

St David with St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter

Newsletter for Trinity Sunday, 12 June 2022

Dear Friends,

Welcome to worship on Trinity Sunday which marks a turning point in the church year as we leave Eastertide behind and embark on the weeks of Trinity often called 'ordinary time'.

But Trinity Sunday itself gives us a special opportunity to reflect on the nature of God whose nature is love. The doctrine of the Trinity reveals that the God in whom Christians trust is not one solitary being but three person in one God, bound together by love, and overflowing with love in creation and salvation. We are invited to become part of that loving communion in our faith and worship.

Please note that St Michael's committee agreed to move Wednesday Mattins and Mass half an hour later to accommodate the 'Tea and Toast' initiative, which is proving to be a good gathering space for school families. Mattins will start at 10am and Mass at 10.30 for a trial period until the end of this term.

We are now offering the chalice again at both of our churches from this Sunday. At St David's there will be two standing chalice bearers on either side of the celebrant who is distributing the bread. At St Michael's we will return to offering the bread and wine at the high altar. Please note that no one is **expected** to receive from the chalice, but it is there for those who wish to do so. As always, the fulness of Holy Communion can be received in one kind only.

Corpus Christi will be celebrated this week with Sung Mass and procession on Thursday 16th at St Michael's Church at 7.30pm.

Face coverings in church are now voluntary in church, as elsewhere and sanitizer will be available if desired. At St David's we will keep fully spaced seating on the south side of church at the back but the space near the kitchen will now be cleared of chairs on Sunday. We will be reviewing other matters like the sharing of the peace in the coming weeks and please make your views known to any of your PCC representatives. And, of course, please be patient, kind 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 at St David's with celebrant, Nigel Guthrie and preacher, Jonathan Draper (live-streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page)
11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher, Nigel Guthrie

4pm Thrive at St David's Church with Ash Leighton Plom, also on St David's Church Facebook Page.

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church led by Nigel Guthrie

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 14 June 9.30 – 9.55am Morning Prayer on Zoom. Please join us on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09>
Meeting ID: 660 226 1392 Passcode: 196651

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

Wednesday 15 June, 10am Mattins and 10.30am Mass

Thursday 16 June, Corpus Christi, Richard, Bishop of Chichester 1253, 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church

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

7.30pm Sung Mass with Procession at St Michael's Church

Friday 17 June, 9.30am Morning Prayer in St David's Lady Chapel (live streamed on St David's Church Facebook page)

Sunday 19 June – Trinity 1

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

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

4pm Thrive at St David's Church with Ash Leighton Plom – Living and Telling Course

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church led by Robert Mitchell

Prayer after Church

If you would be willing to pray with others after the 9.30am service at St David's please have a word with Ash Leighton Plom. This role requires some pastoral and safeguarding training unless you are already a pastoral visitor.

'Living and Telling' at Thrive

Living & Telling will be running at Thrive on Sundays at 4pm from 22nd May - 31st July at St David's Church. Join acclaimed speakers including Sarah Yardley (Creationfest), Paul Friend (SWYM) and Tim Moyler (Agapé UK) for Living & Telling. The course will encourage and inspire you to help people discover Jesus through every day life. It is for every Christian, whether you are already confident or are reticent to talk about faith, whether you're 16 or 116! It is ecumenical, theologically robust and intensely practical. It will help you be faithful to Jesus, living his commandment to tell others about him and to make new disciples.

Concert for Ukrainian musicians

Thank you to everyone who supported the concert this week.

Adult Confirmation Group

Ash is running a youth Alpha confirmation group but if there are other adults who would like to be confirmed then Nigel would be happy to run a short course for them. Please have a word with Nigel if you would be interested in learning more about the Christian faith and what confirmation means.

Parish Fête – Saturday 25 June 11.30am -2pm

The date of the Fête approaches. Please collect some draw tickets to sell from church. We will greatly appreciate donations of plants, jams, chutneys and cakes to sell on the day. A list is on the welcome table in St David's Church for you to offer help, if you can, with stalls or refreshments and with setting up and clearing away. We also now have posters and handbills for distribution. Many thanks for your help!

Special Request – would anyone with an estate car or van be able to collect some folding tables from St Michael's on late Friday afternoon 24th and take them back after the Fête, please? Thank you!

Knit and Natter

We will meet on Saturday 18th June from 10.30am until 12noon. All are welcome to knit, natter or learn! Tea and coffee available.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be going on tour around three venues! Our next breakfast will be on June 18th (the fête is on 25th) at 10am at the Farmer's Union. Please contact Nigel if you would like to be on a mailing list reminder for this.

Christian Aid Week

We have received a thank you letter from Christian Aid about our collections for Christian Aid Week. The gist of the letter is as follows:

"Thank you for your generous gift of £482.50. With your gift this Christian Aid Week, you're helping families around the world to transform their own lives. Thank you for showing the love of God to our vulnerable neighbours around the world. Your life-changing gifts will help many more people to live full lives, free from hunger." The full letter is on the noticeboard.

Meeting with Archdeacon Andrew Beane

Andrew has now written to the PCC inviting us all to a meeting at St Michael's Church on Wednesday 20 July at 7.30pm. He will speak about the possible ways forward following his proposals last autumn and subsequent survey of views of the St Michael's Church Community. Please do come if you can to join in this important consultation.

Iris Sutton – Funeral Tuesday 28th June, 10.30am

Members of St David's Church will be very sorry to hear of the death of Iris Sutton last week just a few days after her 90th birthday. Iris played a great part in our church community and, with her keen interest in history, acted as our church archivist. If you would like to make a cake for after the service or help to serve out refreshments, please have word with Glynis.

Prayer walking and leafletting

As some of you know, Ash and a growing team of volunteers combine prayer walking the city around our churches with leafletting through doors to promote our services, events, and ministries. If you can join this work, whether to grow in prayer, fitness, or confidence sharing about church, please get in touch with Ash on aescleal@gmail.com or 07855 305519

Welcome Course online – welcoming those released from prison into our churches

Over 6000 people, who actively practice a religion / faith in prison, are released each year but do not go on to join a Faith Community. This three-session course will help

your faith community safely welcome and support them. If your Faith Community doesn't have previous experience of working with prison leavers, or similar work, completing this course will give your Faith Community the eligibility to be listed in The Welcome Directory. This Directory is used by Prison Chaplains to provide information to prison-leavers about what Faith Communities will welcome them after their release.

Run over three consecutive Thursdays: **9th, 16th and 23rd June 2022, 7.30pm-9pm.**
Please contact Deborah Leighton Plom if you are interested on d.leightonplom@gmail.com

Outline and Aims of the Course:

Session 1 (9th June): Exploring the themes, ideas and information surrounding prison, imprisonment and release. This will increase your understanding of issues faced by prison-leavers, such as the consequences of a custodial sentence, and the difference that your support can make.

Session 2 (16th June): Meeting members of faith communities who have experience of worshipping inside prison. These first-hand stories will provide you with practical ideas about how you can get to know prison leavers who attend your faith community and work constructively with them.

Session 3 (23rd June): Exploring what faith communities can do to aid the rehabilitation of prison-leavers, along with considering issues such as safeguarding.

NOTE: You will need access to Microsoft Teams to access this training.

Begin Well Antenatal

The Right Reverend Jackie Searle, The Bishop of Crediton, invites you to help launch our Begin Well antenatal classes. Begin Well is a charity which works with churches to provide antenatal classes. Its evidence-based course is hosted and run by local churches and offers parents-to-be the starting blocks for family life. There are currently six churches running Begin Well in Devon. If you would like to help us offer this, please get in touch with Ash (07855305519, aescleal@gmail.com). Begin Well offer excellent training, course materials, policies, procedures, booking systems and ongoing support throughout.

St David's Church opening times

After many years of general closure we are re-establishing regular opening times for St David's Church, usually having the church open from 9.30am to 5pm from Monday to Friday. So please do pop in if you are passing to pause and pray and to greet any visitors.

Tuesday Friendship Café

Please let your local friends know that we are open on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am to 12noon as a drop-in for people to find a Christian welcome and company. There are flyers available for you to take as invitations.

Thank you to those who have already offered to help or to bake cakes. There is a rota at the back of church to sign up for the rest of June when you can help. And do just come along if you would like to and help us to welcome any visitors who come into church!

Tea and Toast at St Michael's Church

Tea and toast will usually be available at St Michael's Church from 9-10am on Wednesdays this term.

New Leaves – May Edition

The June edition of our Parish Magazine is now available in our churches. Thank you to our contributors and to our editorial team for their hard work. Please collect your copy and share with any friends who might be interested in our churches.

Green Team

Forthcoming local events and links

- Exeter Respect Festival's 25th Anniversary Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June in Belmont Park. This year's theme is Environmental Justice. <https://exeter-respect.org> Exeter Churches Green Network are running a stall and need volunteers for two hour slots. Please contact Sue Wilson if you are able to help.
- Churches Count on Nature 4th-12th June. This is a nature count run jointly by A Rocha UK, Caring for God's Acre, The Church of England and The Church in Wales, and includes free webinars. <https://arocha.org.uk/event/churches-count-on-nature-2022/>
- Exeter Community Alliance have been given charity status and are looking to set up a Climate Emergency Centre in an empty shop/property in Exeter. They are always looking for member organisations as well as individual volunteers who might want to help get this project off the ground. If you know of anyone who would be interested or know of suitable properties please get in touch with them <https://exetercommunityalliance.net/>.

Phone Network and Home Communion

If you would like to be phoned by someone from the church community or know someone who would appreciate Communion at home, 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...

those who are suffering including:

Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Maggs Bedford; Andrew Francis; James Ibbetson, Liz Rimmington; Anne Smith; Grace Tointon; Mary Tout; Charlotte Townsend; Pam Smith; Bessie Wilkins; Caroline, Cliff and Stephen, Andy, Avis, Becky, Kate, Ursula

Please remember those who have died recently including:

Jane Woodman, Jane Baker, Iris Sutton

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** The Co-op shop and all shop workers in our parish

Please also pray for:

the people of Ukraine and all those injured, bereaved and made homeless by the invasion;
refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan, and our response to their needs;
those suffering in Afghanistan through lack of food and medical facilities and the young women being denied education;
those being most impacted by climate change;
purposeful follow-up from the COP26 conference;
the children's alpha course on Tuesdays and our links with student societies;
those being severely impacted by rising costs of living in this country;
Exeter Food Bank and those providing help for people living in hardship;
those in the NHS trying to reduce the backlog of operations;
those suffering from Covid and long-Covid around the world.

With every blessing,
Nigel Guthrie

Prayers, Readings and Address for Pentecost, 12 June 2022
Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:

keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
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.

First Reading – Proverbs 8: 1-14 & 22-31

Thus says the wisdom of God:

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates
in front of the town,

at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

‘To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth,

when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world’s first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of
the deep, when he made firm the skies above,

when he established the fountains of the deep,

when he assigned to the sea its limit,

so that the waters might not transgress his command,

when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

then I was beside him, like a master worker;

and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Gospel - John 16: 12-15

Jesus said to his disciples ‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Address by Nigel Guthrie for 12th June 2022 (at St Michael's Church)

Would you mind holding your hand up if you own a computer, tablet or smart phone, please?

Now could I ask you to keep your hand up if you find it useful (when it works)?

Please leave your hand up if you would say you have come to rely on it?

And could I now ask you to leave your hand up if you understand how it works and could give a reasonable description of the electronics and the operating system which makes it work?.....OK – I thought that might be the case!

It is tempting to say that because we don't fully understand God we can't really trust him or rely on him. But the modern world should perhaps make us rethink. Its not just computers that we use, and even rely on, without fully understanding them. What about the car that brought you here? Even if we understand the internal combustion engine, or the electric motor, the chances of us knowing how the modern control systems in a car work are slim, unless we work in that field.

We often trust our life to a car. And if we use internet banking we entrust our money to security systems that we don't fully understand. What leads us to put our trust in these things? I suppose it is because we have found them reliable enough in the past. We need the services which they provide and we are prepared to take a leap of faith and use them.

On Trinity Sunday we are reminded us that God is a mystery we can only partly understand. But I don't believe that our partial understanding should be a barrier to us trusting and indeed relying on God and on the grace which God supplies.

Today's collect uses the words 'glory, eternal and divine' to describe God. Other faiths also use such words because they point to God who is above and beyond our understanding and experience; a God whose power is so great, and so far outside our experience that we cannot fully grasp it; a power so great that the wonders of the world and of the whole universe are a mere reflection of it. The people of the Old Testament believed that a person could not look on the face of God and live; but that all changed with the birth of Jesus. People could look on the face of Jesus and not only live but also see that God's nature could be expressed in a human life. People could see that God cared for the hungry, the sick and lonely and outcast. In

fact they could see that God cared for everybody, and that he cared so much that he didn't just help them but was prepared to lay down his life for them.

We can understand that sort of love. It is the sort of love and sacrifice which other people have made, like those who have given up their lives to fight for what they believed to be right; like those who have given up their food to feed to feed others; like those who give up their time to care for others; like those who have cared for us and loved us.

The highest levels of love and sacrifice, shown by the bravest and most selfless of people are always inspiring. But for such love to be shown by God is truly awe inspiring because God was not obliged by circumstances to do this for the preservation of his human family. God did this out of pure love for us. And in giving up his life Jesus revealed the true nature of God, as pure love.

When the Church uses the clunky but ancient language of three persons in one God we acknowledge that what we seek to express about God is not easily conveyed in human words. But this language is trying to point to the truth that the different persons of God's being, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit are bound by a love so strong that nothing can in heaven or earth can break it. So, Jesus can say in John chapter 16 'All that the Father has is mine.' But what Jesus also makes clear in St John's Gospel is that what he shares with the Father he also shares with those who belong to him. We read in John chapter 17 'All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.' And in today's gospel from John 16 we read that the Spirit of truth will guide us into all truth because he will not speak on his own. In other words the Spirit can only teach the truth and love of the Father and the Son. The three are joined in the perfect unity of love so that there is only one will and purpose. Not even the closest human relationship comes close to this.

When we put our trust in Jesus we share in the Father's love for the Son and the Spirit. In short we enter the divine circle of love. In the First letter of John we read these remarkable words: 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them'. But later in chapter four he also makes clear what it means in practical terms to live in God's love: "Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also."

This is where the doctrine of the Trinity really bites. Can we love those wonderful, infuriating and sometimes downright difficult people that God has made our brothers and sisters? If not then we probably can't say with conviction that we love God.

Trinity Sunday is a celebration of the glorious but unfathomable nature of God. But it also sets us off on a great challenge which is to love, as best we can, those around us in our families, our communities and our churches. As we seek to do that may we find joy, forgiveness and grace and strengthen our trust in the great and mysterious one who made us and loves us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever. Amen.

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