

**St David's with St Michael's and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter
Newsletter for Sunday 10 October 2021 – Trinity 19**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

Please note that our Parish Meeting planned for Saturday October 16th has had to be postponed as for personal reasons Archdeacon Andrew is unable to attend on that day. We have rescheduled the meeting for Saturday 6th November from 10am to 12noon at St Michael's (subject to confirmation of venue).

It was great to have our Sunday evening services back last week and our Alpha course at Thrive has also got off to a good start.

We are keeping our current guidance about social distancing and face coverings at the moment. So please wear a face covering in church if you can and be mindful of keeping a safe distance from others indoors. Please 'mingle' outside church after the service rather than inside. Please be mindful not only of your own wellbeing (especially if you're not vaccinated) but also of your neighbours' safety and make sure that you are not sitting directly behind other people especially if you would like to sing.

Please be patient, kind and considerate and respect the personal space of other people if they don't wish to get too close!

Our services today are:

9.30am Parish Communion (live streamed on St David's Church Exeter's Facebook Page) with celebrant, Belinda Speed-Andrews and preacher, Bill Pattinson

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher Dominic Cyrus

4pm Thrive Alpha Course - On Zoom – please see notice below

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685738289?pwd=WEh1dINCY3NRQTlCcXFjK2ZlejR0UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289 Passcode: 159821

6pm Evening Prayer in St David's Lady Chapel led by Ian Cartwright

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 12 October, 9.30 Morning Prayer on Zoom. Please join us using this code:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09>

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392

Passcode: 196651

(prayers are from Common Worship Book or Daily Prayer app which can be downloaded

here: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en_GB&gl=US)

[id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en_GB&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en_GB&gl=US))

Tuesday 12 October, 6pm, Sung Vespers at St Michael's

Wednesday 13 October, Edward, King and Confessor, 9.30am Mattins and 10 Mass at St Michael's

Thursday 14 October, 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's Church (also live streamed on Friends of St Michael's Facebook Page)

Friday 15 October, 9.30 Morning Prayer at St David's Church (also live streamed on St David's Facebook Page)

Sunday 17 October – Trinity 20

9.30am Morning Praise (not Holy Communion) at St David's led by Ash Leighton Plom with talk and presentation from Jeremy Theeton from YMCA (live streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page)

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher, Nigel Guthrie

4pm Thrive on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685738289?pwd=WEh1dlNCY3NRQTlCcXFjK2ZlejR0UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289 Passcode: 159821

6pm Evening Prayer (said) at St David's

Covid-19 Safe for Public Worship

Please use hand sanitizer on entering and leaving church.

Please wear a face covering in church unless you are exempt.

At St David's we are encouraging people to wear face coverings to come forward to receive Holy Communion and then to consume the host after moving away from the altar rail.

At St Michael's the priest will distribute Holy Communion to people in their seats.

Seating will be distanced to approximately 2 metres. Please sit on the seats where service books are placed. Please do not sit too close to your neighbour unless invited to do so.

Services should be 'no longer than necessary'.

Please avoid mingling inside church before or after services.

Please do not attend church if you are feeling ill or are shielding. Although we will do all we can to make the church safe you attend at your own risk.

Harvest Gifts

Thank you to all those who brought harvest gifts to St David's and St Michael's.

Ash is Christian Aid is visiting preacher today at Exwick

This weekend Ash has been invited to visit our neighbours at Exwick Community Church to speak to them about the work of Christian Aid. You can find out about all of Christian Aid's current fundraising, campaigning, and prayer requests at their website, here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Food for the Vulnerably housed in Exeter

Working through St Petrock's we are providing 16 packed suppers each week for people who are in transitional accommodation at the Crescent. Thank you to the small team which has convened to buy and make them. We don't need any additional support at the moment as there is a significant amount in our 'Soup Evening' kitty which can fund this for the time being.

Visit of Archdeacon for a consultation about the future patterns of ministry in Exeter City Centre - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

We have had to change the date as Archdeacon Andrew Beane cannot now join us on 16th October. The new date is **Saturday 6 November from 10am to 12 noon**. It would be good to have as many people as possible from both churches at that meeting when Andrew will outline possibilities for the future organisation of ministry in Exeter city and listen to our hopes and plans.

In preparation for this Belinda is leading a study group based on the book 'A Future that's bigger than the past' (https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07YNTLDKB/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1) as we think and discern what God is calling us to for the next 5 years.

If you are interested in joining in the conversation please do email her directly at bspeedandrews@gmail.com The date for the next meeting at 7.30pm is: Thursday 14 October,

Alpha at Thrive

We had a pretty full session last Sunday at 4pm on Zoom, and do check out the video we used for discussion if you missed it:

<https://youtu.be/hBMMD5C0k-s>

This week, we'll be looking at the evidence base for some of Christianity's claims about Jesus, and would love you to join us - with or without friends! - via the usual link.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 30th October at 10am at the Farmers' Union. Please contact Nigel if you would like to be on a mailing list reminder for this.

Shoe Boxes for Moldova (advanced notice)

We will be sending Christmas Boxes to Moldova again this year. Things are extremely difficult there at the moment, and anything we can do to brighten life is greatly appreciated. The boxes need to be ready for collection from the church by **Sunday November 21st**. All being well, Hugh Skudder from Christian Response to Eastern Europe, will be with us for the morning service on that day. Any questions, please speak to Ann Watts .

Coffee after Church

As long as the Covid situation remains stable we are hoping to reinstate refreshments after church before too long. At St David's we would like to start

coffee after church in November. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered. We would still like a few more volunteers to help spread the load. If you would be willing to help with this ministry of hospitality please contact Jenny Baker.

Piano free to good home

A good condition, compact, upright "Fazer" piano – is free to a good home (subject to cost of transport from Pewsey) - please contact Robert Mitchell.

Parent and Toddler Group

We are looking at the possibility of setting up a weekly drop-in session at St Michael's Church for parents and toddlers associated with St David's School. If you could help regularly or on a more occasional basis please have a word with Ash. It would be great to open up St Michael's and welcome families associated with our parish school. Thank you for considering this.

Help with Churchwarden tasks

Often Churchwardens pick up tasks which could be done by others. We have already had some kind offers but there are a number of jobs which we will advertise in the coming weeks.

Would you be willing to help with one of these, please, even if you can't do every week?

Opening and closing the church on Sunday (weekly)

Clearing up (if needed) the churchyard on Sunday mornings before the service (equipment provided). Thank you!

Help with Stained Glass

The lovely stained glass panels in the south transept are usually changed with the season and John Wakley would like to instruct a few people on how to change them round safely. Please have a word with Nigel if you'd be willing to learn.

Hospiscare 'Marathon in a month' challenge

Roger and Hilary have taken up the Hospiscare 'Marathon in a Month' challenge – which we will walk! We hope to complete more than one as we are endeavouring to walk every day, and would very much appreciate your support in this venture. If you would like to sponsor us, Team Todber has a Justgiving page at: www.justgiving.com/Margaret-Hilary-Todd. Wish us luck!

Green Team

Thank you to those who have filled in the Survey on sustainable forms of transport. The results are now published and displayed on a board at the back of St David's Church.

Exeter Wildlife Gardening Award

Could you contribute to biodiversity in Exeter by taking part in this award? There are many simple things we can do to give nature a better foothold in our city. Why not have a look at the award and see if you can adapt your garden?

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/take-action/garden-wildlife/exeter-wildlife-gardening-award>

A Thank You from Ash, Deborah and Alfred

Thank you so much everyone for your generosity and love. My stole is perfect. It's my favourite colour, and the design is exactly what I wanted. I can't thank you enough. I will wear it with great joy and gratitude. And thank you for the other gifts which Deborah, Alfred and I have received: book vouchers (some of which I have already spent!) to drinks (some of which we have already toasted you with!), and more. We're grateful and are treasuring being part of such a warm and caring church family. Thank you thank you thank you!

Parish Magazine – New Leaves

The magazine for October is now available for collection and distribution. Thank you to our dedicated magazine team for their hard work.

Phone Networks

If you would like to be phoned by someone from the church community or would just like to talk, please let Nigel know at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com or by ringing him on 01392 660226 or Ash on 07855305519.

St Michael's services and prayers

If you would like to access the service details and prayer list for St Michael's please contact Oliver Nicholson at virtualsaintmichaels@gmail.com and he can add you to that weekly mailing.

Your Prayers are asked for...

Please remember those who have died recently including:

Ian Watt

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Exeter Prison, the prisoners and officers. The Prison chaplaincy including chaplains Leon Dundas and Val Atkinson.

Please also pray for:

women and girls feeling unsafe on our streets;

our police service giving thanks for all good and caring officers;

the people of Afghanistan, especially girls being denied their right to schooling;

the humane and generous treatment of migrants and refugees arriving in this country;

those worried about the rising costs of energy and housing in this country;

the worldwide Covid vaccination programme, giving thanks for all those who have enabled a rapid roll-out in this country;

those working in care homes, hospitals and hospices;

those suffering from Covid around the world;

those working towards a more sustainable future;

the forthcoming COP26 conference.

With every blessing,

Nigel Guthrie

Prayers and Readings for Trinity 19, 10 October 2021

Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you
we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
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.

First Reading – Hebrews 4: 12-end

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Gospel Reading – Mark 10: 17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.”’ He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’

Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

Address for 10 October by Bill Pattinson

One of the many wonderful memories I have of our pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2008 was a camel ride. I wrote in my diary:

“Nigel and I had a camel ride, Nigel in front myself behind. I was given a keffiyeh, the Arabian head ware, to present that real Lawrence of Arabia look. What fun! A camel ride, quite scary, you’re so high up and this on the Mount of Olives, the Kidron valley below and Jerusalem beyond.”

I recall this memory because, even as a small boy, I was and still am fascinated by Jesus’ saying, which we heard in this morning’s gospel, that, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God.” As a boy I thought, “Well it’s impossible for a camel to go through the eye of a needle because even if you got the head and neck through, there’s that big hump to overcome, and, of course, if it’s a Bactrian camel, there are two humps.”

There have been various attempts to soften the demands of this statement, which the disciples found perplexing and which for many of us today is both disturbing and shocking. A huge majority of people in the UK are in the richest 1% in the world. The first thought is that the Aramaic word for a camel, kamelon, is very similar to that of rope, kamilon. Perhaps an error in translation then. A more imaginative thought is that there is a gate in some city walls, called the “eye of the needle”, where camels would be released from the burdens they were carrying, and if they bent their knees, might just manage to get through. A third thought refers us to the version of this story in the King James Bible, where Jesus says, “Children, how hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter the Kingdom of God.” So what exactly is Jesus saying in this morning’s Gospel Reading about wealth in the context of our faith and in our hope of eternal life?

Prior to the rich man approaching Jesus with his question, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”, Jesus had just blessed the little children with the words, “whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” Here we have a man, who Mark says has “many possessions”, who Matthew calls young and who Luke calls a ruler, indeed a rich, young ruler - think of someone like today’s Chancellor of the Exchequer. This is in complete contrast to a little child. He genuinely shows respect to Jesus and asks his question with no guile, unlike the Pharisees before him. It is ironic that he asks about eternal life to Jesus who is just beginning his journey to Jerusalem and to his death. His shock and grieving that

Jesus tells him to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven; then come, follow me”, reveals a great weakness in the man. It is not that he is rich, it is that he loves money, wealth, riches much more than he loves God. Jesus is saying, “Don’t make money an idol. Love and give. Remember the poor. Put God first.”

Now if we are honest with ourselves, all these aspects of what it means to follow Jesus rankle our deeply grained instincts towards security and self-preservation. Love of money is a great temptation. We enjoy having it and spending it. I’ve just bought myself a new car which I’m picking up on Thursday - can’t wait! I remember seeing “Cabaret” at the Donmar Warehouse when the then young Alan Cummings, playing EmCee, hypnotically sang:

“Money makes the world go around, the world go around, the world go around.
Money makes the world go around, it makes the world go round...”

Jesus was asking this particular rich man to sacrifice all his material possessions to meet his particular spiritual needs. Something was missing in his life. But as much as he wanted to go to Heaven, it appears his wealth was more important to him. No wonder the disciples were perplexed. Jesus hadn’t asked Simon and Andrew to give up their house in Capernaum; nor Mary and Martha to sell theirs. There’s no record of Jesus asking his fishermen disciples to sell their boats. The rich young ruler, whom Jesus loved, was seduced by the wealth he had, trusting in his possessions rather than God. God’s Grace is the only way to eternal life, based on how much we have loved God and others.

We are all given different gifts by God so that we may flourish and live our lives to the full. What we do with our gifts is vital. The Psalm appointed for today is Psalm 90. Verse 12 of this psalm reads:

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.”

One day we will die, for sure, but we are not dead yet, so there’s a lot of life to be lived. However no amount of wealth, pleasure, celebrity or any other goods of this world removes the sure reality of death. “For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”

We must indeed engage with life fully in order to inherit eternal life. How do we do that? By loving. By sharing life here and now with others in love and by putting the love of God in our lives first. We can be assured of the greatness of God’s loving. All

are welcome in his Kingdom, rich and poor. So what do we do with the days that are left? We keep loving and giving. As the final verse of our reading from Hebrews, which Emma read this morning says:

“Let us therefore approach the throne of Grace with boldness so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Closing Prayer

Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Do join us next week for our services in church and online!

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