral for their Sunday services.

Godfrey Blaxton was one of nine sons of Henry Blaxton the Cathedral Chancellor In 1580. Godfrey became a chorister and in 1593 he was appointed as Rector of St Peter the Less in North Street, and as a vicar choral he was chosen to be rector of Rumboldswyke in 1596. He simultaneously held the rectories of West Thorney and of St Peter the Great, Chichester. In 1600 Blaxton came before the Chapter when he was told to cease his 'Tippeling, vitteling and entertaining of strangers in the cloisters by day and by night', 'particularly at the house of George Mekyns', son of the parish's former deprived rector.

Blaxton resigned from Rumboldswyke in 1606 on being appointed sub-treasurer to the Cathedral. In October 1630 he was charged with neglect of his duties and summoned to appear before the Chapter. The Cathedral's verger had some problems in finding him and it was December before he eventually served the summons, having found our former rector in the Crown Inn. Blaxton was declared 'contumacious' and suspended from his duties. He died in 1633.

With thanks to Ken for this paper, first produced in 2012.