

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

Newsletter for 20 June 2021 – Trinity 3

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our newsletter for the third Sunday after Trinity.

Our services today are:

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's (live streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page) with celebrant, Nigel Guthrie and preacher, Val Atkinson (acting chaplain at Exeter prison).

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

4pm Thrive: What makes a good father?

This week's Thrive will consider such questions as "What makes a good father?", looking at the ancient of wisdom of scripture as well as our own experiences, good and bad. We'll have time to identify what we can give thanks for, what we need to lament, and what we can we do going forwards, including what we can we do for one another. Do join us for this special session of Thrive.

Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289

Passcode: 159821

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 22 June, St Alban, 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 23 June, 9.30am at St Michael's Mattins followed by 10am Mass in church (also live streamed on St Michael's Facebook page)

Thursday 24 June, Birth of St John the Baptist, 10.30 Holy Communion at St David's Church

Friday 25 June, 9.30am, Morning Prayer, on St David's Facebook Page

Sunday 27 June – Trinity 3

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's with celebrant, Belinda Speed-Andrews and preacher, Jonathan Draper

11am Mass at St Michael's with celebrant Dominic Cyrus 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.

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.

Warning of fake messages

If you receive a text or email from a member of the clergy or church official asking for an unspecified favour please ignore it! But it would be useful to hear about it by another means ie not replying to the bogus message.

Exeter Prison

It is good to welcome the Rev Val Atkinson to preach at St David's Church this morning. Val has been acting Anglican chaplain at Exeter prison for some months over what has been a very challenging time.

There is a new Managing Chaplain at the prison Leon Dundas who would like to invite a member of the parish to attend the prison at 9.30am next Sunday to join in worship with 15-20 inmates and meet members of the chaplaincy team. This is a fascinating opportunity to learn about the prison and to support the chaplaincy there. Please let Deborah Leighton Plom know if you would like to go along – she assures me that no previous experience is needed!

Living in Love and Faith

Thank you to those who took part in our parish course. If you would be interested in this course and haven't yet done it please let one of the clergy know as we will consider setting up another opportunity to look at the material together. Our feedback to the House of Bishops is important as it may influence decision about how the teaching and practice of the Church of England will evolve. 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!

Fête Cancellation – but the Prize Draw is still on!

We are very disappointed to have to cancel the planned parish fête due to the government pushing back the end of Covid restrictions. It would have been too hard to run the fête in an open public space (the churchyard) with sufficient precautions in place. Thank you to everyone who had already volunteered to help. We just hope that we can hold it next year!

But we are still running the **Prize Draw** as we have a licence, prizes and have sold some tickets. So please buy some tickets and sell them to your family and friends if you can! We will have the church open from 1 -2pm on Saturday July 17th and make the draw publicly at the end of that time.

We also plan to open St David's Church from 11am -12noon on Saturdays during August. Please have a word with Glynis if you would be willing to help staff one of these occasions so that we can have the church open and perhaps have a small stall, too.

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.

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&btkr=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. Unfortunately due to continued Covid restrictions we can't book a large enough table to accommodate us so we will be on Zoom again. Please join us for a catch-up if you can on:

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

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392

Passcode: 196651

Parish Magazine – New Leaves

Magazines for June are available. 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!

Thank you to Adrian Hewitt who is taking the paper collection from St Michael's for recycling at the moment.

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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:

Brenda Marsden

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** The Coop in Queen Street and all shop workers;
Exeter Prison and the Chaplaincy there

Please also pray for:

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;

all fathers, grandfathers and positive male role models;

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;
those adjusting to the extension of restrictions in this country

May God bless you and those you care for,

Nigel Guthrie

Prayers, Readings and Address for Trinity 3, 20 June 2021

Collect

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
 whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
 to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
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 – Job 38: 1-11

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:
‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
Gird up your loins like a man,
 I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

 Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

 Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk,

 or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together

 and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

‘Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—

when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band,
and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors,
and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped"?

Gospel Reading - Mark 4: 35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

Address by Nigel Guthrie for St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, for Sunday 20 June 2021

I've only been to the Holy Land once, back in the mid 1990s. It was a trip organized for the curates of the Diocese of Derby. But they had a few extra spaces and as a new vicar in the diocese I was invited along. It was an intense and memorable experience. We heard about some of the realities of life for the mainly Arab Christian population. We also learned from the layered and complex history of the cities. But the scenes that have stuck in my mind most are of the areas away from the large towns - the River Jordan, the road to Jericho and the Sea of Galilee. I still think of these scenes when I hear the stories connected with these places. We all went out for a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee - and I'm glad to say that it was a lot calmer than the journey described in today's gospel reading!

But the Sea of Galilee is well known for sudden storms whipped up by the winds coming down from the eastern hills. And this is just one of the details that Mark includes in today's dramatic gospel account. He even mentions the cushion on which Jesus laid his head in the boat, one of the touches that help to make his gospel so vivid and realistic.

We know that Jesus had been tired out by the crowd because he asked to go over to the other side of the lake to get away from them. That reminds us of the humanity of Jesus; he got tired and fed up as we all do. It is also touching to hear of him sleeping

during the journey. But then he is woken by his disciples in a panic. “Teacher don’t you care we are going to die?”. Of course, Jesus did care, and with the authority of God he charged the sea to “be still”. And then he challenged the disciples over their lack of faith “Why are you afraid. Have you still no faith?” – although I can’t say I blame the disciples for their alarm when caught in such a storm! The result of Jesus’ calming of the storm was that they were filled with awe as they gained another insight into the divine nature of the man they knew as so well as teacher and friend.

For many of us this past year has felt like a very alarming storm. Unless we are old enough to have lived through the Second World War most of us in this country have never experienced such wholesale disruption to our lives. We have experienced many emotions as the pandemic has continued; fear and anxiety, as we see pictures of people suffering in hospital and learn the sheer scale of global infections; hope, as we learn of vaccinations being developed and as we receive them ourselves; frustration, as plans to return to normal ways of living are postponed. It’s been a real storm for us and we can be grateful that, even though the storm of Covid still rages in many places, calmer waters are now visible here. And like all storms this one will subside but will also have caused lasting damage. We think especially of those bereaved in the pandemic, those with long covid, and everyone who has been most affected economically, educationally and psychologically.

It’s good that we should share these concerns with God in our prayers just as the disciples called out in fear as the storm grew, and the boat tossed. “Teacher don’t you care that we are going to die”. God always hears our cry when we bring our prayers before him. But it’s also good that we should acknowledge the majesty and mystery of God. This storm of Covid has reminded us that we are vulnerable and not wholly in control of our own lives. That realisation is tough, but also necessary because as our technical control and domination of the environment has grown, so the harmful effects of our ruthless exploitation of the resources of our world have become ever more apparent. We are blessed to live in Devon where bad weather usually refers to wind and rain rather hurricane, drought and famine. But Covid and its variants are a strong reminder that we are subject to creation as well as influencing it. It is when we remember that that we will develop a healthy and sustainable relationship with it.

The storms in our lives can seem overwhelming, as the storm on the sea of Galilee did to the disciples of Jesus. They had to learn that there was one who was greater than the storm, one who cared about them even though he was asleep. They had to learn to trust and not to be afraid. We need to learn the same and when we face a

storm there are no words better than those of psalm 121 to make our own prayer to the God who never slumbers:

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

Thanks be to God for his care for us in this life and into eternity!

Closing Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear
until we may look upon you without fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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