

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

Newsletter for 28 June 2020

Dear Friends

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

Sunday Worship

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

<https://youtu.be/rktry1T4xvA>

Hilary Todd is reading the lesson, David James is preaching and Graham Keitch is leading the prayers for us. Thank you to them and to Nigel Walsh for putting the service together.

Next week Howard Friend will be giving an address for our Youtube service.

Churches Opening for Individual Prayer

This week 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. Once we have the Bishops' guidance we will be able to plan how to re-open for services.

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. 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:

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392

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!

Thank you from our treasurers

A big thank you to every one of you for your continued financial support for both our churches at this challenging time. Thanks also to those who normally use weekly planned giving envelopes and have switched to giving through the bank. *Paula Lewis, Hon. Treasurer St Michael's & Geoff Crockett, Stewardship Officer St David's*

Virtual Choir

Nigel Walsh has been running a virtual choir based on St David's choir but not exclusive in its membership! You may well have enjoyed their online offerings in our Youtube services including 'O bless the Lord' in today's worship. If you would like to join in you would be most welcome. You just need some way to record yourself and to transfer the files to Nigel. Please contact Nigel at nigel@ncw.eclipse.co.uk if you would like to take part.

Accommodation needed

Samuel has been singing with St David's Choir for several months now and is a keen singer and keyboard player. He is currently based at the university and now his wife is coming to join him from Nigeria. Samuel needs larger accommodation than he has at present and if anyone knows of a small flat or similar that might be available for rent on this side of the city please let me know at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com

Welcome to Ash

This Wednesday Ash Leighton Plom is being licensed by the Bishop of Exeter so in next Sunday's service we will be welcoming Ash as Licensed Lay Minister. Please continue to pray for Ash, Deborah and Alfred as they settle into their new home.

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 or Ash on 07855 305519. Thank you to everyone who is helping to keep our church communities together by your care and concern.

Magazine

Our July magazine is now available on our websites. Once again our magazine team have produced a great edition! I have a few printed copies which I would be happy to post out if you are finding it hard to access the online magazine. If you would like one please let me know by phone or e-mail.

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, 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.

Roger Beer is grateful for our prayers after his accident a year ago.

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer** we pray for all places of worship within our parish and our Rural Dean, David Nixon.

Please also pray for:

the successful development of track and trace systems and a vaccine for Covid-19; those countries suffering most with the pandemic now

people who are concerned about the future of their jobs;

plans to support children during the school holidays;

Simon Harrison and the chaplaincy team at RDE;

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

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

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

Greeting

Welcome to worship in the parish of St David and St Michael, Exeter on this third Sunday after Trinity.

Today, in St Matthew' Gospel Jesus offers further teaching about what it means to follow him. Discipleship not only has deep spiritual and practical implications for our lives but also we become ambassadors for Christ in our world.

Opening Prayers

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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

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. Amen.

First Reading – Romans 6: 12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 10: 40-42

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

Address by David James for the Third Sunday after Trinity

Good morning. I hope today finds you in good shape and not too knocked about by the lockdown that we have all been living through since I last spoke to you.

It’s been an unprecedented and testing time and almost every one of us has had to find a new way of going about our daily lives. What changes have you had to make, I wonder? Has it been difficult or relatively straightforward for you?

Part of me has quite enjoyed the chance to sit and read without the usual punctuation of having to go somewhere or arrange something or another. I’ve realised on reflection that all the books I have been enjoying have been in some way or another about people’s lives and how they reveal character, and the ability to deal with the unexpected, difficult or even dangerous situations.

So when I read today’s gospel one little sentence stood out for me, when Jesus says, ‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.’ St Paul puts it another way; he says, quite simply, ‘we are ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5.20).’

The idea is simply that how we live, the kind of people we are, the convictions that shape our thoughts and actions proclaim - or betray - the one whom we represent in the world. Are we faithful ambassadors or do we betray the one we represent?

That's one of the reasons Paul is labouring so hard to explain to the Roman Christians in today's epistle what should shape their lives. We are about life, not death, he says. Sin leads to death but Christ is the source of our life. So speak and act accordingly.

Sometimes there are things that happen to us that knock us out of shape and it's unsettling and disorientating. Most often they are quite personal things - from a significant failure to achieve an ambition or goal of some kind to the sudden loss of a job, or a person, or one's health. In that way the Coronavirus pandemic has been unusual because it has hit virtually all of us at once, and at a stroke everything has altered. It's been a national, even international, distortion of everyday life. We've all been knocked out of shape.

At such times faith can hold us together and help re-shape us. It gives a framework for trying to understand what's happening to us and to the world. And so it helps us to know how to respond to it. Talking with other Christians about how to do that is an important way of growing in our own understanding of faith and helps us in a key task as Christians.

That's because the job of the Church is, I believe, to help people to find and to shape their life through faith in Jesus. He is, after all, the ultimate ambassador, as that sentence from today's gospel says. He comes from the Father and he and the Father are so completely identified with each other that they are in fact one. To have seen Jesus is to have seen the Father.

In our own time and in our own way we have to give our lives a Christ-like shape. If we can live in hope and not lose heart when things are difficult, then we can be a ray of hope and a source of encouragement to others.

Like Sir John Birch, for example, whose obituary I came across the other day. He became ambassador to Hungary in the late 1980s when communism was falling apart. He had to deal with Hungarian politicians and bureaucrats whose lives were disintegrating. All they had known as a way of life for decades was collapsing around them.

Birch didn't crow or belittle them but offered them a sympathetic ear and made them feel listened to. It secured their trust and their co-operation. He helped move them towards a new relationship with the rest of Europe and encouraged links with the EU. His policy derived from his character.

Years later, on that fateful day 9/11, he and a group of journalists were in Tirana, capital of Albania.

All of a sudden, as a result of the Twin Towers disaster, they found their flights were cancelled and their credit cards didn't work. The journalists began to panic and there was talk of hiring a speedboat to Italy. Nobody was sure how to pay for that, let alone for dinner that evening. At this point Birch calmly produced a heavy envelope from his pocket, stuffed with cash. 'In my day,' he said, 'ambassadors always made contingencies.'

Birch was shaped by his experience, like all of us, but also by his faith. He was brought up as a Quaker and it had a lasting effect on how he lived his life and the kind of person he was.

When our lives are knocked out of shape we are glad of those who can reassure us and show us new possibilities for living a meaningful life again. I think that is always part of our role as Christians and perhaps particularly so now.

'In this world,' said Jesus, 'you will have tribulation. But be of good courage, I have overcome the world.'

Closing Prayers

And now a closing prayer and blessing:

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.

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
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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