



**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY
PARISH CHURCH & ST MARY &
ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
FILLONGLEY WITH FILLONGLEY
METHODIST CHURCH**

Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.



Dear Friends

“Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors;
salute your king in his triumphant cause!”

So goes the opening to the hymn of the same title based on Psalm 24 by Michael Perry. This hymn has been on my mind this week following the Government’s announcement that places of worship *may* open for private prayer from the 15th June.

My first response to the announcement was great delight, after all, I am not the only one who has really missed the opportunity of being in sacred places that have witnessed to the love of God for centuries. But then came the sober consideration of all that needs to be done to make sure that opening our churches is both safe and sustainable. We are fortunate that the Church of England has been working away behind the scenes preparing for such an announcement. The guidance that has been produced is comprehensive and has been produced in line with the current scientific advice. Unfortunately, Coronavirus is still a major threat to our health and safety. As such we have to be very mindful of doing anything that could contribute to a resurgence of the virus or to cause a local outbreak.

The first step to re-opening our churches is to carry out a risk assessment. The risk assessment needs to be incredibly thorough, taking into account the particular nuances of our buildings, the difficulty of using disinfectant and other cleaning agents on our fixtures and fittings and the availability of PPE. Most importantly, we must protect the volunteers who will be needed monitor visits to the church and to clean the church after visits have been made. This is something that the Church Councils will be working on in the next couple of weeks, and we will let you know as soon as we are in a position to open the churches safely.

In the meantime, church doesn’t and hasn’t stopped. Individual and corporate prayer and worship has continued. You might have been able to access some of the online services provided by the Church of England and the Coventry Diocese. The Church of England services can be accessed by telephone just in case Internet access is not possible. The telephone number, which is available 24 hours a day, is 0800 804 8044.

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

<https://www.coventry.anglican.org/church-online>

So, flinging wide the gates may have to wait just a little while longer. I do really look forward to the day when we will all be able to worship together in our churches but in the meantime, if I or any of the other members of the team can be of any help or support, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With love and prayers

Ali

LECTIONARY Readings and Prayers for Sunday 14th June 2020
Trinity 1

Collects

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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.**

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

Readings

Genesis 18: vs 1-15 ~ Psalm 116 ~ Romans 5: vs 1-8 ~ Matthew 9: vs 35 – 10: vs 8.

A Reflection for the first Sunday after Trinity ~ from Revd Ali Massey

In today's reading from Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 9: 35 – 10:9) we read that Jesus looks upon the 'lost sheep with compassion and sorrow'. Jesus, as he very often did, is using an agrarian metaphor to speak to the people who lived in close harmony with the land, who would have had first-hand experience of sheep and shepherds. Jesus, in his humanity, understands what it feels like to be harassed and helpless. He has been a refugee, his family had to move to avoid danger and he has lived under the rules and privations caused by the Roman Empire. Jesus knows that the people need leadership and a new hope. He knows that they need shepherds. But Jesus, as always, sees the bigger picture. Jesus realizes that he cannot physically tend to them all. After all he is just one man. So he tells the disciples, his small band of closest friends, to pray for others to come forward to shepherd the lost sheep.



As well as using a metaphor that the disciples can understand. He is also demonstrating something of the upside-down nature of the kingdom of God. Shepherds in Jesus' day would have been very much on the outside of society, one of the lowliest occupations. But it is shepherds that Jesus needs to help bring about the kingdom of God.

When Jesus asks the disciples to pray, Jesus understands that in praying for others, the disciples themselves will be changed. Jesus was encouraging them to engage with the transformational power of prayer. Jesus challenges the disciples to pray for shepherds, knowing that through that prayer, they themselves will be transformed. Then Jesus sends them out to bring healing, teaching, hope and a true understanding of the love of God to the people of God. The disciples become heralds of the Good News, to be agents of the transformational power of God.

Jesus sends them first to the people of God. The lost sheep of Israel, the ones that had history with God, the ones with whom God had made his sacred covenant. Jesus, through the disciples is starting to share the Good News with those who should already belong to the kingdom of God but

who have, over the course of history, turned away from God. He is sending the disciples into their own communities, not to far flung parts of the world, but right on their own doorsteps.

I think Jesus understood that sharing the Good News of the Gospel with those that we are closest to, can be our greatest challenge. How much easier is it to go to places that we are not known, to places where we can airbrush our history, to re-invent ourselves in a new persona, but that is not what Jesus is asking his disciples to do – he is asking them, and us, to use the gifts that God has given them, their life experience, their personal history, their network of relationships to show the transformation that coming close to Jesus has made in their lives. To witness that what happened before they came to know Jesus has been healed and forgiven and to offer that extraordinary hope to all those that they come close to.

And that is Jesus' challenge to us today. We are all called to become shepherds and to reach out to the disenchanting and the disenfranchised. We are all still called to proclaim the Good News, to cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and even cast out demons. All of which is pretty daunting. But what can be even more daunting perhaps, is that we are called to do all those things in the community where we live, amongst those that know us and our history.

It is easy to be so daunted by the challenge that we shy away from it, but in our epistle, (Romans 5: 1 – 8) Paul encourages us in the task. Paul reminds us that when we accept Jesus into our hearts through the Holy Spirit we become bearers of hope. With a personal relationship with the God of love we have a peace that helps us to endure whatever the world throws at us and respond to Jesus' call to be beacons of hope and love in the world, starting in our own communities.

The last few months have been extraordinary. The challenges of lockdown. The terrible death toll that Coronavirus has taken on our country and the world. Then, the horrific murder of George Floyd. Sometimes in times of fear and anger the darkness seems to be winning. But there have also been acts of exceptional courage and compassion. The tireless work of the frontline services who have literally put their own lives on the line for the love of others. The coming together of disparate groups of people to cry in unison 'black lives matter'. The recognition of how, even now, our brothers and sisters are suffering still from the terrible aftermath of the slave trade and the willingness to start to understand and address that suffering.

There isn't anyone whose life hasn't been touched by the pandemic and I would hope that there isn't anyone whose consciousness hasn't been pierced by the death of George Floyd. We are all members of the same global family. We share the same physiology even if our physiognomy is different. We are all precious in the sight of God and all have equal value because we are all equally loved by God.

Also, we are all called to be part of something greater, a movement that is defined by love and light. To be part of a movement that prays together, to be part of a movement that expresses love of neighbour by turning up with food, water, blankets and clothing in times of need, by protecting those who cannot protect themselves. To be the voice of the voiceless. To use our privilege to lift up those who don't share that privilege. To love when we are being urged to hate. To bring together when others try to separate into 'us' and 'them'. To forgive instead of holding on to hate. And where there is darkness, instead of hiding afraid of that darkness, to be bearers of light and hope.

Jesus calls us all to be shepherds, you and me. To share the Good News that is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. To share the knowledge and love of God. We don't have to do this in our own strength. God has given us all the gift of the Holy Spirit to sustain and encourage us. We can be daunted by this call on our lives but in the words of a very famous 1980s self-help book – Jesus tells us to 'feel the fear and do it anyway', to face the challenge and to meet it, to welcome the transformational power of God into our lives and to step out into the unknown, knowing that the peace of God that passes all understanding will be with us, always.

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Let us ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send us out into his harvest field.

Lord Jesus Christ, meet with us now through your Spirit, reminding us of your living presence and risen power.

In a world where so much questions faith, denies love and threatens hope, may your resurrection life flow within us, convincing us of your eternal purpose: the blessings you hold in store - imperishable, unfading, kept in heaven - and may that assurance sustain us now and always.

Amen

Nick Fawcett

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church on Sunday ~

[I am a new creation \(StF 553\)](#)

[I'm accepted, I'm forgiven \(StF 427\)](#)

[Hear the call of the kingdom \(StF 407\)](#)

This hymn may be a new one to some of you. Enjoy singing along.....

https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-avg-fh_lsonsw&hsimp=yhs-fh_lsonsw&hspart=avg&p=hear+the+call+of+the+kingdom#id=3&vid=6cf15902ff528a0848a1a3a186679707&action=view

[Love divine, all loves excelling \(StF 503\)](#)

PRAYERS



Sundays @ 7pm.

A reminder that we are lighting a Candle every Sunday at 7pm during this crisis and putting it in our windows to be a sign of our solidarity and hope in the light of Jesus Christ that can never be extinguished.

This coming Sunday our prayers will be focussed on all members of our community whatever their race, colour or creed.....

A Prayer for others

Give me a desire to see others reach their greatness;

Give me a word to help another grow.

May petty ways drop from us like scales.

Step by step you lead us.

Feed and remake us

till we are glad to be givers,

till we joy in being brothers,

till we delight in being sisters,

till heaven laughs in delight

*At our pleasure in each other. **Amen***

From Celtic Daily Light

Night Vigil

Watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,

And let your angels protect those who sleep.

Tend the sick. Refresh the weary. Sustain the dying.

Calm the suffering. Pity the distressed.

We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen

Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430) A Philosopher and Theologian from the Africa Province of the Roman Empire

Our World after Covid-19 ~ where do we go from here?

When the corona virus first began to take hold in the UK back in March there was much talk about valuing what we hold dear and about taking this 'once in a lifetime opportunity' to bring about changes that would be for the good of all ~ our communities, our nation and our world. Among many there was talk about 'winning the war' against the virus, expressions evocative of the world during the Second World War.

Once World War 2 was over there were similar calls to take the opportunity to carve out a better, peaceful world for everyone and from this eagerness came the birth of the United Nations ~ a global organisation which still works to bring about those changes for which we all crave.

How many of us are fully aware of the work of the United Nations and of its Sustainable Development Goals? Why have its goals still not been achieved 75 years after its creation?

For those of us who need our memory jogged, the UN is an intergovernmental organisation that aims to maintain international peace and security, develop good relationships between nations, achieve international cooperation and be the centre for harmonising the actions of nations. It is the largest such organisation in the world having its headquarters on international territory in New York City. It was established after WW2 and its charter drawn up in 1945.



It's blue and white flag is recognisable throughout the world and most people's understanding of the UN is that it is a peace-keeping organisation. However, there is far more to the work of the UN than just peace-keeping, important though that is.

The UN has established a set of Sustainable Development Goals aimed at those with disabilities throughout the world. Closer study of these goals reveals that they are a good basis for many of the challenges which now face us as we begin to emerge into a post covid-19 world.

The Sustainable Development Goals¹ are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The 17 Goals are all interconnected and it is the aim of the UN that they are achieved by 2030.

Goal 1: No Poverty

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Goal 3: Good Health & Well-being

Goal 4: Quality Education

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Goal 6: Clean water and Sanitation

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

¹ www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal 12: Responsible Production and Consumption

Goal 13: Climate Action

Goal 14: Life below Water

Goal 15: Life on Land

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Goal 17: Partnerships

So as is clear, in the United Nations the framework for change is already in place; so much is already being done ~ it just needs the will of us all to want to see change, to put our desires into action and to make a real difference.

Surely this is the vision that we all want to sign up to and to see achieved ~ as individuals, communities and nations?

Suzanne Whiting

RESOURCES

Some suggestions to add to your reading list ~

Resilience in Life and Faith Tony Horsfall and Debbie Hawker BRF 2019

Turned by Divine Love John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick. BRF 2019

Classic Prayers compiled by Judith Merrell TLM Trading Ltd 2013



The village broadband was rubbish but Laura was an ex-girl guide

Attached to this Bulletin are two items :-

✚ Lift up your hearts *Church Times 5th June 2020*

✚ A Reflection for the first Sunday after Trinity from Revd Andrew Haines

AND FINALLY DON'T FORGET

If there is anything that you need or know of someone who would appreciate being contacted or added to the mailing list for this weekly e-bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact Revd Ali, Revd Jane or any of the Churchwardens and Church Stewards listed below. ⁱ

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