

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

Newsletter for 13 June 2021 – Trinity 2

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our newsletter for the second Sunday after Trinity. Today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ian Cartwright's licensing as a Reader. Ian reflects on the God who sees what is good in us and calls us to his service.

Our services today are:

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

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

4pm Thrive: Jesus and boundaries

This session of Thrive, led by Christian counsellor and psychotherapist Carys Puleston will explore the tension of maintaining healthy boundaries as a Christian: how do we balance being a 'cheerful giver' without burning out? As ever, whether you're already a regular or have never been before, we'd love to welcome you and look forward to you joining us at Thrive.

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

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289

Passcode: 159821

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 15 June, 9.30am Zoom Morning Prayer. 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?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en_GB&gl=US).

Wednesday 16 June, 9.30am at St Michael's Mattins followed by 10am Mass in church (also live streamed on St Michael's Facebook page)

Thursday 17 June, 10.30 Holy Communion at St David's Church

Friday 18 June, St Barnabas the Apostle, 9.30am, Morning Prayer, on St David's Facebook Page

Sunday 20 June – Trinity 3

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's with celebrant, Nigel Guthrie and presentation from The Rev. Val Atkinson, acting chaplain at Exeter Prison

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

4pm Thrive

Whether you're already a regular or have never been before, we'd love to welcome you and look forward to you joining us at Thrive.

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Covid-19 Safe for Public Worship

Please avoid touching door handles – Thank you.

Hand sanitizer must be used 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. Seating is also marked by white labels at St Michael's.

Services should be 'no longer than necessary'; and congregational singing is still not permitted indoors.

Toilet facilities will be available and please follow the instructions for use.

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.

Living in Love and Faith – last meeting this Tuesday

The Tuesday afternoon group is meeting this week to continue exploring and discussing these resources from the Church of England which are billed as ‘Christian Teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage’.

The group starts at 2pm and 15th June will be the final session. The study course is based on videos which include personal stories and there is time for discussion and sharing of thoughts and feelings about the topics. Each session should last 90 minutes. Please let me know if you would like to join on nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com

This is a very significant consultation for the Church of England and all those taking part will be invited to make their responses to the Church of England as the House of Bishops will be considering their approach to these matters during 2022. All the material can be found online by searching for ‘Living in Love and Faith’ and accessed free through the LLF learning hub.

Time for Quiet Reflection

Belinda will be leading times of corporate Silent Reflection on Friday 25th June, 9 and 23rd July and 6 August at 5.30pm in person and on Zoom. Please email her for further details and joining link at bspeedandrews@gmail.com

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)

Updating the church inventory which is now online (annual job)

Clearing the churchyard on Sunday mornings before the service (equipment provided).

Thank you!

Keep the Fête Date – 17 July!

We are planning a Parish Fête for Saturday 17 July from 11.30am to 2.30pm. It may not be on quite the usual scale but we hope it will be a wonderful parish and community event. It will include a fun dog show, thanks to the support of St David's

Vets. Offers of help and raffle prizes would be most welcome. Raffle tickets are now available from church so please do collect and sell them! There is also a sheet at the back of St David's Church where offers of help can be recorded.

The next 5 years - who are we and where are we going?

In the last year our whole world has been turned upside down by COVID. It has created in most of us emotions that we never knew we had and for some it has been a strange blessing. Whatever the impact on each of our individual lives it has within church communities challenged us to think about how we are a community. What does community mean for us here in our parish? What is our ethos? How are we to live God's kingdom now? Covid has opened the door for all of us to re-think and re-set what it is we say we are. I would like to encourage an open discussion about what the next 5 years could look like for our parish.

The bible verse I would like us to hold on to is from John 14: 12:

“Those who believe in me will do what I do - yes, they will do greater things”

Are we a blessing to the community around us?

Are our two churches places of encounter, or just places for those who belong?

In light of this I would like to bring together a group of 12 people from across the breadth of the community beginning at the end of May, to read through and discuss the book 'A Future that's bigger than the past'

(https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07YNTLDKB/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btcr=1)

as we begin to think and discern what God is calling us to for the next 5 years. This would of course mean a solid commitment to meet once a month for up to an hour and a half to discuss one chapter at a time, to pray together, to share openly and honestly about our life together as a parish and how we become a blessing to and receive gifts from the wider community.

If you are interested in joining in the conversation please do email me directly at bspeedandrews@gmail.com

The dates for meeting at 7.30pm are: Wednesday 23 June, Thursday 22 July, Thursday 26 August, Thursday 23 September and Thursday 14 October, before a parish meeting with Archdeacon Andrew Beane.

Traidcraft Stall & St Michael's Bountiful Table

We are delighted that our stalls are running again but please be careful to maintain social distancing and just approach the stalls one at a time. Thank you for your support.

The next Traidcraft Stall will be on Sunday 27th June. Please let Richard Featherstone know if you have anything you would like him to order.

Men's Breakfast

We plan to hold the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday June 26th at 9.30am. Venue to be confirmed.

Parish Magazine – New Leaves

Magazines for June are ready to collect. A big thank you to all contributors and to our editorial team!

Green Team

The Green Team are planning a morning focussed on the environment, with lunch of locally sourced food, for 11th September 2021. Please keep the date!

Cleaning at St Michael's Church

We will be holding a 'summer clean' on Saturday 3 July from 9.30-11.30am so please put the date in your diary and come along if you can to help. We hope to be able to provide refreshments (regulations permitting!).

Phone Networks

Many of you have appreciated phone calls from other members of the church community. If you would like to be phoned by someone and haven't had any contact, or would just like to talk, please let me know at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com or by ringing me on 01392 660226 or Ash on 07855305519.

Your Prayers are asked for...

Please remember those who have died recently including:

Roy Webber

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Montpelier Court Residents and John, the manager; our Living in Love and Faith meeting

Please also pray for:

the meeting of G7 leaders in Cornwall;

the people of Israel and the Palestinian Territories, giving thanks for the ceasefire and praying for reconciliation and a will to tackle underlying injustice;

the people of Ethiopia and especially Tigray Province facing conflict and famine;

those working to protect the environment and achieve a sustainable future;

the worldwide 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 - giving thanks for their commitment and courage;

those suffering from Covid around the world, especially in India and Latin America;

May God bless you and those you care for,

Nigel Guthrie

Prayers, Readings and Address for Trinity 2, 13 June 2021

Collect

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
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.

First Reading – 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Gospel Reading - Mark 4: 26-34

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the

smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Address by Ian Cartwright on the 50th anniversary of his Licensing at Canterbury Cathedral, for Sunday 13 June 2021

Thoughts from an Elderly Servant of God

My name is Samuel and I have lived through some amazing times in my long life.

There is, however, one especially significant occasion that I want to talk about this morning but, first, I think that you need to know a bit more about me and my role as Judge of the people of Israel following on from Judges like Jephthah, Samson and my predecessor and mentor, Eli. The role of Judge was to govern the people of my nation as a spiritual leader.

My mother's name was Hannah. She was desperate to have children but it seemed to be the case that this could not happen. She prayed fervently to God and she promised that she would dedicate any male child to the permanent service of God. Her prayers were miraculously answered and such is the nature of prayer that God heard her and answered her prayer. I have never underestimated the power of prayer and God's willingness to listen and answer prayer.

And so it was that my mother fulfilled her vow and, in her own words, lent me to be a servant of God for the rest of my life. This was to be my calling and I soon learnt how important it was to recognise my vocation to be a minister of the Lord. Being called by God to work for Him may be challenging but it is both a privilege and a responsibility. I have heeded my vocation and I have sought to be obedient to the will of God in pursuing it.

Very early on when I was still quite young and serving in the temple, I was blessed through hearing God speaking to me. I did not realise what was happening at first as such happenings were unusual at that time. The message that I was given to pass on to Eli, the High Priest, was not easy to convey. However, it did teach me that, while

it is important to pray to a God who hears us, it is equally vital to listen to God's voice as He has spoken to me through worship, prayer and reading and through being aware of His presence in all that I see and do.

I eventually succeeded Eli as Judge of my people. There were many problems and difficulties to contend with but God continued to guide me but as I got older and since my sons were, sadly, not fit to follow in my footsteps, a cry went up from the Elders of Israel that we should have a king to be our ruler to be like our surrounding nations all of which had kings who, particularly, could lead them out in battle. God encouraged me to explain to His people why such a move would create all sorts of problems for them but they did not heed these warnings and so it came to pass that God said to me that there could be a King of Israel. I was led to anoint Saul to be the first such king.

I very much regret that it was soon apparent that the Lord's warnings proved to be accurate. How important it is to follow in the way that God leads and not proceed with our own misguided plans.

Saul persisted in his faithless and disobedient ways and, in particular, sought to establish a reign of fear and terror throughout the land. And so it was that God lost patience with Saul and rejected him as king. The Lord then instructed me to go to Bethlehem to see Jesse. He was the grandson of Boaz and Ruth. I was sent as I was told by the Lord that He would point out one of Jesse's sons to be a new King of Israel. You can readily understand why the prospect of this mission filled me with great anxiety and trepidation. What would Saul make of such an assignment if he heard about it? Surely, knowing his reputation, he would kill me.

As ever, God gave me his guidance and provided a way in which I could safely make this journey to Bethlehem without incurring Saul's wrath. God can be relied upon to give guidance in difficult situations if He is asked.

I, therefore, set out on the road to Bethlehem to accomplish God's errand. This is the significant occasion that I referred to earlier. When I reached my destination, I was met by the elders of the city and they were just as worried as I had been about my visit. They were also aware of Saul's reign of cruelty and needed reassurance that I came peaceably. This I was able to give them. I then invited them together with Jesse and his sons to attend a sacrifice. There, God promised me that He would instruct me

as to what I should do and to anoint as king the son of Jesse that the Lord would indicate.

This is what indeed happened but in a way that I would never have contemplated. The first of his eight sons that Jesse introduced to me was the eldest, Eliab. I thought that he would be the obvious choice. He looked the part and was the first born son of the family. Why should he not be God's choice? Nonetheless, the Lord made it abundantly clear to me that Eliab was not the one chosen to be king and neither were any of the next six brothers who were brought before me. They were all rejected. You can understand how puzzled I was until I ascertained from Jesse that there was an eighth son, the baby of the family, who was not present as he was looking after his father's flocks. I asked that he be brought to me. This was young David. Jesse thought I would not need to see him but God thought differently as He instructed me to anoint him as the one who was to be the future King of Israel.

After the anointing ceremony, I was left pondering on the words that I had heard from God after being introduced to Eliab. His words were:-

“Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart”.

Now there can be no doubt that David was as physically attractive as his brothers if not more so as he was ruddy, had beautiful eyes and was handsome but in God's eyes there was something different about him that was very special and which I could not see. I could not see right inside him and know how attractive he was to God. David's heart set him apart from his brothers and only God knew that.

That was a salutary lesson for me and one which I have never forgotten. David's heart was so much more than the organ acting as a pump to drive blood through his body. It was the life giving force within him; the core of his existence; the source of his amazing courage. What drove him was the spirit dwelling within him; the spirit of friendship and encouragement; the veritable in-dwelling heart of his being. These are the characteristics that I have come to see in him for myself but above all else I have recognised his heart for the Lord.

God perceived what was special about David and, thankfully, He knows and loves what is special about each one of us too. Although He is the God from whom no

secrets can be hidden and who knows our innermost thoughts and intentions as well as what we say or do, He is also the God who can recognise, as he did with David, all that is good within us.

I, Samuel, can now feel that my work is complete and that there is a successor in place who can lead the people of Israel as God's chosen servant. David has been anointed with the Spirit of the Lord and will govern with the heart for our nation that God has so clearly recognised in him. Thanks be to God!

Closing Prayer

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

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