

Sunday 22 March 2020

A message from the Vicar

Sunday worship at Beverley Minster in the current circumstances will of necessity have to be a bit different. Since we cannot meet together, instead we are going to post an online celebration of Holy Communion together with a weekly reflection and music, together with daily prayers. If you cannot gain access to these online, hard copies will be available in the Minster itself.

The Minster will remain open every day between 10am and 2pm, and a member of the ministry team will be present during those times. Although corporate acts of worship have been suspended, individuals seeking to pray are welcome to come and to find personal and spiritual space. Additionally, the ministry team will continue to say Morning and Evening Prayer, and will ring the ancient 14th century prayer bell beforehand so that parishioners know they are being prayed for.

Whilst the usual pattern of church life is being disrupted, we are finding other ways of expressing our belief that everyone is part of the Body of Christ. Volunteers are offering to do shopping, collect prescriptions and walk the dogs of those who at present cannot leave their homes. Resources for prayer and worship at home will be provided online and in paper format. Activity packs are being put together for children now that schools are facing closure. The pastoral team is offering to telephone anyone who needs regular contact. In these and other ways we are trying to demonstrate the reality of God's love in these most testing times.

Details of what we are doing can be found elsewhere on the website, which will be the main source of information about the Minster's response to the changing situation. Offers of help will also be very welcome, and can be made by calling 01482 868540 or emailing info@beverleyminster.org.uk.

As the psalmist puts it,

“God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.”

During its long history, the Minster community has survived wars, famines and plagues much worse than anything we are likely to face today. When everything else seems unsure and shifting, God's faithfulness and love remains steadfast, and we shall be doing all we can to remind folk of that central truth.

The Rev'd Canon Jonathan Baker
Vicar

Church Notices and News

Coronavirus Advice: Following the directions of both government and church leaders, regular acts of congregational worship have, for the time being, been suspended in order to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Resources for prayer and worship at home are available online from the Minster and Church of England websites. The Minster will be open daily between 10am – 2pm for private prayer. Please remember to wash your hands thoroughly before entering and after leaving the building, and use the hand gel available at the door. Whilst inside the building, please remember to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other people.

Keeping in Touch: If you are self-isolating and have to stay indoors, there are volunteers willing to help with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc. Call 01482 868540 or email info@beverleyminster.org.uk to make arrangements.

Worship at Home: We shall be providing daily reflections and prayers, a weekly video recording of Holy Communion, a talk, and music from the Minster organ which will all be posted on the website. Hard copies will also be available inside the Minster's Highgate entrance.

Thank You: Jane Ewbank would like to thank all those who participated in and attended Edward Jones' service of thanksgiving and celebration on 5 March. More than £470 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you also to the Minster family for its care, support and prayers over the many months.

Minster Shop: Easter cards are still available to purchase between 11.30am – 1.30pm daily.

Eco Lifestyle Tip: As we come to Spring please consider your garden - Create a compost heap to recycle waste and provide a home for invertebrates, as well as for use as mulch and fertiliser for the garden. Practical point - avoid animal-based waste in your compost to prevent attracting vermin.

Mothers' Union: Please note that Mothers' Union has now suspended its activities for the foreseeable future due to government and Church of England advice. Please check this sheet for further updates on this or contact Daphne Kemp on 01964 550701.

This Week Please Pray For:

Fiona and Philip Richardson - OMS in America: Give thanks for Fiona's involvement in The Esther Project providing materials for bible study and personal growth for girls in Africa and pray for its continued use. Also pray that the girls may be led to Jesus and shape their lives in the light of Christ. Pray especially for Rahab Waweru as she leads groups in Kenya for the Shine book as it is awaiting printing in two Democratic Republic of Congo languages and for its potential use with girls and orphans who are vulnerable to trafficking.

Our 3 Church Schools: Beverley Minster, Woodmansey and Tickton: Thank God for the wonderful work of these schools, as they educate their pupils and nurture them in the Christian faith. Please pray for all staff and pupils as all the schools have now been closed and the children sent home. Please pray for the families coping with unexpected childcare demands, and for students whose exam grades and university entrance qualifications are now uncertain.

Woodmansey: Please pray for residents of Plaxton Bridge Road, Warton Drive and the caravan site.