



## ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRIDGWATER

### SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to this weeks bulletin! You will notice a slight difference to the bulletin from this week as the reflection will be version of the sermon given on the previous Sunday. If you have any feedback or ideas for staying connected please do let us know.

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#### COLLECT

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 forever.

#### POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **This weeks GOSPEL reading: Matthew 18:21-35**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

#### Pray

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

#### 14TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 17)

**BIBLE READINGS : EXODUS 14: 19-28, ROMANS 14: 1- 12,**

**MATTHEW 18. 21-35**

#### People to pray for:

- Jess Grandfield—who has had a fall and is in hospital
- The family of Elizabeth Gill who has passed away.

If you would like to have a prayer request in the bulletin then please let us know .

When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## Reflection on Matthew 18. 15-20 (Homily given by Suse last Sunday )

This week in our Gospel passage we see Jesus essentially talking about relationship and the quality of our relationships. In other words how can we grow as a community who truly put each other first.

The way that we relate to others and the quality of the relationships we have in our lives say something about the person we are. For example - We can all think about those people who are constantly negative or constantly angry. My bet is that when those things dictate how a person lives then they probably don't have the best quality of life.

If you are somebody who offends everybody or carries anger at the world - when those things dictate how live then we probably don't have the best quality of life. The greatest commandment is to love God and love our neighbour. A community of love is at the heart of who God is, father, son and holy spirit, and that's what God wants for us and for us to desire for each other.

Going back to the passage Jesus says: if you have a fault that you are holding against someone else or that they are holding against you, then go and talk it out. In other words, get it sorted! Don't let the sun go down on your anger.

That's exactly what a good counsellor would hopefully tell you what to do. But we don't often do that do we? Instead we can end up talking to other people about it and then it becomes gossip and that's the worse thing. Gossip is destructive and a waste of time. Here, Jesus says go to the source and talk directly to the person that you have problem with and be honest, in love. And he goes on and says if this works then you have won over your brother or sister, but if they don't listen take two or three others along with you.

If any of you are familiar with the 12 step programme – this would be called an intervention. For example, a family coming together and saying “okay Pete, let's be honest you have a problem” but, it's done in a safe and loving way. Jesus goes even further in this passage to suggest that if they refuse the intervention, then take them to the whole community! And here we see the most amazing thing - The most simply definition of church that Jesus gives - not the great big Anglican communion, or the church of England or any other. He says *'where-ever two or three of you are gathered— there I am.* As Richard Rohr says, 'You can't get a more basic definition of the people of Christ. Than people in honest loving relationship.'

What's more is that Jesus goes on to say you have the power to bind and to loose. You have power to bind one another up by upforgiveness. You have power to release and loose people with the mystery of forgiveness. This is a gift we have. God has given us a key – you can bind up your neighbour or your family by unforgiveness, by gossip, by negatively and so on – and you have the power to unbind and release people by this mystery of forgiveness which sets lives free. That's God wants for you life, for mine, for our neighbours our community – right relationship where we love the other which reveal something deeper of who God is.

So let's take the opportunity this week to really examine our home hearts and choose to be people who release others by the way we live our lives. Amen.  
Suse

Coming up:

### WEDNESDAY

10.30am - Diocesan led Eucharist  
[livestreamed at](#)  
[www.bathandwellsorg.uk](http://www.bathandwellsorg.uk)

### SUNDAY

8am - Morning service [Listen on BBC Somerset radio](#)

8.10am—Sunday Worship [Listen on BBC Radio 4](#)

9am—CofE Holy Communion  
[livestreamed at](#)  
[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

### 9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

10am— Holy Communion from St Mary Magdalene, Taunton

[www.stmarymagdalenetaunton.org.uk/sermons/](http://www.stmarymagdalenetaunton.org.uk/sermons/)

## Dates for your diary

**APCM—20th September** straight after the service.

## Harvest service

We will celebrate Harvest on 4th October and would welcome donations for the foodbank.

**Smarties for Zambia** I am hoping to send off our Lent Appeal donations in the next couple of weeks. If you are able to get to church could you please bring your donation and let me have it. If I'm not there please give it to one of the wardens. Many thanks for your continued support for our Link parish.  
Richard Philpott