

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

Parish Newsletter for 15 September 2024 - 16th Sunday after Trinity

Our services this week:

Sunday 15 September 2024 - 16th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's Church with celebrant and preacher, Mike Clark, his first Sunday with us

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's church with celebrant and preacher, David Gunn-Johnson (with Banns)

6 pm Evening Prayer at St David's led by Robert Mitchell

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 17 September (Hildegard, abbess, visionary, 1179) 9.00-9.30 am Zoom Morning Prayer. Please join us using this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75330401184?pwd=MIUTonKQK9bgFKV6lpn9rMbQUdYl8H.1>

Meeting ID: 753 3040 1184

Passcode: 5RWhXs

We use this app for our prayers - details here or via a phone:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast>

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's Church (live-streamed via Facebook [facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter))

Thursday 19 September 10.30 Holy Communion at St David's

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's Church (live-streamed via Facebook [facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter))

Sunday 22 September 2024 - 17th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's Church with celebrant and preacher, Mike Clark, his first full Sunday with us, to be followed by cake and coffee.

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's church with celebrant and preacher, Sue Astbury

6 pm Evening Prayer at St David's led by Charlotte Townsend

Message from the Vicar and Churchwardens

1. This Sunday, Archdeacon Andrew was due to be with us again, but he found he has to be elsewhere, so Mike is covering his slot. However, rather than upset arrangements already made, we are still going to keep next Sunday, the 22nd, as Mike's first proper Sunday with us, with cake and coffee being served after the service by way of a hearty welcome from all of us. So do please stay for that next week!

2. Update on our parish - Our response to Sophie West's consultation documents was duly delivered by 9 September. All being well, the intention is that the Conventional District (CD) will come into being on Wednesday, 25 September, with the holding of the first APCM for St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, that evening, the creation of its own PCC and election of its Churchwardens. Mike will be the incumbent for the parish within which the CD sits, and arrangements for priestly and pastoral oversight are being worked on with Archdeacon Andrew. The new CD will then be celebrated at Michaelmas, the patronal festival, on Sunday, 29 September. Our thanks go to everyone who has been involved in making this all happen. There is a little way to go, but we are nearly there for the first stage of our parish re-organisation.

3. A reminder that parking restrictions start at 11 am – we gather parking wardens are being particularly attentive at the moment! They don't apply on the College side of Hele Road where there is a single yellow line that applies Mon-Sat only.

4. Early notice that our harvest festival will be on Sunday, 20 October – and we hope to be holding a parish supper on Friday, 18 October, further details to follow.

5. Covid - there's a lot of it about! So please, if you have cold-like symptoms/Covid, for the sake of your fellow parishioners, please do not come to church!

Visiting and home Communion

If you would like to be visited or phoned by someone from the church community, please let Howard Friend know by ringing him on 07733 739453; for Communion at home, either for yourself or

someone you know, please contact Ian Cartwright on 07813 795616.

Safeguarding

1. The team has been thinking about the importance of being aware of those among us who are especially vulnerable. It is not always obvious, and therefore do please ask permission to sit with members of the congregation, to talk with them and particularly to touch them in any way. Sometimes our need to offer comfort is not welcomed or can be misinterpreted.

2. Date for your diary: Tuesday, 8 October 2024 - There will be an in person Safeguarding training session at St David's church on Tuesday 8 October at 1.30pm. More information to follow.

3. Safeguarding Officer needed - Mary Kirkland, our long-serving Safeguarding Officer, would like to step down from the role and we therefore need a replacement. If you feel this is something for you, please come and speak with us.

Parish Lunch - Thursday, 26 September, 12 noon

Some 16 of us had a very pleasant parish lunch with our new vicar, Mike Clark, at the Imperial on 29 August following his licensing. The next parish lunch is likely to be on Thursday, 26 September, venue TBC. Do let Sue Wilson and Jenny Baker know if you would be interested in coming.

Priestly vestments – one conversation at lunch centred on what our priests (and altar party) wear, and how little we knew about the origins and significance of the various vestments. Would you be interested in a session to explain all this? Do let me (Hilary) know.

Parish magazine

The September edition is now available so do pick up a copy. Many thanks and well done to the editorial team for producing it. The deadline for the October edition will be *Sunday, 22 September*.

Tuesday Friendship Café

St David's Church is normally open on Tuesday mornings from 10.30 am to 12 noon as a drop-in for people to find a Christian welcome and company.

Wednesday Walks

Wednesday walkers meet and enjoy convivial conversation, gentle strolls, the changing of the seasons and a coffee together. Would you like to join us? We'd make you very welcome! We meet at 9am at the door at the west end of St David's and we leave promptly. If you'd like to join us please just turn up, or speak to Helena in church.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be advised soon. Please contact Alan Baker if you would like a reminder alan.baker1963@outlook.com

Green Team

From Sue Wilson, a reminder of some of the 'green' activities coming up:

Great British Beach Clean (Sept 20-29): A nationwide event that sees thousands of volunteers heading to the coast to remove litter and record data. Join coastal clean-ups and help collect data that influences policies to protect marine environments. [Get involved here.](#)

World Rivers Day (Sept 22): Celebrate our Devon rivers. From river clean-ups to educational events and citizen science, this day shines a spotlight on the importance of healthy rivers. [Get involved!](#)

Second-Hand September (All Month): A month-long challenge that encourages people to avoid buying new clothing and opt for pre-loved items. Embrace second-hand clothing shops, host clothes swaps, upcycling workshops, and promote sustainable fashion. [Find out more here.](#)

Parish of Central Exeter Prayer Around the Cross - dates for 2024

During 2024, Prayer around the Cross will be held in St. Pancras Church, Guildhall Shopping Centre, at 7.00 pm, on the following Friday: 15 November.

Your Prayers are asked for...

those who are suffering including:

Caroline Speed-Andrews; Maggs Bedford; Delia Bloom; Libby Clapham; Lois Draper; Andrew Francis; Hazel Gowland; George Hexter; Roger Luscombe; Anne Smith; Sarah Wood; Clive and Jeanie; Beth; Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Will

those who have died recently including:

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer please pray for:

Traidcraft, edibles stall, Overseas Mission and links, Fairtrade fortnight

Please also pray for:

Our parish as we move forward and for Mike Clark as he begins his ministry with us, and for all starting the new academic year at schools, colleges and universities

Our country and its leaders, both political and religious

Our world, for wisdom for its leaders and a wish for peace not war

Sunday 15 September 2024 - 16th Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Sunday 15 September: Trinity 16

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers

of your people who call upon you;

and grant that they may both perceive and know

what things they ought to do,

and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;

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.

1st reading - Proverbs 1.20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street;

in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out;

at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

'How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.' or

James 3.1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Gospel Reading - Mark 8.27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Sermon by Mike Clark for Trinity 16, 15 September 2024

Today St Peter puts his foot in it- which should be an encouragement for us all!

It is great to be here for the first time this Sunday morning and I am looking forward to meeting with you and getting to know you more in the next few months.

I am here as interim vicar to help the church move through a time of change.

I went through a church vacancy as a lay person before I trained for ordained ministry. I went through a vacancy in the final year of my curacy when the vicar of the churches moved on to a new post. When I was a Team Vicar went through a time of vacancy when the Team Rector moved on. I spend most of my time now with churches that are in times of transition. I know that it can be an unsettling time of uncertainty but also a time of optimism and excitement.

Once we work through the legal separation of St David's and St Michael's an important and exciting part of my role will be to work with the PCC and all of you to think about the vision and priorities of this church, and eventually work towards a role description for a new permanent vicar. So, it struck me as relevant that today's gospel is in some ways about role descriptions.

In our gospel reading we hear Peter declare his faith that Jesus is the Messiah - the anointed one sent by God to be the saviour of his people. I'm going to break the rules slightly and add in a bit from Matthew's account of this event missing from Mark's gospel:

Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

Simon the fisherman has a new title- Peter the rock!

I wonder how he felt about this? We can have a guess- Peter was human and we all like to receive praise and affirmation, don't we? Maybe it went to his head a bit. Perhaps he began to think that he was really something important now and that he was able help

make the plan about how Jesus being the messiah was going to pan out. Peter had a new role description:

1. Chief of the disciples
2. Rock on which the church will be built.

To which he mentally added: 3. Responsibility for reminding our overall leader of HIS role description and making it very clear when he has gone wrong.

And what might Peter have seen as the role description of the Messiah?

Gain popular support.

Gather together an army.

Kick out the Romans.

Under no circumstances be arrested, tried and killed.

But how wrong he had got it! Let's remind ourselves of what happened:

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Just now Peter was a rock, now he is called Satan!

What might this have to say to us at this time?

Let's think about what it means to set our mind on divine things not human things. In other words, let's try to see things in God's way not the way we would prefer it.

Peter preferred the sort of messiah who would conquer and win. He wants a winner not a loser! He wants success and certain victory, not challenge and struggle.

And in a way don't we all?

Post Communion

Almighty God,

you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Robert Mitchell and Hilary Todd

Church Wardens

(Wardens@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk)

(Please send notices/content to Hilary on
todd.stdandm@gmail.com)

(All readings can be found via Oremus Bible Browser:
<https://bible.oremus.org/> in the New Revised Standard Version
(anglicized edition))