

## Weekly Prayer Notes

- For those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Ian Goodearl, Phillipa King and Barnaby Woods.
- For the recently departed, may their souls rest in peace. Also, we pray for their families at this difficult time.
- 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 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 and for the peacekeeping and aid agencies bringing relief.
- We pray for Lebanon and the City of Beirut following the recent devastating explosion at the port.
- 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 church family and our mission and ministry in this community.



### Key Contacts:

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## PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
**10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

### WELCOME TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

You are warmly welcomed to St. John's Church, particularly if you are new to our congregation or are a visitor. St. John's is a member Church of the Risborough Team Ministry, serving the parish of Lacey Green, Loosely Row and Speen.

We warmly welcome Rev. Peter Viney who will be leading our 10:00 services at St. John's today and next Sunday and Rev. Rose Williams who will be leading this Tuesday's 9:30 am service in church. Our Licenced Lay Minister, Graham King, will be leading the 11:00 am services on Zoom today and next Sunday.

### UPDATE – WORSHIP IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH

After over three months of not having services at St. John's, limited services have resumed, with the Said Communion services being held on Tuesdays at 9:30 am and on Sundays at 10:00 am (BST) for those wishing to attend. The regular Sunday on-line service on Zoom is now being held at 11:00 am (BST). Unfortunately, 8:00 am Services on Sundays remain suspended for the present.

As you may have seen in the press, singing in Church or playing wind instruments is not allowed. Holy Communion will be in one kind only and the 2-metre social distancing requirement will apply. Contact details of those attending will need to be recorded in a suitable notebook and details kept for 3 weeks. A guidance sheet of "Do's and Don'ts" based on information from the Diocese of Oxford is available. Current guidance is that wearing a face mask within the church building is now mandatory apart from the celebrant, those reading lessons / leading intercessions and during receipt of Holy Communion.

### Weekly Services:

SUNDAY	
10:00 am	Said Communion (Common Worship)
11:00 am	On-line Morning Worship on Zoom
TUESDAY	
9:30 am	Said Communion (Common Worship)

## FOCUS ON... LIFE IS FULL OF NEW EXPERIENCES

We have all become used to washing our hands for 20 seconds each time or using hand gel. These are all sensible measures to protect ourselves and prevent the spread of a terrible disease. Our reading today is in two parts; whilst Jesus was warning against contaminating food with unclean hands, he was also addressing another kind of cleanliness; that of eating certain types of food. Under Mosaic law, certain types of food were deemed unclean. So now you know. But whilst the purpose of these rules was to protect purity and cleanliness, they had become a goal in themselves; intricate rules demanding obedience. And the response of Jesus; it is not what goes into your mouth that defiles you, it is what comes out.

Peter, as often a spokesperson for the disciples asked Jesus what he meant by the parable. I am always encouraged by the number of times in the Gospels, that the disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying to them. He had infinite patience with them. Perhaps there is hope for our lack of understanding as well. So Jesus explains that it is the words you speak which defile you, not the food you eat. For the heart produces evil thoughts, murder, adultery, immorality, theft, lying and slander. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you. And so, perhaps the old saying of "cleanliness is next to Godliness" may need to be revised.

And then we have the parable of the Gentile woman. This seems completely unrelated. But is it? To the disciples, for Jesus, as a Jew, to be meeting a Gentile, let alone a woman, would have been dealing with the ritually unclean. But the woman affirmed her faith in Jesus referring to him as "Lord, Son of David" and requested his healing touch for her demon-possessed daughter. The response of Jesus, at face value, seems rather harsh. We are told that initially, he ignored her and then said that he had only been sent to the lost sheep of Israel. But she persisted, throwing herself at his feet. Yet Jesus replies that it isn't right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.

So how would our faith have stood up in that situation? When we are challenged, do we stand firm or do we buckle under pressure? And so in our Gospel today, we find the values of the kingdom at odds with earthly values. The ritually clean Pharisees are found to be spiritually blind and unclean whilst the unclean Samaritan woman possessed spiritual cleanliness and blessings.

Graham King

### COLLECT FOR 10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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*.

### ZOOM SERVICE FOR THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Graham King (Lay Minister) and start at the new time of **11:00 am** BST. The hymns will be led by Cher and Gavin Mole. Other members of the congregation will be taking part. Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew sheet, and are as follows:

Topic: St. John's Church - 10th Sunday After Trinity Service

Time: Aug 16, 2020 **11:00** AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77209567615?pwd=K0Z1MVBDSkY2L1hvdWEzNmZBb01mZz09>

Meeting ID: 772 0956 7615

Passcode: parXg8

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### READINGS FOR 10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 15)

Isaiah Ch. 56 V. 1 & VV. 6 – 8  
Romans Ch. 11 VV. 1 – 2a & VV. 29 – 32  
Matthew Ch. 15 VV. 10 – 28

### PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

*(Intercessions during the services will be led by Mark Roberts)*

Precious Lord, blessed are those who believe. I know You want this for me. I want this for me. Help me to retrain my thoughts and reframe my perspective. I marvel at how often my thoughts take me downward. But like an eagle that soars in the sky, You call me to set my sights on things above. I pray that I will be filled afresh with a strong sense of Your presence and Your peace. Help me to remember the great things You have done. May I one day marvel at how my thoughts reflect a heart and mind that are healed and whole, just like You always intended them to be. Do a miracle in me, Lord. In Your Name, I pray.

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

