

NOTICES & FUTURE DATES

ST PETER'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 6 October at 11.00am immediately after the 9.30am Eucharist
This is your opportunity to hear and comment on the reports of all that has happened at St Peter's in the last year and participate in the election of Chapel Wardens and Congregational Committee members for the coming year.

REQUIEM EUCHARIST FOR ALL SOULS

Saturday 2 November at 10.00am

A Eucharist on All Souls' Day to commemorate the Faithful Departed. If you would like to have a family member or friend remembered by name at this service, please add their details to the list which will be available at the back of church throughout October.

CONTACT DETAILS

Priest-in-Charge The Revd Canon Dr Paul Andrews

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OCTOBER 2019

Tuesday 1 October HOLY COMMUNION 10.00am

Sunday 6 October 16th Sunday after Trinity

SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am

2 Timothy 1.1-14; Luke 17.5-10

followed by St Peter's Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 8 October HOLY COMMUNION 10.00am

Celebrant: The Revd Michael Banyard

MEMORIAL SERVICE: *Barbara Hill RIP* 12.15pm

Sunday 13 October 17th Sunday after Trinity

SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am

2 Timothy 2.8-15; Luke 11-19

Tuesday 15 October HOLY COMMUNION 10.00am

Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith 1582

Celebrant: Canon Nigel Abbott

Sunday 20 October 18th Sunday after Trinity

SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am

2 Timothy 3.14-4.5; Luke 18.1-8

Celebrant & Preacher: Canon Chris Barber

Tuesday 22 October HOLY COMMUNION 10.00am

Sunday 27 October Last Sunday after Trinity

SUNG EUCHARIST 9.30am

with St Peter's Singers

2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18; Luke 18.9-14

Tuesday 29 October HOLY COMMUNION 10.00am

James Harrington, Bishop & Martyr 1885

POLITICIANS ARE GOD'S PEOPLE TOO!

The ancient Chinese proverb, *"May you live in interesting times"* could have been coined with the present world political situation in mind. Who could not possibly have noticed that our own national politics have become rather volatile and unpredictable and often extremely acrimonious. The task and role of the politician has always been precarious and often of surprisingly short duration if they don't get it right first time. Our elected politicians used to be highly regarded, treated with respect and deference but now they have come to be looked on with mistrust, their motives and conduct under the kind of scrutiny that few emerge from unscathed, their professional and personal lives minutely examined and pulled apart and all flaws seized upon as evidence of their mendacity, dishonesty and corruption.

Another commonplace expression is *"Religion and politics don't mix"*. That's one that is only true if we believe that our faith has absolutely nothing to do with the way we live out our lives and our social interactions from day to day as individuals or the way we organise our political life locally, nationally and globally as communities. It won't surprise you to know that I don't believe for a moment that religion and politics don't mix and I hope that you don't either as it's not a view that we find supported by scripture. That great speaker of truth to power, Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said, *"When I hear people say politics and religion don't mix, I wonder what Bible they are reading,"* and in fact Jesus had a very great deal to say about how we must love the image of God in one another and let *"the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2.5-11).

Jesus spoke a great deal of hard truths to those in power (they didn't like it) and we should follow him in offering ourselves to work and pray for all of God's people unreservedly and without discrimination. From a political perspective, one of the ways in which we might do this is in recognising that the vast majority of those who put themselves forward for election on local councils or for parliament do so wanting to make a difference, to make changes for the better whether that be in their communities, in the country or in the world. We must recognise that ultimately the impulse to love our neighbour comes from God (it is hard-wired into our human makeup) and that everyone needs God's help. This is so whether you are helping your elderly neighbour with the shopping or dealing with high and weighty matters of state.

I hope that we do pray for our political leaders whether we agree with their views or not, whether we like them as people or not, whether we agree with Brexit or not because the burden of decision making that we place on their shoulders is a heavy one to bear and they are as much God's people as we are. Politicians have the same weaknesses and failings as we do and, of course, sometimes they make mistakes but in the main (there are exceptions) they act in what they believe to be the general interest and are rightly concerned for the wellbeing of all people; we should respect them for that while remaining critical friends.

The country is deeply and seriously divided over Brexit but we should not allow our natural differences of view to cloud our wisdom in seeking to build a coherent, unified and welcoming society. The Archbishop of Canterbury has agreed to chair the newly proposed "Citizens' Forum" with a brief to heal divisions and bring opposing sides together in unity of purpose. Archbishop Justin says:

"Jesus Christ is the source of reconciliation and healing for individuals and society. It is obviously right that, among many others, the churches should contribute to the emergence of a dynamic and united country post-Brexit however it may be achieved. Every one of us must play the part we can in this task. The need for national healing and eventually for a move towards reconciliation is essential and will take much time, a deep commitment to the common good and contributions from every source. This "Forum" is only one of many different efforts being made inside the political world and across the country before and after Brexit. Every effort counts.

Let us pray for all those in government, parliament and political leadership. Let us pray for the people of this country whose lives will be affected in many ways by the momentous decisions that are made."

A fractured society can only be mended in a spirit of healing and reconciliation. Please pray for ++Justin and those who serve on the "Forum" in the difficult work that lies ahead and pray for all our politicians giving thanks for all the good they do - good that is currently overwhelmed and drowned out by hysteria and division.

Yours ever in Christ,
Fr Paul