

Thought for August 2024

by Revd. Claire Claxton

As I write this on a day towards the end of July, the school term has just finished for the summer and I'm sure we are all hoping the weather will catch up with the season! I have just returned from Northern Ireland and there, if it isn't raining, then it is considered a fine day! We hope for sunny weather for the summer weddings that are taking place but we know that 'nothing is certain in this world apart from death and taxes' – a quote usually attributed to Benjamin Franklin.

I do think there are other things that can be relied on though. God has told his people that he will never leave us or desert us. (Deuteronomy 31:6) That sounds pretty certain to me.

On July 21st we celebrated the feast of Sainte Marguerite, the patron saint of the Forest Church, who is featured in the stained glass windows above the altar. Her story is pretty gruesome! It includes imprisonment, torture, an encounter with evil in the form of a dragon and eventual beheading, at the tender age of 16, all because she would not renounce her faith. As she faced death she is quoted as saying, *"The true life and true joy, thanks be to God, I have already found, and have placed them in the stronghold of my heart that they may never be removed.....Know that no human power, no torture will be able to extract from my heart so great a treasure."*



We may not have to face the gruesome treatment that Ste Marguerite faced but we all have our own trials and challenges. Amongst the sorrow and grief that comes into everyone's life at some point, there are also moments of joy and celebration. My visit to Northern Ireland was to spend time with my son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons. One can't help but feel happy when holding a smiling baby! Let's remember that God will never leave us or desert us. He is with us in all our sorrows and joys. I hope you have a good summer whatever the weather!

Ste Marguerite de la Foret



August 2024

Contacts

Rector: Revd. Claire Claxton

Tel: 238815

E.mail: carillon@cwgsy.net

Licenced Lay Minister (LLM)

Mrs Margaret BodenHeaume

Tel: 265370

E.mail: m.bodenheaume@outlook.com

Peoples Warden:

Mr Keith Bienvenu

Tel: 238838

E.mail: krbienvenu@cwgsy.net

Rector's Warden:

Mrs Linda Archard

Tel: 266135

E.mail: lmcc@cwgsy.net

Church flowers in August

1st - 4th August. Flower Festival - all flower arrangers

Aug 11th Liz Chamberlain

Aug 18th. Liz Chamberlain

Aug 25th. Debbie Dorey

Sept 1st. Debbie Dorey

Greeting

4th August Rose

11th August Brenda

18th August Sarah

25th August Dorothy

1st September Nancy

A Summer Evening in church

On Saturday 20th July we enjoyed a wonderful evening of music in Forest Church. The State of Harmony choir and solo instrumentalists filled the little church with joyous sound and was much appreciated.

Music in the little old church always resounds well with the high vaulted ceiling, hard floors and surfaces and a lack of dampening in the furnishing. The mixture of voices and a particularly strong mens group gave the evening a jolly feel with different items and styles of song.

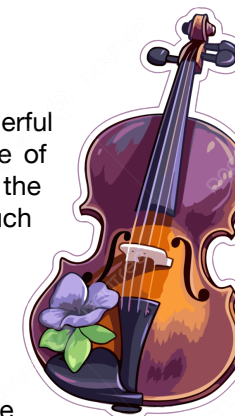
There were two Viola duets by Olivia Atkinson and Chloe Hodgson and a solo Clarinet by Jasmin Atkinson, lovely to see young musicians playing so well. Forest Church is a good place if you want to practice!

There was laughter when Capt Barker the retired Harbour Master was given a wooly hat to keep him warm as he is going to live "up north!"

Grateful thanks to all the choir and Conductor Sarah Tennant and accompanist Martin Hassell.

A retiring collection for the church was £230

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Groan at your own expense

Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.

She was only a moonshiner's daughter, but I miss her still.

What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.

Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm.

August in Forest-then and now

You will doubtless remember the Poem by Sara Coleridge about the months.

**August brings the sheaves of corn,
Then the Harvest home is borne.**

Here in Forest Parish Church we continued for much of the 20th century to celebrate the different seasons of the year. They were Plough Sunday in February, Rogationtide in May, Lammas in August and Harvest Festival in late September or early October.

The Lammas Service in August involved the presentation of a fine plaited loaf which was placed upon the altar and which would be blessed by the Priest and which was made from the produce of the new Harvest.

All this took place in the presence of local dignitaries and parts of the service were read by Farm Workers, the Miller and members of the Agricultural Community.

Refreshments would follow and the gathering of a successful harvest was key to the wellbeing and success of the village as a whole.

These days we are inclined to take for granted God's many gifts to us.

We must never lose sight of the fact that millions of our fellow men live in food poverty as a consequence of climate change, natural disasters, wars and human error.

We thank God for his bounty and ask that we are ever more compassionate towards those on need wherever they are in His wonderful world.
Amen.

Margaret Boden Heaume



FOREST PARISH CHURCH Flower Festival 1st - 4th August 10am-4pm “ The Gift of Water”



**THERE IS FREE ENTRY THROUGHOUT
FROM 10AM - 4PM
AND ON SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.
ENJOY BROWSING THE STALLS OF CAKES,
CRAFT, JAM AND PLANTS.
PARKING AVAILABLE**

August dates and news

Knit and Natter

Wednesday 7th August
2pm-4pm in church

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 14th August 10.30-12 noon
Coffee and company in church

Solace, a support group for bereaved friends

Meetings on August 8th and 22nd at St Martins
Community Centre 10.30am-noon.

Have you remembered?

There will be Cream teas at 3pm on Sunday July 28th in the lovely garden of Mark and Dorothy Freeman opposite the church. Come and enjoy the company , £5 each and there will also be a Tombola stall. In church if the weather is bad
Grateful thanks to the Guernsey Dairy for their kind donations.

August 1st -4th 10am-4pm is the start of our annual Flower Festival this year depicting "The Gift of Water ".
A challenging theme when we think of how countries fight over water supplies and the chaos that follows severe flooding.

On Saturday 3rd August refreshments will be served all day and there will be stalls of cakes, jam, craft and plants.

Welcome to Forest Parish Church August 2024

Sunday August 4th 11am. Family service

Reader: Syd Bowsher Exodus 16 v2-4,9-15
Ephesians 4 v1-16

Prayers: Vivian Rees

Sunday August 11th 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Nancy Smith 1 Kings 19 v4-8
Ephesians 4 v25-32, 5 v1-2

Prayers: Peter Gallienne

Sunday August 18th 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Keith Wallace Proverbs 9 v 1-6
Ephesians 5 v15-20

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

Sunday August 25th 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Sara Dorey Joshua 24v1-2a,14-18
Ephesians 6 v10-20

Prayers: Nancy Smith

Sunday September 1st Family Service

Reader: Peter Gallienne Deuteronomy 4 v1-2,6-9
James 1 v17-end

Prayers: Nicola Hoyland Birch