Dear Church Family,

We hope you are keeping safe and well and that you are having a blessed Holy Week. It has been wonderful to be able to worship together through Fr. Keith’s Live streams on Facebook. By the time you receive this newsletter there will be four more services to view.

Maundy Thursday. Evening meditation. 7:30 pm
Holy Saturday. Compline (Night Prayer) 8:30 pm
Easter Sunday. Morning worship. 10:00 am

https://www.facebook.com/StMaryAndStLaurenceGoringBySea/

Some people have told us they have been asked to join Facebook when trying to access the services. This is not necessary to view the Parish Facebook page and Fr. Keith’s streams. Please copy or type the above into your Internet browser or follow the link on the Parish website: goringbyseaparish.org
There are also opportunities to participate in live worship through the Church of England’s web site: churchofengland.org

Fr. Keith will be on leave from the 13th – 19th April during his leave Fr. Keith will schedule reflections and prayers for our regular worship times (Tuesday 18.00; Thursday 10.00; Sunday 10.00). There will be a live stream at 10.00 am for Low Sunday, 19th April.

Easter Flowers

Further to our request in last week’s newsletter, six households have given generously to Family Support Work (FSW) in memory of loved ones, in place of Easter Lilies. Some money has also been given to the Flower Fund ready for our reopening of the churches. Dot and Lucinda will post onto our Facebook page photographs of what they have been able to create to mark the resurrection of Christ.

The names of those remembered with love:

Peter Curtin
Sheila Parish
Patricia Edwards
Neil Barnett
Michael Uridge
Michael Heaney
Margaret Heaney
Katherine Evans
Rev. Frederick J.S. Evans

If you still wish to give to FSW in memory of a loved one here is the link to their Just Giving Page:

https://www.familysupportwork.org/get-involved/donate/

Please email the name of your loved one to Lucinda Cox for publishing on our Facebook page on Easter Sunday and here again in the newsletter next week: lucinda.e.m@gmail.com
Our Parish Mission Focus for April, May and June is Worthing 4 Refugees.

We had hoped to hold a special event to both inform about and celebrate the work of our focus for this quarter. This will now be one of many things that we can look forward to when we are allowed to meet together again. Gay Jacklin from W4R has very kindly agreed to write something for our newsletter and will send us regular updates each month over the quarter.

Worthing 4 Refugees: A short history to date

In 2015, news of the Syrian war was daily on our TV screens. Church leaders across the town were asking how Christians could respond. One of the ministers had a contact who was working with the Home Office to create a mechanism by which Syrian refugees could be resettled in the UK. This contact was also setting up a national Christian response which was launched soon after: For Refugees. This connection enabled us to be included in early Home Office talks and be part of a pilot group who would resettle refugees. David Cameron then announced that the UK government would resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees between 2015 and 2020 using two parallel systems. Local authorities could opt in and take some; and a new method based on a Canadian model would be created: Community Sponsorship.

Worthing 4 Refugees started the process of applying to become a Community Sponsorship group in 2016. Part of that application included recruiting volunteers and registering with the charity commission. Volunteers came from many churches (including those who could speak Arabic - who knew Worthing had Arabic speakers?) and charity status was granted in October 2016. Our subsequent application to the Home Office for Community Sponsorship was then approved in early 2017. This was a very thorough process and we were one of the first 5 groups to be up and running in the UK.

Worthing 4 Refugees went through a matching process, where the home we had found was approved and checked, and a family of the right size for the property was selected by the UNHCR in a country bordering Syria. We had a few details of this family before arrival. Then came the big day: on 31st May 2017 I and one of the case workers met at Gatwick Airport to meet the family off the plane and take them to their new home. It was a long wait at the airport, but the meeting went well; they were tired, but all smiles. One of the children cried all the way back to Worthing because a special toy had been left behind. Our first family had arrived (more about that next month).

The charity had gained favour with the local and council authorities, had support from many churches across the town, and donations were being received, enabling us to consider taking a second family. In early 2018 a property was offered, so we started the Home Office application again. In June 2018, we were once again at Gatwick airport, this time meeting our second family. The baby immediately connected with our case worker, and that bond remains to this day. (Again, more about the families next month).

Later in 2019, Universal Credit was rolled out and the benefit cap introduced which created a problem covering rent costs. Currently we are seeking solutions to this so that we can consider resettling more refugees in the future. 2019 however, was busy in other ways: one of our caseworkers started a monthly drop-in for refugee and asylum seeking families which has proved very popular. We were also approached by the local authority to support another refugee family who would be resettled in Worthing in November 2019. This we have been doing in partnership with West Sussex County Council (not Community Sponsorship) and the joint approach has been working well.

Next month I’ll write more about what support we give to the families, and what it’s like working with them. A third report will come a month later to give an idea of where we see our work going in the future. So you can look forward to the next instalment! Thanks for reading and for your support. It is much appreciated.
Traidcraft

Our Traidcraft stall remains open and orders can be made either through the Facebook page or by telephoning or emailing Kate Henwood. She should have all the things you would normally buy from the stall at church.

Email kate.henwood@icloud.com or phone 07818691922 and Kate will contact you.

Payment is either cash or PayPal and Kate is able to deliver to you if necessary. All items are subject to availability.

Prayer and Study Groups

A reminder that these are still happening during Lockdown and Lucinda Cox has offered to provide assistance where she can to anyone who would like to set up a Skype or Whats App group. She can be contacted by email: lucinda.e.m@gmail.com

If you have a prayer group that can open to others, or would like to join a group please let Fr. Keith or the Wardens know and they will try and match you up.

Pastoral visits

Please let Fr. Keith or the Wardens know if you have a personal pastoral concern or may know of somebody in need.

Again we remind you all that this newsletter is a communication where we can keep in touch and share what is happening in our lives, and not just Wardens Warbling. If you have something that you would like to share, especially to encourage us all, please send to Gill Keevill (gilliankeevill@me.com) or mobile number: 07715120841.

If you have received a hard copy of this newsletter it is because we do not have your permission to e-mail you. If you have an e-mail address please could you reconsider giving permission for us to send? Email to: office@goringbyseaparish.org

God Bless you all, Gill, Janice, Ruth and Geoff.