

## St David's with St Michael's and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter Newsletter for Sunday 26 September 2021 – Trinity 17

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Today we host the ordination of priests at 3pm and on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September Ash will celebrate his first mass at St Michael's Church. We pray for all those being ordained as priest this weekend in Exeter Diocese.

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.

However congregational singing is back! At St David's where there is a larger congregation we are having a few shorter hymns. At St Michael's we can allow more singing.

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.

Remember: "space, face, grace"! Thank you for your consideration.

Our services today are:

9.30am Parish Communion (live streamed on St David's Church Exeter's Facebook Page) with celebrant, Belinda Speed-Andrews and preacher Howard Friend

11am Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher David Gunn-Johnson

3pm Ordination of Priests at St David's Church by the Bishop of Crediton with preacher Prebendary Kim Mathers (admission by prior arrangement only).

4pm Thrive - On Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289      Passcode: 159821

### **Services in church and online this week**

Tuesday 28 August, 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?](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en_GB&gl=US)

[id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en\\_GB&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en_GB&gl=US))

Wednesday 29 September, St Michael and All Angels, 9.30am Mattins

**7.30pm Sung Mass for Michaelmas** - First Mass for Ash Leighton Plom with preacher Revd Bernard Dishman and refreshments afterwards

Thursday 30 September, Jerome, Teacher 10.30 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 1 October, 9.30 Morning Prayer at St David's Church (also live streamed on St David's Facebook Page)

### **Sunday 3 October – Trinity 18**

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

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

4pm Thrive on Zoom

6pm Choral Evensong and Benediction at St Michael's

6pm Evening Prayer (said) at St David's

### **Covid-19 Safe for Public Worship**

Please avoid touching door handles – Thank you.

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. Seating is also marked by white labels at St Michael's.

Services should be 'no longer than necessary'; congregational singing is being re-introduced.

Toilet facilities are available. 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.***

### **Harvest Gifts at St Michael's**

As we celebrate Harvest at St Michael's on 3 October gifts for Exeter Foodbank are invited. The following items would be appreciated:

UHT milk semi-skimmed 1 litre, Fruit juice long life 1 litre

Pasta sauce, Instant coffee, tea bags (smaller packs)

Tinned meat, tuna, vegetables, potatoes & fruit

Noodle/pasta packs, Rice 500g, sugar

Sponge puddings, custard in cartons or tins

Jams and spreads, rice pudding, fruit squash, biscuits, toiletries

### **Harvest Gifts at St David's – Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection of goods for the larder at the Esther Community on St David's Hill. Also thank you to those who contributed money. We will be able to pass £105 on to the community.

### **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.

### **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!

### **Visit of Archdeacon for a consultation about the future patterns of ministry in Exeter City Centre**

Archdeacon Andrew Beane will be leading a parish meeting for us on the morning of **Saturday October 16th**. 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.

In preparation for this Belinda is leading a study group based on 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](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07YNTLDKB/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1)) as we think and discern what God is calling us to for the next 5 years.

**If you are interested in joining in the conversation please do email her directly at [bspeedandrews@gmail.com](mailto:bspeedandrews@gmail.com)** The date for the next meeting at 7.30pm is:

Thursday 14 October,

### **Pray for YMCA Exeter**

Join others to pray for the work of YMCA Exeter, their staff, and the residents and young people they support. Meet in person at St David's Church OR online via Zoom. Comment or message for the link. On the last Thursday of every month, 11.30am-12.30pm. THIS Thursday at 11.30am. Do join us if you can.

### **Men's Breakfast**

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> 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. But at St David's we will need to recruit some more volunteers for the rota. If you would be willing to help with this ministry of hospitality would you contact Jenny Baker, please?

### **Alpha Exeter**

In partnership with Christians Together Across Exeter, we are among many churches running an Alpha Course, exploring life's big questions and examining the foundations of Christian belief, in a zero pressure environment this term. Here's a video promo, with some minor celebrity appearances(!):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fViYK\\_Xb3Wg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fViYK_Xb3Wg)

Please do share this video with others, join in on the course and invite family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, to explore this course together.

Our team will lead sessions online on the Sundays at 4pm 'Thrive' Zoom slot, but you can engage online or onsite at other times and venues across the city.

Search [alphaexeter.org](http://alphaexeter.org) for more information.

### **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.

### **Traidcraft Stall**

The Traidcraft Stall is at St David's today.

### **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.

### **Green Event**

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard so make this a success, with organisation, setting up, the provision of stalls, activities and refreshments. There is now a display about the event on the boards at the back of St David's.

### **Fruit trees for the churchyard**

We are going to be working with the YMCA further to improve diversity and interest in the churchyard and we would like to raise money for a few more fruit trees, hopefully to plant this autumn. If you would like to donate a fruit tree for the churchyard would you make your offer to Clive Wilson please? We estimate that they will cost in the range of £20-£30 each. Thank you to those who have already donated. This appeal closes today so we can order and plant the trees this autumn.

### **Ordination of Ash Leighton Plom**

Ash will be ordained along with three other candidates by the Bishop of Crediton at 3pm. We have held a collection to buy a stole for Ash to celebrate his ordination and we will present this to him after his first communion on Michaelmas, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at St Michael's when we plan to provide drinks and cake after the service.

### **Parish Magazine – New Leaves**

Please submit your articles today for October's magazine. The team would be very pleased to receive articles of interest about the parish or churches, or your own spiritual journey.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

David Rabson

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** St Michael and All Angels Church, their committee, chapel warden and all who lead worship there, the Mental Health Recovery courses that run in the church

### **Please also pray for:**

the farmers of Devon, giving thanks for their work in producing food and enhancing the environment;

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

the humane and generous treatment of migrants and refugees arriving in this country;

those worried about the rising costs of living 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 and Readings for Trinity 17, 26 September 2021**

## **Collect**

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
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 – Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29**

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, ‘If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.’

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, ‘Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favour in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, “Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child”, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, “Give us meat to eat!” I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favour in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.’

So the Lord said to Moses, ‘Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.’

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.



Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!'

### **Gospel Reading – Mark 9: 38-41**

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.'

### **Address for 26 September by Howard Friend**

Numbers 11 v 4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Mark 9 v 38-41

Is he 'One of Us'? - Mrs Thatcher was reputed to have said - about someone she wasn't convinced was of her political persuasion.

Them and us – we do it all the time don't we

Categorise – put people into little boxes – usually so we can denigrate them.

Brexiteer

Remoaner

Nancy Milford and her aristocratic siblings had a secret lexicon a language of superiority. U and Non U Chimney piece U – Mantelpiece - Non U. (All very confusing for plebs like us – but then - that was the point)

Them and us - this tribalism because that's what it is - is very prevalent today - and it causes immense problems.

The most recent painful divide in this country was and is around Brexit. We've more or less got over the Roundhead / Cavalier divide – I think. However back in the summer of 2016 Brexit divided our family - as it did many others - and things got pretty heated - until Helen – our peacemaker - sent around a 'Bishop's Letter' pleading for family unity. It was a good one and it worked. The things that unite us being more important than the things that divide.

There's no Them and Us

That's more or less the message of both our Scripture readings this morning. Or to put it another way. Them - is really us.

Both John the disciple and Joshua, second in command to Moses, failed to recognise God's Holy Spirit working in unexpected people and perhaps for them in unexpected ways. And both were rebuked for their blinkered thinking.

For thinking - but - They're not 'One of Us'

Jesus - let's remind ourselves - went out of his way to include those who were unusual, on the outside of so called society:

The Woman at the well – highly unusual for a Jewish man to speak or have anything to do with a Samaritan woman

Matthew, invited to be a disciple – a Tax Collector, one the avaricious, hated turncoat agents of the occupying Romans

But – then - after all – he wasn't 'One of Us. Was he?

He became - one of us – and that, as we will see, is a major part of the solution to this problem of Them and Us. He, God's son, became One of Us.

But I haven't quite finished describing the problem because it's a big problem – this 'Them and Us'

And what better way to cut through our pretensions than with humour and perhaps a smidgen of satire – and who best to practise this art than John Cleese and the Two Ronnies?

You will remember perhaps that sketch on the English Class system with Cleese and the Ronnies lined up in height order Left to Right.

Cleese with his bowler says:

I'm Upper Class and I look down on them

Ronnie Barker continues:

I'm Middle Class and I look up to him but down on him.

And the tiny Ronnie Corbet concludes:

I'm Working Class – and I know my place!

What the new lady TUC General Secretary would have to say about that now I wouldn't like to guess.

Now - the particular Them and Us dysfunction I want to address this morning is the one within our own Anglican Communion. 'Faith rivalry' was what Moses and Jesus were addressing in their time and - rather worryingly - we certainly still need to address it today.

\*\*\*\*\* (NON) SPOILER ALERT \*\*\*\*\*

I've omitted the sketch for the newsletter on the basis that I want the element of surprise. So come, or watch tomorrow. If you can't - contact me and I'll send you the full script.

\*\*\*\*\*

There's the problem – OK exaggerated a little for effect.

Each little huddle thinks it's got God on its side and is not prepared to see God's Holy Spirit working in different ways elsewhere.

But God really – there's no way they're one of us

What's the solution:

Well a little humility goes a long way – doesn't it?

I've also noticed that as I've got older God seems to have got bigger – funny that.

What I mean by that is - I've learned to appreciate different expressions of God's spirit – looking for the authentic, the life of integrity – rather than a carbon copy of my own experience.

I should say for those of you who are younger, there's no reason you shouldn't learn this important lesson at your age. I think I was a slow learner!

And as some of you know. I started from what is often called a 'Low Base' – that is to say my wonderful grandmother was quite quite convinced that the Pope was the Antichrist.

Let me just throw in a dose of realism here. With reference to other branches of the Christian faith. We will not agree on everything. But we should concentrate on those things about which we do agree.

Finally:

And Theologically,

But briefly – you may be relieved to hear

We are all made in God's own image as the Creation story in Genesis outlines.

That should lead us to have a natural respect for difference and an understanding of our equality as fellow human beings

And to pick up an all important point I mentioned earlier

Didn't God become 'One of Us'

- Because he loves us – yes
- To restore our relationship with God – yes.
- But also to help us realise there's no Them and Us because
- Them is Us.
- 

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, we pray that your grace  
may always precede and follow us,  
and make us continually to be given to all good works;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

--

Prebendary Nigel Guthrie  
95 Howell Road

Exeter EX4 4LH

[nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com](mailto:nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com)