

Flegg Coastal Benefice

June 7th 2020 Trinity Sunday & June 11th Corpus Christi

Parish priest: Father John Bloomfield
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Financial giving

We shall not have sidespeople going around taking the collection, instead there will be a plate at the back of each church where your giving can be placed as you enter or leave church.

Giving to the Church

Elspeth, church treasurer at Hemsby has found ways in which we can continue to financially support the work of the church at Hemsby. You can give online at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmtvhemsby/

Holy Communion will be brought to everyone in their places. This will be in one kind only, the host; only the celebrant will receive Holy Communion with the chalice.

Times of worship

On the first Sunday back, July 5th

9am at Winterton, 10am at Somerton and 11.15am at Hemsby. This will allow me as your parish priest to conduct worship across the benefice on that day. This will be a one-off.

As from the following week the former regular worship will be followed:

Winterton weekly at 9am & Hemsby weekly at 11am
Somerton at 10.45am on the first and third Sundays of the month
Horsey at 9.30am on the second Sunday of the month and at 6pm on the third.

Death in the benefice

We record the death of Norman Grayling of Somerton who died recently, and whose funeral will take place on Monday June 8th as a grave-side service in St Mary's churchyard. The service will be conducted by the Revd Albert Cadmore who officiated at the funeral of Norman's wife a few years ago.

Special birthdays

At Hemsby we send our prayers and good wishes to
Helen Rowe celebrating her 65th birthday on the 21st of June, and also to
Donna Carter celebrating her 50th birthday on the same day, 21st of June

Thank you to the volunteers at Hemsby who have again cut and tidied the churchyard.

Dear friends.

This Sunday, Trinity Sunday, is the feast of title at Winterton, dedicated to Holy Trinity and All Saints. It is also the feast of title for our cathedral church at Norwich, and at Chichester Cathedral where I was ordained deacon thirty four years ago towards the end of this month.

It can be a day to be dreaded for preachers coping with the doctrine of the day. But it's a festival I have always loved and I have never been put off by the complexities of the doctrine. Put simply it's a day to think of God in His Being, rather than his doing. For the rest of the year, and especially for the great festivals of the Church we celebrate God in action.

At Christmas we celebrate the Incarnation, of God entering into his world. During Lent we see Jesus coping with the isolation of the wilderness and facing the temptations which were put to him. During Holy Week we see God in Jesus entering into his own Holy City and his own Temple and being rejected; we see the actions of Jesus in embracing suffering and death on the cross, and at Easter we see God in Jesus conquering death, then ascending to his own place in heaven at Ascensiontide, and at Pentecost God gave the empowering gift of himself in the Holy Spirit to his infant Church focused on the twelve apostles. All a lot of activity.

But on Trinity Sunday we simply marvel at the glorious Trinitarian God, God in his total Being, and the only response we can make is not by the poor attempts at trying to understand God but to worship him. It's why this Sunday and the festival is so wonderful, we can leave aside all that activity and fall down in praise and



adoration that this glorious God left behind the splendour of the Godhead and became human to experience the life that you and I lead. To come into the mix of the things we experience in our lives, to engage in our emotions, our reactions to situations, to see the best and the worst of what we've done with the gifts he has given us.



This is a day to think about the experience of Moses seeing the Burning Bush and hearing God telling him to take off his shoes for he is standing on holy ground.

To think of Isaiah in the temple being caught up in the vision of God and knowing that he was in the presence of the all holy God and to acknowledge his own sinful humanity.

To think of Elijah in his cave on Mount Horeb, believing he had hidden himself away, only to be found by God and then to experience God, not in the powerful wind, earthquake or fire, but in the still small voice. And we're told he wrapped his face in his mantle.

Later on in the year we shall celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration when Peter, James and John are so overwhelmed by the glory of God in Jesus, Peter wants to hold on to that experience. He wants to preserve that wonderful moment.

All of those stories tell us of people who had a wonderful experience of God, something so different from just living by faith, that they knew they were in God's holy presence.

This is the one day in the Christian calendar when we can put away all the frantic activity of God's business and come before God, not with lots of words, but to simply to be in the presence of God. Not even to try and find words, or explanations of doctrine, but to realise however much we work for God, and however much we try to understand any doctrine it all falls into insignificance unless we as a Church and as individual Christians appreciate the greatness of God and how small we all are within his universe.

nificance unless we as a Church and as individual Christians appreciate the greatness of God and how small we all are within his universe.

And that's why I love this wonderful feast. It doesn't matter who we are, or what we achieve or fail to achieve, we are all loved by this great God, and we can all be aware of his beauty and holiness.

Your priest and pastor,
Father John

I am obliged to friends and parishoners who have kindly emailed me the photos in this edition of the newsletter which just give little glimpses of the glory of God we can find all around us.

Returning to church on July 5th

We are preparing our churches to open up for worship once more, though as I've written previously we shall have to find new ways of 'doing' the practicalities of worship. The church buildings will be marked where people can sit, suitably socially distanced from other members of the congregation.

When national guidance was given about reopening churches it was stated that we wouldn't be able to sing. Two reasons, the first being fairly obvious that we can't use hymn books which are normally handled by many people. The second seemed a scientific reason that we exhale our breath more powerfully when we sing. However this week's Church Times had an article where science is not in total agreement with this - so we wait and see.

There will obviously be no exchanging of the Peace (which some of us are delighted with!) nor refreshments after the worship.

Within our benefice I shall be printing an order of service sheet on card for each church. When you first return to church, please take your service sheet home with you and bring it back every time you come to church, so it will be your own personal sheet. Much in the same way that previous generations took their Prayer Books to church with them. I shall also print service sheets on paper for the occasional visitors (and those who forget to bring theirs back) which can be taken away or disposed of. We must still be mindful of environmental issues and not waste paper.

