

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 2020

2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

FOCUS ON ... THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

According to St. Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus sent out the twelve disciples to spread the message of the Kingdom of God, three times he told them not to be afraid because he knew that the message would often prove to be unpopular and unwelcome. They would discover, in fact, that their task would involve significant elements of sacrifice and self-denial. Jesus himself had been given a hard time so he warned his disciples to expect the same treatment. To gain true life in all its fullness would indeed involve painful sacrifices. But do not be afraid, he told the disciples, they were of more value than the humble sparrow whose life is nevertheless lived out encompassed by divine love. In fact, the disciples were crucial to the mission that Jesus had set out to accomplish. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Good News of the Gospel would be entrusted to the disciples to "proclaim from the housetops".

Even so, when the going got tough, it seems that some of the disciples felt that they had been misled. Why was the message so difficult? Why this talk of harshness and division? Is not the yoke supposed to be easy, the burden light? On and on the questions must have gone – and Christians today will find sympathy with many of them. But then, when the complaints are over and calmness returns, God gently brings His followers back from all negative thinking. Bringing us, in fact, to the realisation that the divine claim on us – mentally, physically, spiritually – is beyond our power to resist. And to a recognition that we cannot expect that life will always be simple and free from pain and challenge. God has important evangelising work for us to do and this gives our life meaning and purpose. And when life gets difficult, God is still with us as He is in all things. Our God, as we are assured in the words of Jesus at the very end of St. Matthew's Gospel, will be with us always.

Tony 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 shown again here for convenience:

Topic: My Meeting
Time: Jun 21, 2020 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78118395378?pwd=RWIBSIUyRGVOUjFDRGQ3aXQrM2g4dz09>

(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: 781 1839 5378
Password: 8iNYaz



COLLECT FOR 2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are worth nothing: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.

READINGS FOR 2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 7)

Jeremiah Ch. 20 VV. 7 – 13
Romans Ch. 6 VV. 1b – 11

Matthew Ch. 10 VV. 24 – 39



PRAYER CHAIN PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

(Intercessions during the Zoom Service will be led by June Brazier)

Let us come before God, who knows all our strengths and failings, and pray for the Church and the world.

We pray for all who offer themselves to work in and for God's Church, visiting those who are unable to attend church, and making sacrifices of their time and resources.

We pray for all missionaries and teachers, particularly those who teach and work with children, ensuring their grounding in the Christian faith.

We pray for the world, for its nations and leaders, that its divisions and hostilities be healed and that peace will reign.

We pray for all who are suffering from illness or disease, at home or in hospital, and for all those waiting anxiously for the results of medical investigations or tests.

Lord, you know all our thoughts and emotions and motives, and, in your mercy, hear our prayers. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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, and for the bereaved 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 our Government and Parliament at this time of uncertainty, that MP's of all parties will come together in the National Interest.
- For our mission and ministry in this community with our shared faith.

LIGHTHOUSE 2020

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, 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 15th June, the Church of England is allowing churches to commence opening for private prayer with social distancing measures in place. Consequently, we are pleased to announce that St. John's will be open for private prayer. The current plan is to have trials of the church being open as follows:

- ❖ Tuesday morning 9.30am to 10.30am.
- ❖ Thursday evening 7pm to 8pm.

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.

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

Key Contacts:

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