

St David's with St Michael's and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter Newsletter for Sunday 17 October 2021 – Trinity 20

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

Today at St David's we welcome Jeremy Theeten as our speaker to talk about the work and current projects of YMCA Exeter. We give thanks for the amazing ministry of our neighbours in St David's Hill.

Please note that our Parish Meeting with Archdeacon Andrew is now on Saturday 6th November from 10am to 12noon at St Michael's.

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 Morning Praise (non-eucharistic) (live streamed on St David's Church Exeter's Facebook Page) with leader Ash Leighton Plom and speaker Jeremy Theeten
11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher Nigel Guthrie

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

Alpha at Thrive is attracting new members, both from church and new people entirely. We'd love to see you at 4pm on Zoom. You don't have to have seen the earlier videos, but if you want, you can catch them here:

Session 1: <https://vimeo.com/184825483>

Session 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtTnSMNtE44>

This week:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685738289?pwd=WEh1dINCY3NRQTICcXFjK2ZlejR0UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289 Passcode: 159821

6pm Evening Prayer in St David's Lady Chapel led by Nigel Guthrie

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 19 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?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en_GB&gl=US)

Tuesday 19 October, 6pm, Sung Vespers at St Michael's

Wednesday 20 October, Edward, King and Confessor, 9.30am Mattins and 10 Mass at St Michael's

Thursday 21 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 22 October, 9.30 Morning Prayer at St David's Church (also live streamed on St David's Facebook Page)

Sunday 24 October – Last Sunday after Trinity

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

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

4pm Thrive on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289 Passcode: 159821

3pm Baptism with Nigel Guthrie

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.

St David's Brunch Sunday 31 October 2021

We are planning a brunch after the 9.30am service on 31 October. Do stay behind and join in if you are able and get to know someone new! If you can help by providing something for the brunch please have a word with Mollie Curry.

Harvest Gifts

Thank you to St David's School for bringing their Harvest Gifts to St Michael's Church for the Exeter Foodbank.

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 NEW 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. You can discover the plans for the Diocese of Exeter by googling 'Diocese of Exeter – Next Steps'.

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.

Thank you also to everyone who has sponsored a fruit tree for St David's Churchyard. These are being ordered and we hope to plant them on the morning of November 27th.

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, David Amess MP

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** World Mission week, Goodwill Village, International students

Please also pray for:

YMCA Exeter;

those helping to provide affordable homes in Exeter and Devon;

our Members of Parliament and those who work to keep them safe;

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

the people of Ethiopia facing severe food shortages due to the conflict.

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, Readings and address for Trinity 20, 17 October 2021 (at St Michael's Church)

Collect

God, the giver of life,

whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:

by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ

and make us eager to do your will,

that we may share with the whole creation

the joys of eternal life;

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 5: 1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’;

as he says also in another place,

‘You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.’

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Reading – Mark 10: 35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him,

‘Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.’ And he said to them,

‘What is it you want me to do for you?’ And they said to him, ‘Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?’ They replied, ‘We are able.’

Then Jesus said to them, ‘The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.’

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, ‘You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’

Address for 17 October by Nigel Guthrie

I'd like to start with some words that come immediately before the passage from Hebrews that we heard this morning, words from the end of chapter 4:

'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.'

Generally in life we like to look up to people who are admirable, people who treat others well, and excel at what they do. And when we are young we are particularly drawn to look up to those who show the characteristics which we most admire. They provide inspiration for us and we can learn much from them. But our tendency to look for a heroes also has its limitations. As we go through life often our image of such people gets tarnished, sometimes very badly tarnished.

This is hardly surprising as we all make mistakes. We are part of fallen humanity and our life is, on one level, a daily struggle against that. But as Christian people we know that we can and should confess our failings and that we are assured of God's forgiveness. And that is because there is one person who was not corrupted by the world. Jesus is not like the rest of us. As the Letter to the Hebrews tells us, Jesus was tested as we are; Jesus suffered as we do; but he was not corrupted. Instead, he was made perfect through suffering. The extraordinary letter to the Hebrews outlines for us exactly why it is Jesus and only Jesus who can bring eternal salvation to us. Jesus was the Son of the Most High God, and yet he was in no way protected from the hardships of this world. So he is able to sympathise with us, to understand our weaknesses, our feelings of failure and despair and our sheer ignorance. Jesus alone fully carries our humanity as well as carrying all the fullness of God, so that in his dying and rising he brings us the full assurance of forgiveness, opens the gates of heaven for us and in due course leads us through into the unveiled presence of God. This is the glorious picture painted in the Letter to the Hebrews for us.

Meanwhile continue in strange times. In some ways this autumn it feels as if life is beginning to return to normal and we are very grateful for that. But if you talk to anyone working in the NHS and to many people in other walks of life, you will know

that the effects of the pandemic are very much with us. Many leaders are feeling worn down. Many people are fearful about the rising cost of living. And we only have to look at the large numbers of people still being infected with Covid to realise that we have not yet left this worldwide pandemic behind.

And like many bodies the Church of England is trying, and struggling to find its way forward during this unprecedented time. Our own Diocese of Exeter is tackling this under the heading of 'Next Steps' and it is within that context that the Archdeacon of Exeter will be coming to visit our parish on Saturday, the 6th of November. The meeting will take place here in Saint Michaels Church for the whole parish at between 10 am and 12 noon. Do please make every effort to attend and be ready to listen but also to express what you value most here at Saint Michaels Church. The Diocese of Exeter is currently running at a loss of around £1 million a year and that is clearly not sustainable. But the Diocese does not want to close churches, indeed it doesn't save money by closing churches. But together we do need to discern the best ways in which resources should be used – particularly the resource of the stipendiary clergy. We are told that each stipendiary now costs £65,000 a year to employ and support. Just in case you're wondering we're not paid £65,000! The stipend is £26,000 the rest includes pensions and a share of diocesan support costs. But a quick sum shows that we would need to lose 15 clergy to make up the current deficit. So difficult decisions will have to be made.

But that isn't the greatest challenge for the Church of England. The greatest challenge lies in our local churches. This week at our St Michael's committee we learnt that our church secretary and treasurer are both going to be standing down in the coming months. We are most grateful to Vivien and to Paula for the outstanding jobs they have done for us in recent years. And we all realise that these none of these jobs should be a life sentence! But their departure means that we need to address the future of our church committee and we agreed to call a short congregational meeting on Sunday 21 November after Mass to discuss this and share our thoughts. So do please put that date in your diary too and keep this matter in your prayers because without the work and commitment of our church officers we can't function. Is this something that you might be able to help with, even as a job share?

Jesus came to share in the glory of heaven having first gone through the desolation of the betrayal, suffering and death. And he told his followers that they would have

to take up their cross to follow him. But the writer to the Hebrews encourages us to approach the throne of grace with boldness because of Jesus who has gone before us and in the knowledge that we are surrounded by the company of a whole cloud of witnesses. So, as we receive the body and blood of Christ today, in the form of the bread of the altar let us be assured of the loving presence of Christ with us so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Closing Prayer

God our Father,
whose Son, the light unfailing,
has come from heaven to deliver the world
 from the darkness of ignorance:
let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding
that we may know the way of life,
and walk in it without stumbling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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