

NEWS, IDEAS & BITS AND PIECES

Latest edit on 10.1.21

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR OUR SERVICES:

Happy New Year!

In the light of the rapid increased danger from Covid 19 we have been advised to cancel all “in-church” services as from 3rd January.

Most, if not all of the other churches have made the same decision across the Deanery and the Diocese.

We are very, very sorry about this, not least as these were the last services in the churches across the benefice before Canon Ed retired on 12th January.

However, keeping each other safe at this time has to be the priority.

There is a special Zoom Gathering on 10th January instead. Bishop David will be with us. Here are the details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81449084241?pwd=cWoreUp5RzhTUDVHTVJjazlFaUhDUT09/>

Meeting ID: 814 4908 4241

Passcode: 262704

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Canon Ed's Farewell. From the latest translation of the Bible

– by Anne Lofthouse

Now it came to pass in the days of Elizabeth, Queen of Britannia, there was a certain priest in Cornwall, named Edward of the priestly family of Pruen, and his wife, Margaret was of the daughters of Ireland.

They were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.

And it came to pass, one day, that the Lord spoke unto Ed, and said, "Fear not, I have heard the cry of my people in Medstead, their priest Benjamin, has journeyed away, and they cried unto me, and I have heard their voice.

Thou shalt undertake their care. Thou shalt travel to Hampshire, which is a land flowing with wine, honey, watercress and horses. Thou shalt take thy wife Margaret on thy camel, with thy donkey and all thy belongings and thy guitar, and thou shalt live in the Priest's House there, and be a consolation to the people of Medstead in their need.

Thou shalt be subject to the High Priest of Winchester, who has decreed that thou shalt also console the people of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden, and they shall form a Benefice, which thou shalt create and serve.

And it came to pass that they travelled east, following a star, across Moor and Down, until they came to their new home. Ed found favour with God and began his work, travelling through all the villages, preaching, teaching, shewing pictures, worshipping in new ways, singing to them to raise their spirits, consoling their grief and sharing their joys. He impressed them with his spirituality, cheerfulness and adaptability. The people rejoiced greatly, and thanked God for his wisdom in sending them such benefits, and grew to love their priest.

It came to pass that in the fourth year of his ministry in the Benefice, that the evil one caused a great plague, which covered the whole world. Many fell sick and died. Temples and Synagogues were closed, and people had to stay in their own homes. Their priest continued to serve, sustain and nourish his people by singing to them from his window and creating worship over the air.

When the High Priest in Winchester, saw the damage caused by the plague, he decreed that shekels must be saved throughout his realm. Priests who were close to fullness of time served, must go. The people must learn to survive with fewer priests.

Thus the Lord said to Ed and Margaret, “Ye shall now retire, ye good and faithful servants, and learn to serve me in a different way .Thy journey shall continue elsewhere, and thou shalt have a house of thine own, in another place.” “ Be it unto us, according to thy word”, they said.

His people's hearts were heavy at losing their priest and his wife, but, with faith strengthened by their ministry among them, they resolved to continue the good work, and to pray for their future and the future of God's Church in Medstead.

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If you would like to see the latest advice in more detail it is summarised for us by the National Church here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

OPEN FOR PRAYER

Our four churches are normally open for individual Private Prayer as follows:

Bentworth	Sunday 10.00 – 12.00	
Lasham	Sunday 10.00 – 12.00	
Medstead	Sunday 10.00 – 12.00	
Shalden	Sunday 10.00 – 4.00	

PLEASE SUPPORT ALTON FOODBANK

PLEASE ... if you can help... please donate to: <https://alton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>
Or deposit food sharing in Waitrose or Sainsbury's. (No need to queue).

PRAYERS

See:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Prayers about the outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.

Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,

we entrust to your tender care

those who are ill or in pain,

knowing that whenever danger threatens

your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.

Comfort and heal them,

and restore them to health and strength;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,

give skill, sympathy and resilience

to all who are caring for the sick,

and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit,

that through their work many will be restored to health;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,

help me to trust you.

help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Prayers with children
A prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, (name of friend) is ill.
They are not allowed to go to school or come over to play.
I'm sad because I miss them.
They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well.

Please be close to them.

Please be with the people who are looking after them.

Please help them to get better and to know that you love them.

Amen.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,

you made the world and care for all creation,

but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.

Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends.

Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,

and all who are working to discover the right medicines

to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times,

you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen.

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,

Creator of the world, we pray

That you, with steadfast love, would keep

Your watch around us while we sleep.

Tonight we pray especially for (names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus)
and the people of (country or place which is affected by Coronavirus).
Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.

Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me.

You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.

You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.

Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because (reasons you are feeling this way).

Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.

Amen.

Personal prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,

'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.

Hear my prayers for others and for myself,

and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,

Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

I am giving you worship with all my life,
I am giving you obedience with all my power,
I am giving you praise with all my strength,
I am giving you honour with all my speech.
I am giving you love with all my heart,
I am giving you affection with all my sense,
I am giving you my being with all my mind,
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.
Praise to the Father,
Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit,
The Three in One.

adapted from Alexander Carmichael,
Carmina Gadelica (1900)

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

The Jesus Prayer

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide,

we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation,
that among the changes and chances of this mortal life,
we may always be defended by your gracious help,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

St Benedict

Before going to sleep

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,

our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church of South India

MEDSTEAD COVID 19 MUTUAL AID (April 2020)

Volunteer support for those at home due to Coronavirus.

If you are self-isolating and **needing some help** (shopping for essential supplies, collecting prescriptions etc.) or are yourself **able to volunteer** to help others, please contact the duty co-ordinator on **0845 4740115** (Calls cost 5p per minute plus your network access charge).

This information sheet, which is supported by Medstead Parish Council, aims to provide you with key contacts and information of what local businesses/organisations can offer. Please note that information, although correct at the time of printing, is liable to change. The most up to date list of businesses and organisations offering services will be posted on the Medstead Parish Council website.

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

For the most up to date guidance and advice, please use the Government and NHS portal links:

- **Government:** <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- **NHS:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Community Information

- EHDC Service Updates <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Medstead Parish Council www.medsteadpc.org

Local Organisations

Medstead Parish Council Parish Council meetings are currently suspended, but please see website for updates on local COVID-19 support. For Parish Council related issues, please contact the Clerk (07908 932472, clerk.medsteadpc@gmail.com).

St Andrew's Church Currently closed for services, but a link to Canon Ed's Sunday Reflection available via www.blmsbenefice.org. A free book service is operating in the porch (no need to return). Contact: Rev'd Canon Ed Pruen, 01420 561154, priestforblms@gmail.com