

# PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

## FOCUS ON KINDNESS & RIGHTEOUS REWARD

In regard to the realm of advertising and commerce, one online marketing guru claims that “successful marketing starts with the WIIFM factor.” Evidently, the acronym WIIFM stands for “What’s in it for me?” But the message of the closing verses of Chapter 10 of St. Matthew’s Gospel, as with so much of the teaching of Jesus, does turn this idea on its head. In fact, we are called to act kindly towards others simply as the right way to live, with living compassionately and selflessly being its own reward. But there is a paradox here. Because when we put others before ourselves, without any expectation of reward or recompense, we receive what is sometimes called the “prophet’s reward” or the “reward of the righteous” in which we see the fulfilling of the divine will. The underlying principle of the “prophet’s reward” is that you give to others from what you have received from God. And that the outcome of living righteously and generously for its own sake is that, both humanly and spiritually speaking, we experience a much richer quality of life.

In his famous prayer, St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, prays that he might “give and not count the cost, toil, and not seek for rest, labour and not ask for reward – except to know that I am doing your will”. That is an excellent starting point for anyone wanting to learn how to live their life “under grace”, as Saint Paul calls it in Romans Chapter 6 Verse 14. So, if we are welcoming and generous in spirit; and if we even make the smallest of gestures of kindness, such as the example that Jesus gives in Matthew Chapter 10 Verse 42 of simply offering a cup of cold water to a thirsty child, our life and our well-being will be immensely richer for it. Our lives may well not be easy, or free from pain and stress at times, but Jesus promises that our self-giving gestures and acts of true altruism will bring us something infinitely more fulfilling, something that goes far beyond human imagining.

Tonv Bundock

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This Sunday’s Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Canon Tony and start at 10:00. The hymns will be led by Cher and the Mole Family with other members of the congregation taking part. Details have been supplied in the Zoom specific email but are also shown here again:

Topic: My Meeting  
Time: Jun 28, 2020 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75527817118?pwd=cXRPdTFkQ0tBczV1NXN4ZUpLVE5lZz09>

*(If copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes on the pew sheet.)*

Meeting ID: 755 2781 7118  
Password: 3XHxYk



### COLLECT FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through 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.*

### READINGS FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 8)

Jeremiah Ch. 28 VV. 5 – 9.  
Romans Ch. 6 VV. 12 – 23.

Matthew Ch. 10 VV. 40 – 42.



**PRAYER CHAIN PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

*(Intercessions during the Zoom Service will be led by James Nisbet)*

Lord of peace and forgiveness,

Help us to bring peace to this troubled world and let us be guided by your spirit of tolerance and kindness. Let us love our neighbours as ourselves seeing your light in everyone rather than what sets us apart. For those who may cause us grief or anguish, teach us the value of forgiveness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen

## *Weekly Prayer Notes*

- We pray for all parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and the souls of those who have died. We pray for those working in the NHS, Care Homes and Social Services who are working with the sick, the elderly and the disabled.
- We pray for those in our parish who are isolating themselves due to age or infirmity and those supporting them. We also pray for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit and need our prayers at this time, including Irene Ford, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Phillipa King and Barnaby Woods.
- We pray for the souls of the departed, particularly at this time for the soul of Sheila Wicks, mother of Sue Ashton. We pray for Sue and her family that they may receive courage, comfort and strength at this difficult time.
- We pray at this time for the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman, which have been badly affected by Covid-19. For our Linked Parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.
- For Peace and Resolution for the peoples of those countries where there is conflict or tension including countries in the Middle East, Ukraine, Nigeria, Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.
- For comfort and mercy for the peoples of those countries, where there have been natural disasters, and for the aid agencies bringing relief.
- For our Government and Parliament at this time of uncertainty, that MP's of all parties will come together in the National Interest.
- For migrants that they may receive justice and mercy.
- Safety for Christians and peoples of all faiths in danger, that there may be a spirit of peace and understanding.
- For our mission and ministry in this community.

Due to the COVID virus, the organisers have had to make the sad decision to cancel Princes Risborough Lighthouse this year. But from Monday 27 July for one week the organisers will be launching Lighthouse Live! LIVE from Lighthouse Central to YOUR house with an hour-long show at 10:00 am full of songs, messy games, drama, craft, stories, prayer and much, much more. Once the LIVE show has finished there will be various activities available to watch throughout the day, whenever suits you. There will be Craft, Prayer, and a quiz that everyone in the family can do.

At 4:00 pm there we will be Lighthouse LIVE again with more music and games – and someone somewhere will be gunged! All you have to do is turn up, tune in and have fun! So sign up (Web link - <https://lighthousecentral.org/forms/mailling-list-signup>) and come and join an amazing week! Children registration is on the Lighthouse website as normal. (Web link for registering children - <https://lighthousecentral.org/forms/child-registration>). The organisers are really looking forward to sharing Lighthouse Live with you this summer.

## **PRIVATE PRAYER AT ST. JOHN'S**

Although churches continue to be closed for collective worship on Sundays and other days, from 15<sup>th</sup> June, the Church of England is allowing churches to commence opening for private prayer with Social Distancing measures in place. We are pleased to announce that St. John's will be open for private prayer. Generally, for the present the church will open as follows:

- ❖ Tuesday morning 9.30am to 10.30am.
- ❖ Thursday evening 7pm to 8pm. (*This week Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, not Thurs*).

Social distancing protocols will apply and the church is being cleaned before re-opening. Hand sanitiser is to be used please, and is available at the back of the Church on entry.

The Sunday services on Zoom will continue. They have been successfully held over the past few weeks, attracting around 30 attendees, even a handful from our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman in South Africa! Further details on Page 2 of this pew sheet. In the near future, it is expected Church services will resume, but with some special measures / restrictions in place. Further details to follow.

Keep safe and please continue to pray for one another. *Canon Tony, The Churchwardens & The PCC*

### **Key Contacts:**

|                        |                         |              |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Vicar:                 | Rev. Canon Tony Bundock | 01844 347741 |
| Team Rector:           | Rev. David Williams     | 01844 346984 |
| Licensed Lay Minister: | Mr Graham King          | 01844 343910 |
| Churchwardens:         | Mrs Pat Rushmere        | 01844 345452 |
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| PCC Secretary          | Mr Mark Roberts         | 01296 437345 |

**LIGHTHOUSE 2020**