

Dear Friends,

As I write this towards the end of October, we have been experiencing some of the usual seasonal, blustery weather. The tail end of storm 'Brian' has just passed. I find it mildly amusing that storms are given human names. Apparently the next named storm will begin with a female name beginning with 'C'. (No storm Craig this year then), the following a male name beginning with 'D' and so on.

The naming of storms and hurricanes is common place as we know but I think there are other kinds of storms in our lives which roll in from time to time. If we started at the beginning of the alphabet with some of these, they might begin to read; Anxiety, Bereavement, Cancer or Depression. Perhaps these have come into our orbit at some time or another and for those of us who have experienced at first hand one or more of these, we know that it is often the Care, Dedication, Empathy and Friendship of those around us which help us through.

For me, however, there are the 'big three' which begin with successive letters of the alphabet that offer support and comfort; Faith, God and Hope. At times of anxiety or illness, I find that my prayer life and faith in God give me great hope that the current storm will pass and sunlight will emerge again at some point.

I am sure that all of us occasionally look as though we are bright and sunny whilst inside we are experiencing a storm in our lives. If that describes you at the moment please be assured that you are in my daily prayers as I pray for everyone who lives, serves and works in our parishes. My ultimate prayer is that the great hope and light of Christ will break through and deaden the storms of our lives once and for all.

This comes with every blessing.

Craig

Vicar's Diary Dates and Notices

2nd November	Formation course Reading the Bible in church services Preparing intercessions	7.00pm to 9.00pm - St. Nicholas', Longparish
3rd November	Friday Reflections	7.00pm - The School House, Hurstbourne Priors
6th November	Works begin in St. Peter's to install a servery and WC in the tower chamber	
9th November	Formation course Setting the altar for Holy Communion Administering the chalice	7.00pm to 8.30pm - St. Nicholas', Longparish
23rd November	Formation course Selecting hymns for services Exploring the structure of a church service	7.00pm to 9.00pm - St. Nicholas', Longparish
25th November	Messy Church	4.00pm to 6.00pm - Hurstbourne Priors, Village Hall
28th November	Bible Study	11.00am - The Vicarage, St. Mary Bourne

Benefice Website 'The Bright Waters Benefice'

Our new website is now up and running. Please log in at www.brightwatersbenefice.com and take a look around. All sorts of useful information relating to our benefice parishes can be found including; service times, rotas, courses, clergy contact details, church related events and a photo gallery.