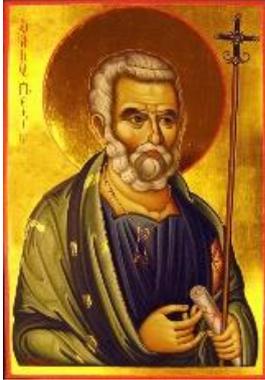


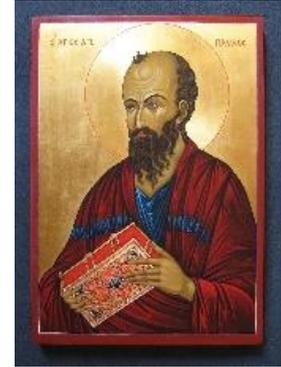
Meon Bridge Benefice

Corhampton & Meonstoke, Droxford, Exton with Preshaw

St Peter & St Paul



Patronal
Festival



**Benefice Family Eucharist
with Spiritual Reception**

St Peter & St Paul

Benefice Family Eucharist with Spiritual Reception

Opening Hymn

Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.
God's boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.
God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.

Fight the good fight with all thy might
John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811 – 1875)
DUKE STREET
John Hatton (d. 1793)
CCLI: 182525 – One License: A-735498

Greeting each other in the Lord's Name

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

Let us prepare ourselves to meet God in Worship and in Praise,
in Word and in Sacrament as we say together:

**Lord, direct our thoughts,
and teach us to pray.**

**Lift up our hearts to worship you
in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to confession

Jesus said to his apostles,
'You are my friends if you obey my commands.' *John 15.14*

Let us now confess our disobedience to him,
confident of his forgiveness.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord Jesus,
in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
in your love you invite us to be your friends:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
(✠) have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver *you* from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis - Singing of God's Glory

We sing of God's Glory or say the words below

Refrain

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest)**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. **R****

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. **R****

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. *R***

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul
glorified you in their death as in their life:
grant that your Church,
inspired by their teaching and example,
and made one by your Spirit,
may ever stand firm upon the one foundation,
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

First Reading

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

¹King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ²He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. ⁶The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' ⁹Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

Acts 12.1-11

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

'Thou art the Christ, O Lord,
The Son of God, most high!
For ever be adored
That name in earth and sky,
In which, though mortal strength may fail,
The saints of God at last prevail.

O surely he was blest
With blessedness unpriced,
Who, taught of God, confessed
The Godhead in the Christ;
For of thy Church, Lord, thou didst own
Thy saint a true foundation-stone.

Thrice fallen, thrice restored,
The bitter lesson learnt,
That heart for thee, O Lord,
With triple ardor burnt.
The cross he took he laid not down
Until he grasped the martyr's crown.

O bright triumphant faith,
O courage void of fears,
O love most strong in death,
O penitential tears!
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,
And make us go where thou shalt call.

Thou art the Christ, O Lord
W. Walsham How (1823-97)

GOPSAL

Georg Friderich Händel (1695 – 1759).
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Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

I do not call you servants but friends,
because I have made known to you
everything that I have heard from my Father.

John 15.15

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
and also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

¹⁷And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.'

¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

Matthew 16.13-19

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Unlikely Choices!

Like many clergy, I was ordained Deacon and then Priest at Petertide, which for all practical purposes means the weekend closest to the feast Day shared by St Peter and St Paul, which also happens to be the patronal Festival of our church here in Exton.

In the years and even the months preceding ordination, I struggled at times to believe that I was really being called out of my career as a teacher and into the church. I struggled to see that I would ever be good enough, religious enough, let alone holy enough, to be a priest. Dare I say it, God seemed to be making a very unlikely choice, but perhaps he has 'form' in making unlikely choices.

Caesarea Philippi, now ruins situated on what is today known as the Golan Heights, is the site of today's gospel. This may seem to us to be an unlikely place for this episode with Peter, far from Jerusalem and across the Jordan away from Capernaum and its towns in Galilee.

It is curious that Jesus's question – and none more fractious – 'Who do you say that I am?', should have been first asked in one of the most bitterly disputed places on the planet. Across the centuries, rival parties have claimed ownership of this land just as they have claimed private 'ownership' of Jesus himself, each staking its claim to be alone in being entitled to say who he is, and how access should be gained to him.

Such disputes are in the narrative from the very start of the Church and one of the angriest was between Peter and Paul. So perhaps Peter and Paul are also curious choices.

Jesus called Simon Peter 'the Rock'; but in many episodes of the Bible he appears to be very un-rock-like. He seems completely unreliable, doing and saying the wrong thing, unable to keep his rash promises.

On the Mountain of the Transfiguration, when he should have been talking about spiritual things, he babbled about building shelters. When he saw Jesus walking on the water, Peter thought he could do the same but then doubted himself and failed. He recognised that Jesus was the Messiah, but then tried to stop him going to Jerusalem to be crucified contrary to the Scriptures. He promised to follow Jesus, even to death; and when the soldiers appeared in the garden of Gethsemane, he hit out with his sword at one of the crowd come to arrest Jesus, then fled as fast as his feet would carry him, and later went on to deny Jesus three times.

If Jesus was looking for a rock on which to build his church, it seems he could have hardly chosen a less likely candidate in the undependable Peter.

Having said all that, Peter's intentions were always good, even though he 'made a hash of things', he did actually try to carry them out. In Peter's heart, there was genuine love, and genuine trust in his friend Jesus. And it was on that love and that faith that Jesus *could* build his church.

Jesus probably deliberately chose the word that the Old Testament uses for 'the congregation of Israel' (ekklesia) to describe the church - to show that he expected his followers to form themselves into community, and carry on his work after he died. And, amazingly, he chose Simon Peter, the failure, to be one of its principal leaders.

In time, the church started to move out from its roots in the Hebrew world into the Greek-speaking world of the Roman Empire. And if Peter had been an unlikely choice for leadership in Judea and Galilee and Perea, *surely* Jesus' choice of leader for the expanding church would be less surprising.

One of the unsurprising things about Jesus is that he is nearly always the source of surprise to our limited imagination and vision.

His next choice of leader was perhaps even more unlikely than Peter; and, that choice was Saul of Tarsus.

Saul, before he became Paul the apostle, had been a narrowminded Pharisee and a bitter enemy of the new young Church which Jesus had founded.

If we had to try to find words to describe the pre-Christian Saul, then a list might well include: bad-tempered, intolerant of new ways of living out Scripture, quick to judge, overly zealous, punitive, and impatient.

If you were on a selection panel, would you choose such a person to lead a parish, let alone a new group of congregations scattered over hundreds of miles across the Empire, and full of quarrelsome new converts who only have a hazy idea of what Christianity means and of how Christians should behave?

Surely, we would be more likely to go for someone with a more diplomatic temperament, who had good negotiating skills and plenty of patience. But Jesus chose Saul, because he saw beneath the unattractive exterior. He could see a man with vision - a man with the ability to imagine a Church which would convert the whole known-world, in time, to the way of love.

He could see the person with the drive and determination to set key things in motion and keep them going until they could stand on their own two feet, with their own new leaders.

Paul, as he became, did not invent a new religion, he took the Hebrew ways of thought that Jesus had instilled into his first disciples and translated them into the ideas that would attract people brought up in an entirely different culture, with entirely different ways of thinking. I would even make the bold claim that nobody could have done that better than St Paul.

For leaders to understand how to achieve things they have to understand why things fail as well as how they work. They have to be able to learn from the failures. And if we have to learn from our failures, first have to experience failure. This may be why Jesus chose Peter and Paul.

In their own ways, they had both failed spectacularly in their early days; each had been broken by setback and even humiliation to the extent that they had ended up on their knees. But once you have sunk that low, what better place to begin again than on your knees? Peter and Paul prayed.

They had learnt from their failures to sympathise with the failures of those they were leading.

And let us remember that not one of us is perfect and in that sense, we are all failures and we really need to be led by people who understand us.

Peter and Paul had the wisdom and grace to acknowledge their shortcomings and with God's help they were able to tap into their inner strength; that strength which Jesus had seen in each of them.

This ekklesia, this Church to which we belong, with all those who have gone before us, serves a crucified saviour and the only sensible candidates for leadership then are those who have known what it is to be broken too.

Let us thank God for St Peter and St Paul who learnt from their failures and for all the future leaders of the church who are strengthened by knowing their shortcomings, especially those for whom this Petertide will not be the ordination season for which they were being prepared.

Also thank God for all the churches and parishes named after St Peter or St Paul or indeed St Peter *and* St Paul, like this small rural parish, as well as the great cathedrals and basilicas with those names. Thank God for the countless church schools under their patronage, and for that matter, all those that we know who share their Christian name with St Peter or St Paul. Finally let's thank God for *all* the

unlikely choices that he has made, as they have served his purpose and us so much better than any choice that we might have made. Amen

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven
and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

Prayers of Intercession

**We Pray for the Church and the World
in these or other words**

Encouraged by our fellowship with all the saints,
let us make our prayers to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, your Son called men and women to leave the past behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the cross. Look with mercy upon those whom he calls today, marks with the cross and makes his disciples within the Church gathered but still apart; united in Spirit and only separated by distance.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your Son told his disciples not to be afraid and at Easter breathed on them his gift of peace. Look with mercy upon the world into which he sent them out, and give it that peace for which it longs especially in these times of violence and intolerance.

On this the Sunday following Armed forces day,
we pray for those who at this time
face danger in the defence of justice.

Watch over those in peril;

support those who are anxious for loved ones;

gather into your eternal purpose those who will die.

Remove from the hearts of all people

the passions that keep alive the spirit of war,

and in your goodness restore peace among us;

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your Son formed around him a company who were no longer servants but friends, and he called all those who obeyed him his brother and sister and mother. Look with mercy upon our families and our friends and upon the communities in which we share ...

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your Son sent out disciples to preach and heal the sick. Look with mercy on all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and renew among your people the gifts of healing, strengthen our exhausted medical and care professions and bring healing to all those who suffer in mind or body at this time ... [Ann Gittins] ...

Bless the work of all medical scientists and physicians, but especially those seeking to develop effective vaccines to protect us from the Coronavirus and treatments for CoViD-19.

Inspire the leaders of the nations, and those who influence them, with your Spirit, invest in them your wisdom that they may serve the peoples of the world for the greater good and for the sake of your Kingdom. Guide them in all their decisions, but especially in their response to the global pandemic.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your Son calls us into his care and you embrace us as a mother hen enfolds her chicks in her wings; we pray for all those who have suffered in mind and spirit because of isolation, but we thank you that Trinity Robin has been safely found have been missing for so many weeks. Help us all to be surrounded by your love.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your Son promised to those who followed him that they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and would share the banquet of the kingdom. According to your promise, look with mercy on those who have walked with Christ in this life and now have passed through death ...

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Almighty God,
you have built your Church upon the foundation
of the apostles and prophets,
with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone:
so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine,
that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you;
so we say together:

Merciful father
accept these prayers ...

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We are fellow-citizens with the saints
and of the household of God,
through Christ our Lord,
who came and preached peace
to those who were far off
and those who were near.

cf Ephesians 2.17,19

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

If others from your 'bubble' are with you,
offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Offertory Hymn

We sing the glorious conquest
Before Damascus' gate,
When Saul, the Church's spoiler,
Came breathing threats and hate;
The ravening wolf rushed forward
Full early to the prey;
But lo! the Shepherd met him,
And bound him fast to-day!

O Glory most excelling
That smote across his path!
O Light that pierced and blinded
The zealot in his wrath!
O Voice that spake within him
The calm reproving word!
O Love that sought and held him
The bondman of his Lord!

O Wisdom, ordering all things
In order strong and sweet,
What nobler spoil was ever
Cast at the Victor's feet?
What wiser master-builder
E'er wrought at thine employ,
Than he, till now so furious
Thy building to destroy?

Lord, teach thy Church the lesson,
Still in her darkest hour
Of weakness and of danger
To trust thy hidden power.
Thy grace by ways mysterious
The wrath of man can bind,
And in thy boldest foeman
Thy chosen saint can find!

We sing the glorious conquest

John Ellerton (1826-93)

ELLACOMBE

from: Wüttemberg Gesangbuch (1784).

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Prayer at the Table

Father, accept all we bring before you this day.
Guide us with your love and feed us at your table
as you nourish the faith of the Church
by the preaching of your apostles Peter and Paul.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good
that we should give you thanks, praise and glory,
almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For after his resurrection
he sent out his apostles and evangelists
to preach the gospel to all nations
and lead us in the way of truth.

Himself the chief cornerstone,
he founded his Church upon the apostles
firmly to stand for ever
as a sign of your holiness upon earth
and a living witness to all
of the way that leads to heaven.
And so with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we lift our voices
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine (✠)
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me. (✠)

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me. (✠)

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer said in Traditional Language

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

*The President repeats the action of Jesus
and breaks the bread for us, his modern-day disciples.*

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God is here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Christ is the true bread which
has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The president receives communion on behalf of all.

Act of Spiritual Reception

In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence. Amen.

Prayer of Oblation

O LORD and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. **Amen.**

Hymn after Communion

Forsaken once, and thrice denied,
The risen Lord gave pardon free,
Stood once again at Peter's side,
And asked him, "Lov'st thou Me?"

How many times with faithless word
Have we denied His holy Name,
How oft forsaken our dear Lord,
And shrunk when trial came!

Saint Peter, when the cock crew clear,
Went out and wept his broken faith;

Strong as a rock through strife and fear,
He served his Lord till death.

How oft his cowardice of heart
We have without his love sincere,
The sin without the sorrow's smart,
The shame without the tear!

O oft forsaken, oft denied,
Forgive our shame, wash out our sin;
Look on us from Thy Father's side,
And let that sweet look win.

Hear when we call thee from the deep,
Still walk beside us on the shore,
Give hands to work, eyes to weep,
And hearts to love thee more.

Forsaken once, and thrice denied
Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-1895)
SAFFRON WALDEN
Arthur Henry Brown (1830 -- 1926)
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Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.**

Amen.

The Dismissal

Hymn

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His Name.

Blessings abound wherever He reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blessed.

As rain on meadows newly mown,
So shall He send his influence down:
His grace on fainting souls distills,
Like heav'nly dew on thirsty hills.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)

TRURO

Thomas Williams in Psalmodia Evangelica (1789).

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Blessing

God, who has prepared for you a city
with eternal foundations,
bring you, with Peter and Paul and all the saints,
to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city;
and the blessing of God almighty,
(✠) the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Fight the good fight with all thy might
John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811 – 1875)
DUKE STREET
John Hatton (d. 1793)
Music and Lyrics in the Public Domain
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Thou art the Christ, O Lord
W. Walsham How (1823-97)
GOPSAL
Georg Friderich Händel (1695 – 1759).
Words and melody in Public Domain.
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We sing the glorious conquest
John Ellerton (1826-93)
ELLACOMBE
from: Wüttemberg Gesangbuch (1784).
Public Domain.
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ISRC UKTU21900129

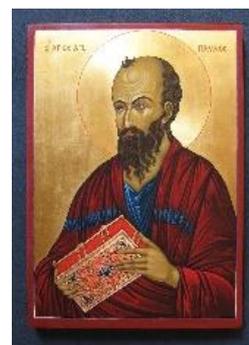
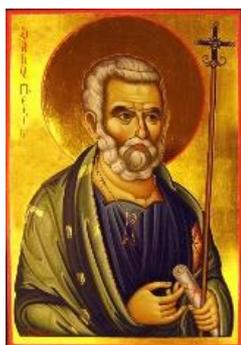
Forsaken once, and thrice denied
Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-1895)
SAFFRON WALDEN
Arthur Henry Brown (1830 -- 1926)
Music and Lyrics Public Domain.
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Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)
Public Domain.
TRURO
Thomas Williams in Psalmodia Evangelica (1789).
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Little Prelude and Fugue #1 in C (BWV 553)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 -1750) – BWV 553. One of the eight little preludes and fugues attributed to Johann Sebastian Bach but probably written by a pupil, Johann Tobias Krebs or Johann Ludwig Krebs.
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St PeterSt Paul

St Peter and St Paul, Exton

St Peter and St Paul, Exton is a 13th Century, Grade II Listed church situated on the site of an earlier church dating back to 940 AD, but much restored during the 19th Century. The wonderful stained-glass window and Tree of Life at the east end of the church dating from 1900 has been described as the “most exuberant example” of the work of Charles Spooner, an architect of the Arts and Crafts Movement. A set of kneelers in front of the communion rail depicting the four churches of the Meon Bridge Benefice has been embroidered by skilled members of the congregation. The church has a weeping chancel which unusually veers to the right.

Saints Peter and Paul

Peter has often been called the ‘Prince of the Apostles’ because of the words of Jesus renaming him from Simon to Cephas. This was the Aramaic form of the Greek word Peter, which means ‘rock’. Jesus said that on this rock he will build his Church. Peter and Paul came to be seen as having different roles to play within the leadership of the Church: Peter in witnessing the Lordship of Christ and Paul in developing an understanding of its meaning for Christ’s followers. Peter and Paul have been remembered jointly on 29 June since the very early days of the Church, it being regarded as the anniversary of their martyrdom in Rome about the year 64 AD.

European province of the Society of St Francis

Armed Forces Day 27th June 2020

The Armed Forces Day flag has been raised in tribute to the Armed Forces in our Benefice. Her Majesty the Queen thanked the armed forces, saying: “Having had members of my family serve in each of the Armed Services, I know only too well of the pride service personnel take in their duty. The Duke of Edinburgh and I join many around the United Kingdom in celebrating Armed Forces Day, and the efforts of our military both at home and overseas” With the Queen, we send very best wishes to all who are serving at this time, their families, and the whole wider Armed Forces community including the veterans and war widows, and to the charities and organisations that support them. The Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force have continued to serve during the Covid-19 crisis, not least in support of the civil powers and health services. The Army provided immense logistical support in building the NHS Nightingale hospital, the RAF played a key role in repatriating Britons stranded abroad and the Royal Navy has provided air ambulance cover for rural communities. Thank you. Even though we cannot celebrate Armed Forces Day in all the usual ways this year, they are not forgotten.



The Meon Bridge Benefice



<http://www.bridgechurches.org.uk/>

Four Beautiful Churches - Three Parishes – One in Christ

