



*Salisbury Cathedral A Rocha UK  
Gold Award Eco Church*

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

*Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.*



*He leads me beside still  
waters ...Psalm 23*

Dear Friends,

Are you enjoying the football? I must admit I am not the greatest sports fan but there is something about a big tournament that engages even the most reluctant of football fans. There is the initial anticipation, often encouraged by the media with speculation on the final outcome before the first game has even been played. Then there is the partisan nature of supporting different teams. Old rivalries that come out into the open. An example of which was the England Scotland game last week. The long-standing, historical enmity that once played out on the bloody battlefields of history, was once again enacted through the rather safer and less dangerous field of play of the football pitch. I watched most of the match and was probably one of the few people in the country who thought that a draw was the best outcome. Honour was seen to be done and no-one got hurt. And maybe there was something healing in the fact that England wasn't the team that caused Scotland to fail to progress in the tournament?

We certainly have a lot of sport to look forward to over the summer. The remainder of the football, Wimbledon and the postponed 2020 Olympic games as well as plenty of international and county cricket. Thousands of athletes at the peak of their physical and mental performance competing to find the best individual and team. We journey with those we support through the initial qualifying rounds then into the finals. We engage with the joy of a good performance and commiserate with the athlete or team who didn't quite achieve their full potential on the day. In the post-match/race analysis we see something of the frustration or elation depending on the result. Often, a lifetime of dedicated training fails to result in the win that was hoped and planned for. But there is also the steely resilience that athletes demonstrate in their commitment to pick themselves up, dust themselves off and then return to training for the next competition or tournament.

I wonder if one of the reasons that so many people follow sport so keenly is that it is a bit of an allegory of the human, lived experience? We all have our individual race to run. We train to achieve our goals and along the way we all experience the pain of failure or injury. There are the highs and lows, successes and disappointments, and the everyday 'training' that we have to consistently attend to if we want to progress. We may not all be international sporting superstars but we all have our particular path to follow and God-given talents to develop. Success is easy to chart in sport. There are games or tournaments won, prizes received, medals presented and a myriad of performance statistics to examine. Winning at life is a bit more difficult to assess. What are the criteria or metrics that we use to identify a productive life? In the worldly sense, a successful life is usually considered in terms of material achievement. The big house, the nice car

*Stop press*  
*Services for*  
*Sunday 27th June 2021*  
*9:00am Fillongley*  
*10:30am Corley*  
*Please bring and wear a*  
*face covering*



or the healthy bank balance but Jesus tells us that in the kingdom of heaven that kind of worldly success is not important. What is more important is our relationship with God, his Creation and with each other. I'm not saying that working hard and playing our part in society is not important. Of course it is but we are so much more than what we produce or achieve in easily measured outcomes.

As you can imagine, I have had the privilege to officiate at many funerals. Very often the story of a 'well-lived life' does include details of work or study, but the more important aspect of that life is usually the impact that the individual had on other people whether that was through their work, volunteering, entertainment, sport or being a supportive family member, neighbour or friend. Usually, the most heartfelt reminiscences are about relationships with the person, how their life inspired or supported others, and how they enriched their families and communities by their presence.

One of the difficult things about the pandemic has been the restriction on the number of people being able to attend funerals and not being able to have a wake or reception after the funeral. It is very often at those gatherings that the tapestry of the person's life is brought together. Sharing memories and stories across the interconnecting networks that make up a person's life, bringing all those different threads together, gives a fuller picture of all that they were and all that they meant to different people at different times. I wonder if that is the difference between how we and God see our lives? Very often we see only the different threads, random and sometimes tangled. A little bit like the back of a tapestry, it is only when you look at the other side that you see the full image, the image that the creator planned all along. Maybe that is what success in life looks like, when the tapestry of our lives is closest to the creator's original design?

Anyway, back to the football. One thing I think sport reminds us to do, is to be each other's cheerleaders, to encourage and to support each other whenever and however we can. Jesus makes it easy for us to remember how to do this when he tells us to love our neighbours as ourselves. But, if you are in a place where there is very little cheer and all you can see is tangled threads and frustration, if a coffee and a conversation might help, then please do not hesitate to contact me, Rev Jane or any of the church team. We may not be able to sort out all the threads for you, but we can always listen and pray with, and for you.

With every blessing for you and yours. Ali

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## **Your invitation to our Service of the Word Sunday at 5pm on ZOOM**

Ali Massey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Service of the Word

Time: Mar 21, 2021 05:00 PM London

Every week on Sun, until Jun 27, 2021,

Join Zoom Meeting



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85475380558?pwd=WUhUQ1ZyOEhhSzhhUVlWwXAxQU9lUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558 Passcode: 572740

Telephone: 0 203 481 5237 United Kingdom 0 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

## Readings and Prayers for Sunday 27th June 2021 ~ Trinity 4

### Collects

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord 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.**

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### Readings

2 Samuel 1: vs 1, 17-end

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 8: vs 7-end

Mark 5: vs 21-end



### Reflection

The Reflection for this week from Revd Ali is attached to this eBulletin.

## HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

*Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church this Sunday:-*

Lord for the years your love has kept and guided (StF 470)

Give thanks with a grateful heart (StF 78)

*Do join in with the congregation at Warwick Road United Reform Church, Coventry singing this lovely worship song ~*

[BBC One - Songs of Praise, Modern Hymn Writers, Hymn: Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart](#)

God is Love: let heaven adore him (StF 103)

You shall go out with joy (StF 487)

## PRAYERS

We continue to pray for all those affected by the global pandemic in any way.



### Thought for the week

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion.

Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. **Ephesians 6: vs 18**

'I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I am helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God, it changes me.' **C.S. Lewis**

Pray with us for ~

- Families who, following the pandemic, are struggling to hold things together with education, health & well-being
- Families who are mourning the loss of grandparents and other relatives as a result of the pandemic
- Families who have little or no experience of Christian witness, that may be befriended by those who know Jesus
- Families who learnt new things during the pandemic about the value of being and praying together, and help for families who are torn apart by domestic violence exacerbated by the pandemic
- Families who have new members, born during the pandemic.

Loving God, come close to Christian parents in our congregations. As they seek to nurture faith in their children, may they be blessed by the faith of those in their care, so that together they can create 'little churches' at home, through the presence of your Holy Spirit. **Amen**

### Poet's Corner 18 JUNE 2021

#### Drifting gently on his boat down the Cam, *Malcolm Guite* reflects on reflections



I HAVE managed, at last, to get out on to the river again in my little boat, *Willow*. I found my freedom on one of the first of those really sunny days in June, and to say that I went sailing would be a misnomer; for it was so still that I just floated, drifting gently on the Cam, the little red sail idly flapping, but reflected beautifully in the still waters, as though beneath me, in some different upside-down world, a magical boat drifted on with wavering mast and sails, scattered and collected in the ripples sent out by a falling leaf or a passing swan. My pleasure in the reflections themselves called to mind a passage from George MacDonald's *Phantastes* (the book that C. S. Lewis said had baptised his imagination), which I have recently been re-reading:

"Why are all reflections lovelier than what we call the reality? — not so grand or so strong, it may be, but always lovelier? Fair as is the gliding sloop on the shining sea, the wavering, trembling, unresting sail below is fairer still."

Indeed, another passage, a little earlier, was almost an exact description of my afternoon with *Willow*: "I lay down in the bottom, and let my boat and me float whither the stream would carry us. I seemed to lose myself in the great flow of sky above me unbroken in its infinitude, except when now and then, coming nearer the shore at a bend in the river, a tree would sweep its mighty

head silently above mine, and glide away back into the past, never more to fling its shadow over me. I fell asleep in this cradle, in which mother Nature was rocking her weary child.”

But MacDonald is right in his reflection on reflections, and right when he says a little later in that same passage: “All mirrors are magic mirrors. The commonest room is a room in a poem when I turn to the glass.”

Why is this? I think it has something to do with beholding the familiar from another angle and in a new light; something to do with the distinction such glimpses allow between image and reality; some way in which they suggest, however subliminally, that all the images we now behold, all that we have taken for the only reality, might be more than themselves, might be images and reflections of something greater.

So it was, floating down the stream of the Cam, that I found my mind floating and reflecting on another stream: a stream of thought, the richly flowing tradition of Christian Platonism, which has run through our history, sometimes openly, sometimes submerged; a tradition that tried to harmonise the great truths of the gospel with the deepest reflections of the philosophers. That particular stream flowed most fully just here, by the Cam, through the minds and writings of the Cambridge Platonists.

My reveries came to a natural end when I found that *Willow* had drifted me gently up to the Bridge, a fine inn at Waterbeach. I stepped lightly ashore for some refreshment in their lovely waterside garden, where, I must confess, my relations with my pint of Wherry were more than Platonic!

*Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest and singer-songwriter. He is a Chaplain of Girton College and Associate Chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr in Cambridge, and is the author of many anthologies of poetry. He is a weekly columnist in the Church Times where he writes the very popular ‘Poet’s Corner’ which is now included here each week for you to enjoy.*

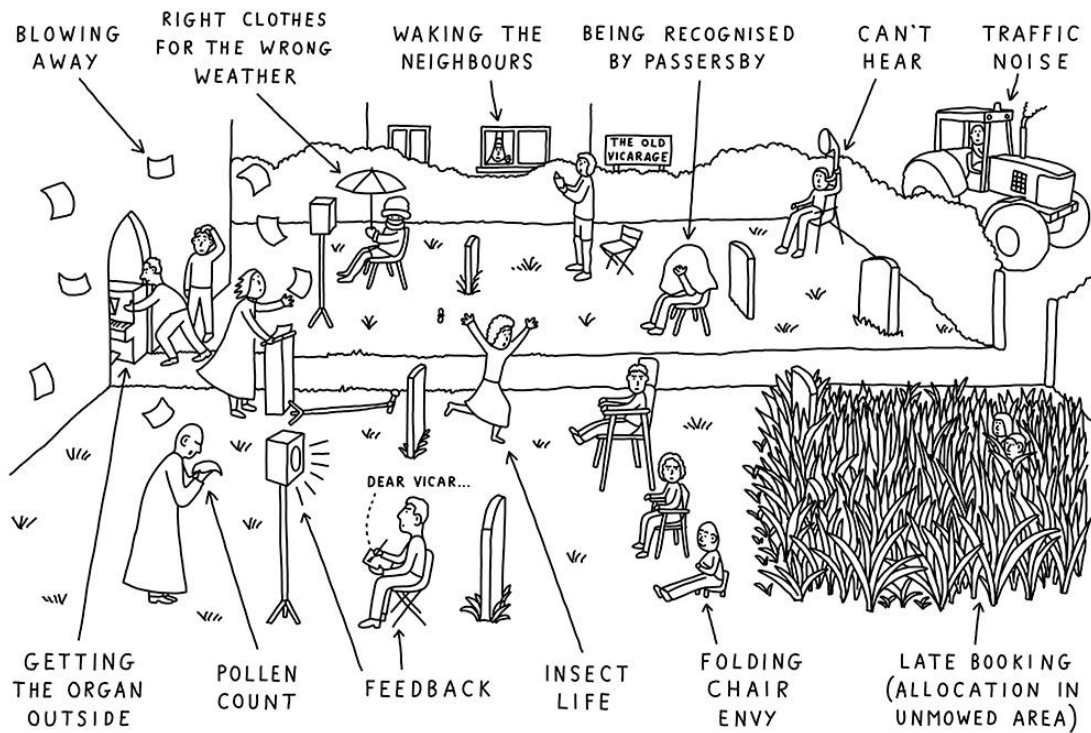
## RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

-  A Reflection for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 ~ Trinity 4 from Revd Ali
-  Order of Service for Holy Communion at Corley Church
-  Order of Service for Holy Communion at Fillongley Church
-  Order of Service for Evening Prayer on Zoom 5pm Sunday
-  Methodist Circuit Newsletter ~ May/June 2021
-  Arley Methodist Church ~ 101 years of Celebration Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021
-  Advert for “Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat” – join the production!

# THE OUTDOOR SERVICE

VARIOUS PERILS



*The latest Dave Walker Cartoon from the Church Times*

## 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. <sup>i</sup>

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### <sup>i</sup> *Contact Details:*

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