THE V&V MAGAZINE

Poppies - by Digby Chambers

JULY-AUGUST 2021

The Valley & Valence Parish Magazine for

Winterborne St. Martin • Winterbourne Steepleton • Winterbourne Abbas • Compton Valence

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NEWS & ARTICLES FOR THE V&V PARISH MAGA

It would be much appreciated if copy is supplied electronically as a text doc. (Microsoft Word etc.) with any accompanying images as JPEG files to the address BELOW.

ALL COPY MUST REACH ME BY 5pm on 15th (LATEST) OF THE PRECEDING MONTH in order to be included in that issue.

ADVERTISING IN THE V&V PARISH MAGAZINE • Rates ar

Current rates & specifications enquiries, and advertisement copy for each month's issue to:
Graham Herbert, 1 Cowleaze, Martinstown, DT2 9TD
Tel: 01305 889786 or email: info@valleyandvalence.co.uk

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THOUGHTS FROM THE DESK OF...

Rev. Jean Saddington

Lord, teach us to pray...

We are privileged to live a place where we can leave our (four) churches open all day, every day. And people use them. They come in, they sit, they light a candle, they pray. Some come just to view our lovely buildings and gain a sense of peace, some come because they have a need for somewhere to sit and be still, a place to talk to God.

We don't know, often, why people visit our churches, nor do we ask; we don't know whether they have any faith or none - we just offer the space, space made holy by the prayers of others. Sometimes someone is ill, or someone has died, sometimes a life-changing event has occurred. Sometimes people are looking to find time away from the world. But it seems there is a need to pray; there is a need for quiet, a need for a place that is still, amongst the busyness of our daily lives.

We know that Jesus spent long hours in prayer, alone and in the desert silence and our visitors are trying to do something of the same. Prayer becomes a time to speak and a time to listen, a time to seek comfort, strength and direction, a time to find hope.

Jesus' own teaching on prayer is simple and direct – the prayer he gives us (the Lord's prayer) can be set out in just six short lines. Give praise to God and seek the kingdom; ask for food for today (and leave tomorrow to itself); pray for forgiveness and learn how to forgive others first; give us safety from trial and testing. In the Lord's prayer we come to God as His children when we pray 'Our Father', we come as worshippers in the words 'Hallowed by thy name', we come as servants in 'thy will be done', we come as sinners and forgivers and tempted ones and we come as victorious people as we pray for God's protection in the spiritual battle. The prayer shows we have a God who listens, we have a God who cares, we have a God who gives. It shows we have a God who invites us to rest and be still and in that stillness time to listen to what God might have to say to us. God is close to us when we pray, whether we feel His presence or not, whether or not we feel our prayers are adequate.

My life often feels complex and overwhelmed by words and doing. Time spent in prayer, refreshes and invigorates, simplifies and gives a true perspective. It teaches me that I need, as perhaps you do, time to just 'be'. We have been through trying times these last 18 months, so this summer why not find a quiet place to 'be' - in one of our churches or in your favourite landscape - and quietly pray. Words don't matter, just offer up your prayer and feel the peace it can bring.

Wishing you a restful, peaceful and prayerful summer.

Yours in Christ, **Jean**

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