



Summer 2020

GIVE US WISDOM, GRANT US COURAGE

Jim Morford, Chair, Friends of Bruton

Each and every one of us has, in some way, been affected by the COVID-19 virus, and Friends of Bruton has been no exception.

In mid-March the Rt. Rev'd Susan Haynes, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, and Virginia Governor Ralph Northam decreed that churches in Virginia be closed for services and other activities until further notice.

As we entered the month of June, there were indications that restrictions were beginning to be eased although with limitations such as requiring masks, maintaining social distancing, and limiting the number of persons permitted to gather.

Due to the closings, it was necessary to cancel this year's Friends Day for which a great program had been planned. The Holy Land Pilgrimage scheduled for later this year has been postponed until November 2021. We will share more details later as specific dates and plans are finalized.

Friends Day each spring marks the renewal date for membership in the Cornerstone Circle. If you have not already done so, please join or renew your Cornerstone membership. The annual renewable membership is only \$100 per person. We are, of course, grateful for contributions in excess of \$100 to support programs and projects of Friends of Bruton. Membership sign-up or renewal may be mailed to Bruton Parish Church, 331 Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg, VA 23187. Arrangements to join online can be made by contacting Hilary Cooley at (757) 345-2252 or at hcooley@brutonparish.org.

One of the projects initiated by the Friends of Bruton Committee is to create an oral history of Bruton by interviewing long-time members of the parish. A subcommittee has been working to develop the mechanics of the program. As the first interviews were about to take place, the virus struck and we came under

stay-at-home rules. Our goal is to capture memories of the church and its congregation reaching back to the early 1940s.

Just as we were slowly emerging from the new rules for living due to the novel coronavirus, a tragic and senseless murder of an African/American man in Minneapolis generated peaceful protests across the land.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." —Philippians 4:6

Some groups of extremists have used the protest marches as an excuse to plunder and vandalize many major U.S. cities and smaller municipalities.

When Colonial Williamsburg informed us that protests in Williamsburg might target properties in the historic area, we exercised prudent caution. The windows at the church were boarded up and the facilities monitored by volunteers. We wanted to protect this beautiful church that has stood in the center of Williamsburg for over 300 years.

A date worth observing is the 19th of June. In 1865, Union General Gordon Granger entered Galveston, Texas and announced that, as a result of the Emancipation Proclamation, all previously enslaved people in Texas were free and that the Civil War was ending. As this article is being written, a Juneteenth Commemoration is being planned for Friday, June 19 at 9:00 a.m. in the churchyard.

In times like these, we turn to prayer. Some might question the necessity for or even the value of prayer, but people of faith always ask for God's help. May we all arise to be the hands of Jesus, the healer and the Prince of Peace. May the church resound with a message of hope and fervent prayers for healing and deliverance.

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY VIRGINIANS STEP UP

Linda Rowe

Disastrous Fire in Montreal, Canada, April 1768
Acting governor of Virginia, John Blair, received a communique from a magistrate in Montreal describing the damage done to a large section of that city by a fast-moving fire. Using the Virginia Gazette, Blair asks all parish ministers across the colony to collect funds to send to the stricken city. Blair references a fire three years before in Montreal and Virginia's generosity on that occasion.

WILLIAMSBURG, July 21, 1768.

WHEREAS, by a letter from Montreal, signed by two of the principal magistrates of that place, I am informed of a most destructive fire which happened there on the 11th of April last, which has reduced to ashes a convent inhabited by nuns, and 33 dwelling-houses. By this melancholy even above 100 families are drove to the greatest distress, and what adds to their misfortune is that part of the town which escaped this disaster was destroyed by the great conflagration in May 1765, whereby they are disabled from



affording any tolerable degree of assistance to the present unhappy sufferers. They thankfully commemorate the generosity of Virginia on that deplorable occasion, and humbly supplicate our further aid towards relieving them under their lamentable condition. Our late worthy Governour [Francis Fauquier, d. March 3, 1768] made a collection for them on the former occasion, in imitation of whom, and by advice of the Council, I do earnestly entreat the ministers of every parish to appoint some Sunday to

make such collections, and to preach a sermon suitable to the occasion.

I have delayed this application some time, in expectation of a more particular account of their loss, which is promised; but as their pitiable situation requires the speediest relief, I was unwilling any longer to defer laying their moving case before the public. I desire the ministers and church-wardens will contrive their collections to me, by safe hands, as soon as may be, that I may convert them into bills of exchange, to be remitted for this charitable purpose.

A particular account of such donations as shall come to my hands will be published in the Gazettes.

JOHN BLAIR

[President of the governor's Council and acting governor after the death of Lt. Gov. Francis Fauquier in March] Source: Virginia Gazette (Purdie & Dixon) 21 July 1768, p. 3, col. 1.

Following up on Blair's July appeal, Rev. James Horrocks (rector of Bruton Parish, president of the College of William and Mary, and commissary of the Bishop of London) used the Gazette to prompt parish ministers who had not yet turned in contributions from their parishioners. Bruton's own contribution, already in hand, amounted to £17.18.10½.

The President [Rev. James Horrocks] begs that the remaining Clergymen would hasten their collections for the sufferers by fire at Montreal. Source: Virginia Gazette (Rind) 27 October 1768, p. 3, col. 1.

Nearly a decade after the fire in Montreal, Virginians again took to heart the plight of citizens in another city in North America.

Closure of the Port of Boston, 1774

On December 16, 1773, a group of disguised citizens of Boston dumped 340 chests of British tea in the harbor in protest over a tax on tea and the monopoly on the tea trade granted to the British East India Company. In retaliation for the lost tea, Parliament passed the Boston Port Act, the first of the "coercive" or "intolerable" acts against the colonies. The Port of Boston was to be closed on June 1, 1774, if payment for the tea was not received by then. Payment was not forthcoming. Virginians, including townspeople of Williamsburg, expressed their support for the distressed Massachusetts city as reported in the Virginia Gazette.

In 1774 ...

May 24

In response to news of the Boston Port Act, the Virginia House of Burgesses resolves that June 1 be observed as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer in solidarity with the people of Boston. Governor Dunmore dissolves the Virginia Assembly as soon as the resolution is published. Eighty-nine burgesses meet at the Raleigh Tavern to call for a boycott of tea and other goods imported by the East India Company.

June 1

Port of Boston is closed to trade in retaliation for the Boston Tea Party.

June 1

The Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer was observed by many Virginians, including citizens of Williamsburg. Burgesses still in Williamsburg and townspeople process to Bruton Parish Church for a sermon. George Washington, still in town, notes in his diary,

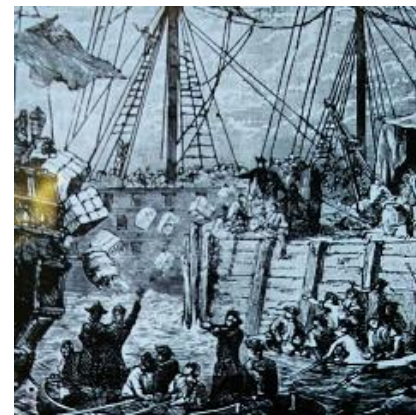
"Went to Church and fasted all Day."

July 1

James City County freeholders meet at Isham Allen's and resolve to support nonimportation of British goods and to take up a subscription for the relief of Boston.

August 10

Peyton Randolph initiates a meeting of the inhabitants of the city of Williamsburg at the courthouse, where they contribute "most generously for the Relief" of their "distressed Fellow Subjects at Boston, both in Cash and Provisions."



THE HYMNS WE SING: ABIDE WITH ME

Jim Morford, Friends of Bruton Committee Chair

At this moment in time as our country faces a pandemic, we turn to our faith to guide us and to great hymns to give us comfort. Abide With Me has for more than 150 years been one of the best loved English language hymns. There is probably no one raised in the Christian faith who has not sung or at least heard the deeply moving tune and lyric.

What is it about this hymn that has made it so well-loved? The words, of course. Every verse ends with the appeal, "abide with me."

Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Of the original eight stanzas, five are most commonly used in modern hymnbooks. Each verse calls for God's continuing presence in our lives. It is often thought of as a "funeral song" but it is so much more than that. Though not among the verses most commonly sung, the original fifth verse speaks to God's attendance from our rebellious youth all the way to the close of life.

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

The music of the hymn contributes significantly to its lasting appeal. Through the years the lyrics have been tried with many tunes but the most popular remains "Eventide" by William Henry Monk. It is an especially poignant melody.

Even the story of the hymn's author adds to its significance. Henry Francis Lyte was born in Scotland on June 1, 1793 and died in Nice, France, on November 20, 1847. He was an Anglican priest and vicar of All Saints Church in Brixham, England, as well as a published poet and accomplished writer of hymns.

There is more than one account of what prompted Lyte to compose the hymn. One account says that he wrote it in 1820 while visiting a dying friend. However, in 1847 he wrote a letter to his daughter Julia, in which he referred to the hymn as "my latest effusion." According to Raymond Glover, editor of *The Companion to Hymnal* 1982, Lyte probably wrote the hymn in 1820 and recalled the hymn during the illness that led to his death in 1847.

The hymn is based on Luke 24:29, part of a post-Resurrection narrative telling the story of Emmaus: "But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and today is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them."

Hymnologist J.R. Watson notes, "Lyte's genius takes the quotation and turns it into a metaphor for human life in all of its brevity. At the same time, by changing 'Abide with us' into 'Abide with me,' he deepens the feeling by making it speak to the individual, in prayer or meditation" (from the author's handwritten version).

Whenever we hear or sing this hymn may we remember that it is a hymn that celebrates life - life today, life tomorrow and life everlasting.

BRUTON GIFT SHOP & HERITAGE CENTER OPEN

The Bruton Parish Shop & Heritage Center is open for business daily from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are ready to help customers follow our COVID Commandment: sanitize hands, wear a mask, and social distance! A limited number of people are permitted inside at any one time, and only credit or debit cards are being accepted for the time being. If anyone needs a gift for an occasion, call the Shop at (757) 220-1489 to arrange a purchase and curbside service!

Hospitality to visitors was important when Williamsburg was the busy capital of the Colony of Virginia. It remains a vital part of the mission of Bruton Parish Church. Join us in the Heritage Center to enjoy — in words, pictures and graphics — the history of Anglicanism in America from the colonial period to today. See the original iron weather vane that graced the Church tower, the Lectern Bible that was given to Bruton by England's King Edward VII in 1907, and much more!

If or when you are in town, learn more about the church's remarkable history and its role in the life of Williamsburg: Bruton Parish Church, a community of Faith and Service since 1674: a church for the colony, through revolution, transformation, hardship, and renewal. All are welcome, bring your friends and neighbors!



ISSUES OF THE BRUTON FOUNT IN THE HENNAGE LIBRARY

If you are a Friend of Bruton, whether part of our local congregation or you're in town for a visit, drop by the Hennage Library where there's a binder that holds all of the issues of our quarterly newsletter, *The Bruton Fount*, which began in 2012. If you'd like to take a copy of any issue with you, just come upstairs to the church office and we'll help you make a copy!

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER: THOMAS KEN (1637-1711)

Anne Conkling

As God creates new human beings, every so often He creates one who does not mince words, filter language to be politically correct or comfortable for anyone, and sees everything through only the prism of light coming from what he is sure is the mind of God. Thomas Ken was such a creation. Born in Berkhamsted near Hertfordshire, England in 1637, he was always known for sticking to his iron-clad principles, anchored in purity and truth. Four monarchs — Charles II, James II, and both King William III and Queen Mary — strafed, struggled, and suffered under his moral magnifying lens of conscience.

By the time Queen Anne ascended the throne, Ken was old, jobless, nearly homeless, and finally reconciled to the Church of England. His will bears a confession of faith: "I die in the Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith, professed by the whole church, before the disunion of East and West: more particularly I die in the communion of the Church of England, as it stands distinguished from all Papal and Puritan innovations." He was absolutely an apostle for the via media, the middle way, which led us to the church we know today. As Broad Anglicans, we are neither too high nor too low.

Ken was known for books of brilliant sermons, as an inspiring teacher, and a gifted hymn writer. Whenever we sing the Doxology, we have him to thank for the poetic words. What we sing is just one stanza of his hymn. He was a restless sleeper, and used the time in the middle of the night for writing, never wasting a second. Two small sleeps punctuated by work were more productive than long hours abed. He was charitable in all things, even inviting the poor to the Bishop's table instead of hosting grand banquets at the Bishop's palace. He had plans for poor schools, a workhouse, and outreach to those who came to take the waters at Bath.

Along the way, he served as chaplain to King Charles II. Charles had a famous actress as his mistress, and for

convenience wanted to house her in Ken's residence. Thomas Ken informed the king that being the royal chaplain did not make him the royal pimp. Years later, after he became a famous Bishop, it was to him that Charles turned on his deathbed, seeking guidance for his final journey.



When Ken was assigned as Royal Chaplain to Princess Mary, he went to the Hague. He was duty-bound to counsel William of Orange about his treatment of Mary, so Ken was shipped home to England after just a year. Of course when William and Mary ascended the throne, they demanded oaths of allegiance from all public officials. Since the Bishops had already sworn their allegiance to James II, and he was still alive, they refused to swear allegiance to William and Mary. Ken also took on James II, who introduced a Declaration of Indulgence, which would have granted tolerance to Roman Catholics. Tolerance could lead to acceptance, and that might lead to them serving in the government. This time Ken ended up in the Tower of London, accompanied by his fellow Bishops, who were then tried for sedition, since they refused to read the new ordinance to their

congregations. People rioted in the streets, and the Bishops were eventually released. He spent the rest of his life in retirement under very reduced circumstances, pitifully poor, scraping by as a tutor, but with his principles intact.

The pendulum swing of the Church of England has given us years of contrast — Puritan sometimes, very Catholic other times, some years stitched with a Calvinist thread, and others clouded by incense. Thomas Ken sought the middle way where all can think, and breathe and connect directly to the Creator.

Sources: Britannia, Forward Movement, Bishop's Palace of Bath and Wells.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FRIENDS OF BRUTON

Amazing and wonderful things can occur when we keep our fragile lives wrapped in prayer. Whether it is the Lord's Prayer or the early sixth century Jesus Prayer (Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.) or a myriad of other possible prayers, each one brings a benefit and a sense of blessing and calm. It can be as simple as, Lord, have mercy!

Almighty God, you gave your servant Thomas Ken grace and courage to bear witness to the truth before rulers and kings. Give us strength also that, following his example, we may constantly defend what is right, boldly reprove what is evil, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.

AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA OUR WEBSITE, YOUTUBE CHANNEL, ZOOM, EMAIL AND MORE

Hilary Cooley

In an abundance of caution back in mid-March, Virginia Governor Northam essentially closed Virginia because of the coronavirus pandemic. At the same time, our diocesan Bishop Susan Haynes also closed all the churches in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. We were looking for ways in which we could continue to be “the church” — not in a 300+ year-old-building, not in the Parish House, but in your living space.

Previously we were using our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/BrutonParish to bring you recordings of sermons by our clergy and posted them each week (along with a text version, if available). We brought this to you each week using a GoPro camera. We would take the camera down to the church, wrap it around one of the railings in the south gallery, record the sermon, and then bring the camera back on Mondays to upload the sermon to our channel and then link it to the website.

Months before the closing, we had installed a new audio/video recording system but couldn't use it until we were able to have our local internet provider pull cable into the building. The week after the church closed, we scrambled to get the system up and working! Lee Cobb of Church Technologies met Bill Dugge, Junior Warden, and me at the church one rainy morning just after we'd closed. Geared-up with masks, gloves, and keeping social distancing in the forefront of our minds, Lee helped us to ensure that the connections were working and showed us how to use the system. He has periodically been there with us behind the scenes on Sunday mornings when we've had a glieche or technical error and helped us through it!

We've been utilizing Zoom for face-to-face staff meetings, Vestry Meetings, Christian Formation, Sunday School, Youth Group Chats, and more! We've also been sending emails through Constant Contact to bring much needed information, resources, and support to our local parishioners on a weekly basis, and keeping our website as up-to-date as possible for our Friends who live far away. Whether you live near or far, there are many ways to stay in touch with Bruton Parish. Visit our website at brutonparish.org to see worship and concert schedules

BRUTON SERVICES & SERMONS ON THE WEB

Click the links below to revisit the sermon given on Trinity Sunday by [The Rev'd Lauren McDonald](#), Associate Rector for Outreach & Women's Ministries.

Each week, our 11am service on Sunday of either Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer is being live-streamed via our Youtube Channel for the members of our community — both local and worldwide — who are not physically present or for those who would like to revisit a particular service/sermon.

We keep a few months' worth of sermons and services — along with other videos of parish life — which can be viewed on our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/BrutonParish.

[Become a subscriber today!](#)

(when we reopen), the Link Library, calendar of events, ministries, children's and youth programs, adult formation, history, the Heritage Center and parish records, just to name just a few.

Join us virtually each Sunday mornings when we live-stream the service to our YouTube Channel. Just visit www.youtube.com/user/BrutonParish directly. Become a subscriber and have an email reminder sent to you each time we livestream or upload a prerecorded service. You can also visit our website, as there is a link to the site and the service bulletin if available each week.

There are many recorded videos of services available on our YouTube Channel which you can access every day: Morning Prayer, NoonDay Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline, Book of Common Prayer Daily Devotionals and more!

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for Bruton Parish. At the top left is the channel logo, a circular emblem with a church building and the text 'BRUTON PARISH'. To the right of the logo is the channel name 'BrutonParish'. Further right are two buttons: 'CUSTOMIZE CHANNEL' and 'YOUTUBE STUDIO'. Below the header is a navigation menu with 'HOME', 'VIDEOS', 'PLAYLISTS', 'CHANNELS', and 'ABOUT'. A search icon is also present. The main content area is titled 'Uploads' and includes a 'PLAY ALL' button. Below this are five video thumbnails, each with a title, view count, and upload date. The videos are: 1. 'Bruton Parish Church: The Second Sunday After...' (410 views, streamed 1 day ago, 1:09:41); 2. 'Bruton Parish Church: Children's Message for Jun...' (9 views, 6 days ago, 6:40); 3. 'Bruton Parish Church: Trinity Sunday (June 7, 2020)' (647 views, streamed 1 week ago, 1:09:06); 4. 'Bruton Parish Church: First Friday Recovery Service...' (108 views, streamed 1 week ago, 43:56); 5. 'Bruton Parish Church: Children's Church message...' (24 views, 1 week ago, 6:54).

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Outreach & Women's Ministry, Bruton Parish Church

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Senate of Virginia

The Rev'd Dr. Daniel W. McClain
Associate Rector & Canterbury Chaplain

Joe Poole, III, Director of Special Gifts
Colonial Williamsburg

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The Rt. Rev'd Susan Bunton Haynes, Bishop
Diocese of Southern Virginia

The Rev'd Christopher L. Epperson, Rector

The Rev'd Dr. Daniel W. McClain
Associate Rector & Canterbury Chaplain

The Rev'd Lauren M. McDonald, Associate
Rector - Outreach & Women's Ministries

The Ven. Jan Brown, Deacon

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