

Mission Action Plan

“Will the last one to leave please turn off the lights” was a headline in one of newspapers some years ago. Although aimed at one particular politician, that phrase has gained traction as one used in situations where the need to look seriously and imaginatively at the future meets intransigence.

The Church is particularly prone to tensions when facing the future. Deep within our DNA is the call to hand on the faith to the next generation. There is the lurking fear that change, in any form, will loosen the fundamental elements which we hold as non-negotiable. At the same time, we look around and, when we are brutally honest, see that those elements of the tradition which enabled us to glimpse God and which feed our souls even to today, simply have no place in the hearts, imaginations or longings of those who did not grow up with our heritage. So what to do?

Do we simply opt to keep what we value, in the way we value it, to keep open for as long as we are able, to enjoy each others' company and, when the time comes, turn off the lights, lock the door and thank God that we were able to enjoy what we enjoyed?

Or do we gird our loins, make a leap of faith, and invest our energies and imagination in an all-out attempt to reach a new generation, letting go of our own preferences so that others might hear the Good News of Jesus? Is that God's call to us?

Or is God, through our MAP process, inviting us to delicately balance what is old and what is new (see Mt 13.52)? Have we the courage to celebrate and support equally both Old AND New ways of worship and life?

Worship and Activities this week

Today	12.00pm	Parish Lunch in the Blackburne Hall. Tickets @ £4.00 from Keith Sedman or Church Wardens
	5.00pm	Office Hour
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Mon	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	1.00pm	“In-house” @ House on t'Rock
Wed	11.00am	Holy Communion
Thurs	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	Tiddlers @ Church House
	12.45pm	Holy Communion
Fri	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	2.30pm	Funeral of Ernest Fitton
Sat	9.30am	Morning Prayer
		Parish Walk at Elton Reservoir

Next Week: 12th Sun after Trinity: 19th August

8.00am	Said Holy Communion
8.40am	Adult Sunday School at The Robert Peel Pub
10.00am	Parish Eucharist with Thanksgiving and Sunday School followed by refreshment
5.00pm	Office Hour
6.30pm	Evensong

Collects from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England; Common Worship: Pastoral Services; The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects 2000*

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Baptisms, Blessings, Weddings.

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. They will be at the back of church. Spot the dog collar! Our monthly Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet: please email: bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk by *Wednesday please*.

11th Sunday after Trinity
12th August 2018
www.buryparishchurch.com

We **welcome you** and hope you enjoy being with us. If you're not familiar with our services, don't worry. We follow a written order of service and at times will tell you which page we're on.

We also **welcome children in church**. If your child gets restive in church, don't be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church. There is a children's area at the back of Church.

8.00am Said Holy Communion
President: Julian Heaton, Rector
Preaching : Julian Heaton, Rector

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
President: Julian Heaton, Rector
Preaching : Ian McVeety, Hon Assist't
Hymns: 305; 286; 331; 519; 467

6.30pm Evensong
Minister : Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr
Preaching : Ian McVeety, Hon Assist't
Hymns: 555; 423; 487
Psalm: 91. 1—12 (pg. 464)
Job 39. 1—40.4 (pg. 431—432)
Hebrews 11.12. 1-7(pg. 1011)

Cornerstone

Serving Bury, deepening our faith, caring for the marginalised, sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Today's Readings

The Collect

O God,
you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from the First Book of Kings

(1 Kings 19. 4-8)

Elijah himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(John 6.35, 41-51)*

Glory to You, O Lord

Jesus said to the crowd, "I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and

whoever
believes in me
will never be
thirsty. Then the
Jews began to
complain about
him because he
said, "I am the
bread that came
down from
heaven." They
were saying, "Is
not this Jesus,

the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

When exhausted....

Marathon runners talk about "hitting the wall", reaching that point where you have simply run out of, not just energy, but the self-belief and mental staying power necessary to complete the race. We all will have "hit a wall". For most of us that experience will have come in times of emotional fatigue as commonly as physical exhaustion.

When we do, our culture tells us to hush, to keep quiet, to "drink tea/eat cake and carry on". Our culture is toxic. Our souls are poisoned when we drink too deeply of the peer pressure to conform. We need to learn from Elijah, from his searing honesty, his willingness to tell God just how awful life feels. It is spiritually OK (and sometimes absolutely necessary) to have a rant. It clears the air with God. It allows us to be honest.

And, in return, it is equally necessary to give God space and time and attention; to see how and when he might reply. At the Eucharist he feeds us for the long journey. Let us avail ourselves of this gift.

Food Bank Donations

If you could bring just one item (tinned food/toiletry), weekly, to church for the food bank and put it in the "Bin" in the entrance that would be amazing, holy and an act of true faith.

Choir in Gloucester & Evensong tonight

Our Church Choir is singing the services at Gloucester Cathedral today. Tonight at 6.30pm we shall celebrate the Office of Evening Prayer with hymns.