

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

Newsletter for 21 June 2020

Dear Friends

Welcome to this weekly update for the first Sunday after Trinity.

Sunday Worship

Today we will have a Youtube recorded service which is available through this link:

<https://youtu.be/8L8VZmhtBTU>

Sarah Rimmington is reading the lesson and Charlotte Townsend is leading the prayers for us. The service includes an beautiful opening prayer by the Venerable Bede which has been set to music by Nigel Walsh who has put the service together for us.

Next week David James will be giving an address for our Youtube service.

Churches Opening for Private Prayer

We have now completed the risk assessments and our churchwardens and chapelwarden have organised rotas so that the churches can be stewarded during opening. This week (and hopefully in future weeks) opening times are:
St Michael and All Angels – Wednesday from 9.30-10.30am

St David – Thursday 9.30-10.30am

You will be very welcome to come and pray in church at these times and to light a candle. Please observe appropriate distancing from others and the one way systems through the churches. Please use the sanitisers provided on entering and leaving church and put an “I sat here” notice on your seat so that others don't sit in the same place. I am sorry that the toilet facilities will not be available at the moment. Thank you to our church members who have helped with this process and with cleaning and preparing our churches for re-opening to the public, it is much appreciated.

Live Daily Prayers

Please join us, if you can, for our streamed short prayer services during the week on our Facebook pages:

On 'St David's Church Exeter' page: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9am and Compline on Monday evening at 8pm.

On 'Friends of St Michael's' page: Wednesday Angelus and Mattins (BCP) at 9am.

Zoom Coffee

This Sunday we will hold a 'Zoom' coffee again at 10.30am for 40 minutes. We have been asked to extend this slightly but feel free to leave whenever you want to, of course. It has been lovely to see people from both our churches there. You don't need to have a Zoom account to join in – just click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86245394332?pwd=bEY0LzBlQ24ra0dCd3M2RWhtdmN5UT09>

Meeting ID: 862 4539 4332

Password: 196651

Once we have gathered and said hello we will break into virtual rooms so that we can chat more easily and then come back at the end to round up and say the Grace together. When you first 'arrive' you will have to wait for me to let you in. I hope to see you there!

Phone Networks

I know that 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 yet had any contact please let me know at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com

or by ringing me on 01392 660226. Thank you to everyone who is helping to keep our church communities together by your care and concern.

Fairtrade Orders

Richard Featherstone will be taking orders until 22nd June for Traidcraft goods which he will deliver on Sunday 28th. His address

is r.w.featherstone@gmail.com and his 'phone number is 01392 204945.

Biscuits and some chocolate bars are at half price this month. I hope you can help him to keep the Traidcraft brand alive.

Magazine

Today is the final day for material for the July Parish Magazine.

If you would like to contribute to future editions please send all articles as Word documents to newleavesnews@gmail.com or billpattinson136@gmail.com

Your Prayers are asked for...

Charles Argall, Roger Beer, Janine, Charles Speed-Andrews and Nick & Karen Speed-Andrews, Nicky Jarman and her husband Tim and their family, Jacqueline and her family, Joy and her family, Claude and Gillian Harbord, Elizabeth Hewitt, Grace Tointon, Pam Smith and her family, James and Katy Tyler, Andrew Wakley, Jill Wellbelove (recovering after receiving a pacemaker), Rosemary Willcox and Maurice Wright.

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer** we pray for the Co-op and all those working in retail in our parish. We give thanks for those who have produced, sold and delivered provided food during the pandemic.

Please also pray for:

Ash Leighton Plom and his family as they settled in to their new home
those suffering from the symptoms of Covid-19, and those who are feeling lonely or isolated;

those who are concerned about the future of their employment;

school staff managing teaching for pupils at home and at school and pupils returning to school, and those at home;

Exeter Food Bank and local food charities;

Simon Harrison and the whole chaplaincy team at RDE;

all those working in the NHS, Social Care and in our emergency services.

May God keep you in peace and good health, Nigel Guthrie

Order of Service for the Second Sunday after Trinity (service on Youtube)

Opening Prayer by Venerable Bede set to music by Nigel Walsh sung by the virtual St David's Choir

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

May your loving mercy come to us, O Lord,
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

O let your mercy come to me that I may live,
for your law is my delight:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The priest pronounces the absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

First Reading – Romans 6: 1b-11

Dying and Rising with Christ

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading- Matthew 10: 24-39

‘A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have

called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

Whom to Fear

‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

‘Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

Not Peace, but a Sword

‘Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

An Address by Bill Pattinson for Sunday 21 June 2020

I was quite excited to be preaching today, June 21st. So many connotations; the Summer solstice; the longest day and the start of summer; Father’s Day; thoughts of one of my favourite plays “Midsummer Night’s Dream”; so much, as they say, to get one’s teeth into. Then I read the Gospel for the day. Now that was a different story. Here was a disturbing text that jars our sensibilities,

because these startling words of Jesus do not immediately fit in with our understanding of Christ and his Kingdom.

First a very “Happy Father’s Day” to all you dads out there. I recall reading a Father’s Day card which read, “ Being a Father can be expensive, time-consuming, frustrating, confusing and emotionally draining. Actually it’s a bit like golf.” Now I can really relate to that, both as a father and a golfer....well I like to think I am. And the demands of being a father, and a mother I must add, have recently been particularly challenging. I take my hat off to all dads involved in home tutoring during lockdown, knowing quite well that it was probably mums that were much more active in that role. Well, if the demands of being a father, and a mother, at this time appear daunting, let’s take a closer look at the demands Jesus places on his disciples, and therefore in turn on us, as he sends them out on his mission to bring the Kingdom of Heaven nearer.

Two things stand out for me. Firstly when Jesus says, “ I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.” And his second statement, “For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.” Well, Jesus doesn’t pull any punches. He tells his disciples exactly what they are letting themselves into - he gives into them straight. It’s all or nothing. You’re either in or out. This doesn’t sound like the best manifesto for bringing about a new Kingdom. It’s surprising that some of the disciples didn’t just walk away, then and there, with a ‘Well, thank you very much, master, that’s not for me.’”

In the first statement the sword is a metaphor for conflict. Jesus’ sword is the cross, which creates division. Jesus is sending out his chosen twelve on a mission to make disciples of all nations. Being a disciple of Jesus can be costly.

It challenges those people who rule through violence, legitimised by the fear of death. Just as Jesus met a cruel death, so will many of his disciples, not just among the chosen twelve, but throughout history. The radical manifesto of Jesus will be realised through a message of love and healing, not fear and death. What is more this message should be “proclaimed from the housetops.” The flat roofs of those days made excellent platforms for preaching. The values of the Kingdom need to be clearly visible, celebrated in the light of the day - in modern parlance they are to be totally transparent. It won't be popular with those who rule in the dark, the bullies and liars, those who consider only their own position and success. But three times in this morning's Gospel Jesus says to his disciples, “Do not be afraid.” and the Gospel Reading finishes with those affirming words of Jesus, “those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German academic theologian who was executed at the hands of the Gestapo, declared:

“This affirmation is given by the one who has power over death, the Son of God, who goes to the cross and to resurrection, and takes those who are his with him.”

In Jesus' second statement he is not denying the importance of close family, nor the propriety of living in close harmony with them. He is saying however that when there is an important task to be done for the sake of the Kingdom, one's primary allegiance is your relationship with God. What is more, there may be a need to carry one's own cross, giving up self-interest and competing loyalties in order to be more Christ-like. Jesus wants no lukewarm disciples.

In the Epistle Reading this morning Paul informs the Romans that baptism is the way into discipleship of Christ, where we might walk in the newness of life; a life available to all that can change us; a life which requires us to take up our cross and follow him. The candidate for Baptism is signed with God's

sword, the cross, and we may frequently make the sign over ourselves, as a clear reminder that we are his disciples and follow in his way. At the end of the service of Baptism, the candidate is given a candle, representing the light of Christ, reminding us that he is the light of the world, and we are to proclaim the message of his Kingdom, the message of love and healing, openly and honestly.

In the present climate of Black lives matter it seems appropriate to finish with a quote from Martin Luther King from his book, "Where do we go from here?" I wonder what he would make of the present protests as a Christian preacher and disciple of Christ and as a non-violent protagonist of the Civil Rights movement in the 50's and 60's. These words were spoken in 1967. They are as relevant today as they were then.

"And I say to you, I have decided to stick to love. For I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems. And I'm going to talk about it everywhere I go. I know it isn't popular to talk about it in many circles today. I'm not talking about emotional bosh when I talk about love. I'm talking about a strong, demanding love. And I have seen too much hate and I say to myself that hate is too great a burden to bear. I have decided to love. If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love. And the beautiful thing is that we are moving against wrong when we do it, because John was right "God is love." He who hates does not know God, but he who has love has the key that unlocks the door to the meaning of ultimate reality."

A year later Martin Luther King was assassinated.

Bill Pattinson 15.06.2020

Closing Prayers

Eternal God,
the light of the minds that know you,
the joy of the hearts that love you,
and the strength of the wills that serve you:
grant us so to know you
that we may truly love you,
so to love you that we may truly serve you,
whose service is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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