May 2020 Prayer Newsletter
From Gerry Howitt – CEO – Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team

My prayer is that this newsletter finds you safe and well.

We may be living in difficult and challenging times, but this does not mean we don’t have hope.

We have all read news reports stating that large numbers of people are connecting with their faith online during the coronavirus lockdown. The resurrection power of Jesus is available to everyone of us. We know it can change lives, we know it can heal in miraculous ways and we know it can transform the weaknesses in our lives into strengths. As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday let’s declare it will be a Sunday of renewal and empowerment from the Holy Spirit. Let us declare together that it imparts faith, new hope and a new intimacy with God for our nation. Ephesians 3:20 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever ! Amen”.

I am starting this Prayer newsletter giving thanks and praise:

- We have remained fully operational throughout the Coronavirus pandemic and we give thanks for the continued strong health of all our frontline team.
- We give thanks for the major reduction in numbers of incidents dealt with on Beachy Head throughout April and May and we also give thanks for the quieter period and the opportunities it presented for the Chaplaincy team to invest time in group bible study and prayer.
- We give thanks for those who have contacted us in the past months with words of encouragement.
- I wanted to share this testimony from Johnny in particular: This time last year Lynne and Steve pulled me out from the copse by the road between Belle Tout and Burling gap after an attempted Overdose. They helped me find God and my purpose in life to carry on. I am an ex-soldier and Lynne, helped by God, saved me twice from ending my life. A message to you both if you remember me. Thank you so much for all you did for me and my family. We have moved to Cornwall and I am now part of the Bude Surf Veterans which helps veterans through surfing and brotherhood. As you both told me, God would help me find my way of helping others and myself and the time we spend together saves lives down here. Thank you so much...I have now finished the gospels and everyday try to use Jesus’s teachings to be a good man, father and husband, as well as reaching others and helping them see the way to life. God bless you all up there, and I pray for you all every day. Your friend, Johnny
Prayer requests

• Pray for Gods continued protection over the health of our frontline team as we increase in team numbers over the coming months back to our full capacity. Pray that our team to be kept fit and well.

• In particular pray for our Chaplains and team support who have underlying health conditions or family members with underlying health conditions; that they would know the Lords protection, so they can continue to operate safely and remain in good health over the coming months.

• Pray that as the team return to normal duties, we would be given increased opportunities with partner agencies, to support their needs and share the gospel of Jesus.

• As we resume regular service Pray for an increase in opportunities for the team to spend time together in prayer and feeding on Gods word. Pray that they would be presented with divine opportunities to share the gospel or pray for both the general public as well as those presenting at Beachy Head in crisis.

• Also pray for continued positive working relationships with all our partner agencies, for trust and respect to continue to grow as we work together and alongside all the blue light service teams who operate at Beachy Head.

• Pray for our three new trainees, that their training will recommence, their knowledge and discernment will grow and they will be used mightily by the lord in the coming season.

• Pray for the businesses on Beachy Head that they would see financial provision and return of customers to sustain their business and staffing teams over the coming months. Specifically, for Beachy Head Pub and its team, Belle Tout Lighthouse and team, Beachy Head countryside Centre and team and National Trust Birling Gap and all the team.

• Pray for protection, wisdom and guidance for the trustees as they present the AGM in June.

• Pray for increased opportunities and connections with other agencies around the UK who need help and support to provide a similar lifesaving service.

• Pray for our planning application for new signage at the BHCT hut on Beachy Head. This was submitted in March but because of the Pandemic we have not received any notification to date. This new large signage will help identify the location of the chaplains and help those in their time of need to find us easily.

• Please also pray specifically for a refurbishment of our current hut, this has been offered by the police (they are the owners of the coastguard hut from which we operate) and was hoped to be concluded by the autumn of 2020. Due to the current pandemic, time delays and priorities have changed. Please declare that the refurbishment will be carried out in 2020 and that we will be able to expand/increase our service as a result of the extra space given to the Chaplaincy team.

• Declare opportunities to influence local and national government decision making regarding suicide policies and to raise awareness within government of the critical situation at Beachy Head. Pray that a dialogue can begin which would result in strategies and financial provision to end suicide at Beachy Head.

• Declare that incident numbers at Beachy Head will never return to pre lockdown figures. That the enemy would be defeated in every place he determines to interfere in relating to Beachy Head, BHCT and our ministry.
Finally let us declare together that the miraculous peace that comes from knowing the grace of God and the power of his presence would be felt across the nations. Amen.

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4
Dear All,

Many of you will, like me, be finding things very strange at the moment with all our churches closed. However, many of our churches are making provision on-line for weekly and daily services, even by telephone. We thank God for the provision of the technology which allows this to happen and we understand that many people who do not normally go to a church are tapping into this resource as well. Rather like the Apostle Peter at Pentecost, many are being added to our number or, at least, we pray that they are.

Here are a few Bible verses that came to my mind as appropriate at this time. You can probably think of many more.

Matthew 28 v. 20b: ‘And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’

John 3 v.16: ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.’

Acts 2 v. 41: ‘Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.’

These are the NIV versions but you might prefer another.

Anyway, reading our Bibles will give us great comfort at this time.

Looking ahead for CTiB, we cannot see how things will pan out but it looks as if it may be some time before we can arrange a date for the AGM. We have had several suggestions for a possible Chairman to replace me, but I have pointed out to people that the official nomination forms are usually sent out a month before the AGM. So we will all remain in office until that time.

Also, it will not be possible just yet to set a date for the Hymn Singing. As the Carnival has been cancelled for this year, there will be no Carnival Court to attend it, so maybe we shall just leave it for this year.

We are all very grateful for the support (financial and otherwise) that you have been giving to the running of the Foodbank. We are also grateful for donations from the Farmer’s Market and other charities. The coronavirus situation is making it harder but, as with most things, we are able to find a way of working around a situation. The Bexhill Foodbank has moved to a delivery model. The Centre will still be open and The Pelham and British Gas have joined with the team to help with the deliveries.

Some volunteers are self-isolating and it is hard to maintain the social distance. Following Government guidelines, non-family members have to keep to the 2m distance. Disposable gloves are being worn and washing of hands is essential. The arrangements for Battle and Rye are similar, and there is a lot of support from the Community, especially local Councillors and the Council. Hastings food bank have been supporting and have shared their good fortunes.

With every Blessing

Peter Ewen (Chairman of CTiB)

25th May 2020
New Bishop of Lewes announced 29th April 2020

The Revd William Hazlewood, currently Vicar of the United Benefice of Dartmouth and Dittisham in the Diocese of Exeter will be the next Bishop of Lewes.

Will Hazlewood has been a priest since 2002. He served his curacy in a parish in the centre of Bristol before moving to Buckinghamshire to the parish of Iver Heath on the outskirts of Slough. He moved to the Diocese of Exeter in 2011 to be Incumbent of Dartmouth and Dittisham, a market town and village in the South Hams. He became Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral in 2017.

His wife Sophie grew up in Sussex and is a Project Manager. They have two young children.

“I’m really looking forward to getting started,” said Will today before adding: “My first task is to listen and get to know the clergy and people of the diocese so that I can discern how to support and encourage the local mission of the church in all aspects of its life.”
Dear Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum Members and Friends,

We send you our very best wishes and prayers for your good health and well-being during this exceptional and challenging time.

As you can imagine we have been obliged to make cancellations to our 2020 programme due to the Covid 19 pandemic - see the latest information below.

We have also taken the opportunity of the lock-down to work on a new website for the Forum - please take a look https://hastingsandrotherinterfaith.com

By viewing the new website you will be able to check our latest news and updates.

Please let us know if you have any comments on how we can improve the website.

The email contact address for the Forum during this period will be - timjmiller52@outlook.com

2020 Programme update due to Covid 19 pandemic

- As a result of the Covid 19 lockdown we have decided to cancel the planned monthly Interfaith Forum events for May, June and July 2020.
- When we know the latest government guidelines in May we will make a decision about our August 2020 Garden Full of Cultural Delights event in St Leonard's Gardens and send you a further email update.

On behalf of the Hastings and Rother Interfaith Forum.

Paul Weller Chair

Tim Miller Secretary Mobile: 07717 221 559 Email: timjmiller52@outlook.com
Some liturgical resources for children and adults with learning difficulties

I have been working with my cousin Christina Gangemi to provide some liturgical resources for children and adults with learning difficulties who cannot go to church at present. This is not meant to replace the opportunity to join in an on-line Mass or service, it will give readings and prayers presented in a format that a person with learning difficulties can easily access using signs and symbols.

Our Website went live yesterday, Palm Sunday. We have resources for Palm Sunday and will put additional material in place for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

If it is found to be popular we hope to maintain an on-line presence for as long as the current restrictions are in place. There will also be opportunities for people with learning difficulties to upload content themselves using Face book.

My cousin Christina Gangemi used to be the disability advisor for the Southwark Diocese and she is currently studying for a PhD in disability Theology in Rome.

She can be seen talking about this project on EWTN (Vatican TV) at:

https://www.facebook.com/EWTNVatican/videos/2629703364015175/

Our material can be viewed on the internet at:

http://www.kairosforum.org/prayer-reflection/ See the section named SPACE

You can also follow via the Livingfully2016 Facebook page.

The RSCM Website which is providing a Hymn for the day and Sunday Self Service.

They write #As part of our offering in the current situation, we are encouraging everyone to join us in singing our Hymn for the Day, found below, updated daily Monday to Saturday usually in the early afternoon. The words will appear on the screen as the music plays.

For Sundays, we will be supplying Sunday Self-Service: a short service including hymns, readings, and prayers, which you can find updated each week at the bottom of this page. You will be able to follow using the order of service which accompanies the recording.'

https://www.rscm.org.uk/our-resources/hftd/

As we are leading up to Pentecost you can find details about Thy Kingdom Come here https://www.thykingdomcome.global/

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since its start in May 2016, just three and a half years ago, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying ‘Come Holy Spirit’, so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.
Useful Contacts

Our MP’s webpage showing organisations offering spiritual support during the emergency [https://www.huwmerriman.org.uk/keeping-faith](https://www.huwmerriman.org.uk/keeping-faith)


The official Government website - [https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)


Bexhill Emergency Action Team - BEAT
https://www.facebook.com/groups/199886864601614/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

Ways to donate to the Bexhill Foodbank
https://bexhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/