



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRIDGWATER SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2020

Welcome to this weeks bulletin! St Mary's is now gathering for a service each week at 9.30am on a Sunday. Doors open at 09.15 please register as you come in (for track and trace purposes) also sanitizer is provided. If you forget your mask don't worry as we have plenty to spare!

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This weeks GOSPEL reading: Matthew 22:34-end

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it:

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² "What do you think of the Messiah?^[c] Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit^[c] calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? ⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?"

⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

Collect

Merciful God

Teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Connecting online

We are hoping to livestream on Facebook from this Sunday. Head to our fb page to check out the livestream which will start just before 9.30am.



We also have a new YouTube channel called **Saintmary Bridgwater** where you can discover some of the collective worship videos we produce for St Mary's school as well as other recordings / useful resources. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwRkq227MBKcN55WSkbET4A>

LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 25)

BIBLE READINGS :

Deut 34. 1—12; Psalm 90. 1-6; 1 Thess 2. 1-8; Matt 22.34-end

Coming up this week:

WEDNESDAY

10.30am - Diocesan led Eucharist
live streamed at
www.bathandwellsorg.uk

THURSDAY

9.30—12noon—Church open for individual prayer

SUNDAY

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

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

9am—Cof E Holy Communion

Live streamed at
www.churchofengland.org

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

1.15pm—BBC 1 Songs of Praise

Website

www.stmarysbridgwater.org

Facebook

[@stmaryschurchbridgwater](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchbridgwater)

Twitter

[@StBridgwater](https://twitter.com/StBridgwater)

People to hold in prayer this week:

- Bishop Peter Hancock
- Jess Grandfield
- Doug Smith
- Wendy Harris
- Jack Young

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

200 Club Winners

1 st John Bates	54
2 nd Theo Day	105
3 rd Mike Ollive	88
4 th Frances Pearce	56

Drawn on 22nd October

Sermon, Luke the Evangelist, (Year A) - Jonathan's homily from last Sunday 18th October 2020 'The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place ...' [Luke 10:1]

There are clues to Luke's personality in the books he wrote: the Gospel that bears his name and his Volume 2, The Acts of the Apostles. One that isn't often mentioned is his gentleness and kindness. For instance, he is kinder towards the twelve disciples than the other gospel writers. The Twelve present a pretty sorry picture in the four gospels. Again and again they let the side down. They misunderstand. They fail. When Jesus tells them that he has to walk the path of suffering to martyrdom—a few minutes later they have a row about which of them deserve the best seats at Jesus' victory banquet. At the hour of crisis, having promised to stick with him to the end—they scarp. Even before then, in Gethsemane, when he asks some of them to share his lonely watch of prayer, they fall asleep. Only Luke smooths over their failure by saying that they were *sleeping for sorrow*.

But even Luke can't hide the poor figure that these disciples cut. What's good news about this story of failure and weakness? It comes when you think of this band of overconfident and underperforming disciples ... and then remember what the Lord did through them. How many people heard the good news and found transformation, salvation and joy. All this came through that band of no-hopers, and others like them. And then follows the thought ... that just maybe, he can bring good things to life even through us. There are two huge surprises in today's gospel.

The first is simply that Jesus sent these 70 people out to preach, to heal, and to tell everyone that the Kingdom of God had come near. How many modules of the training course had they completed? Had they got an A* in their theology exams? Did they pass the test of faultless behaviour? Possibly not. But the Lord sent them out all the same. And this wasn't just the central core of 12, this was a team of seventy.

Seventy possibly because at that time it was thought that there were seventy nations—so here is a sign that the good news is going to all. The second surprise comes after the end of our reading. No doubt the team are going to muck it up, and come back looking crestfallen. That's what you would expect. Give the work of the kingdom to unsuitable people: failure surely follows. Not at all: they come back with joy. *"Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!"*

The Lord can and does use weak, fragile, hesitant, mixed-up human beings to do his work. To bring his kingdom to new people. He did it then, he does it now. At St Mary's we might think that we ourselves are going through a period of relative weakness. Congregations aren't the size they were 30 or 40 years ago—we know it's the same over most of the country—though not necessarily all over the world. We've recently said good bye to Trish, our Vicar. Added to that we face all the uncertainties and restrictions brought by the virus. There's bound to be anxiety and frustration. And we could be discouraged.

What's the answer? Of course we need to pray: for our wardens, our PCC. For Suse. For our Bishops and for all who'll have a hand in the appointment of our new Vicar. For that man or woman as yet unknown who will eventually come here as our Vicar. That the Lord will be preparing him or her for the time ahead. But above all for ourselves.

Thanking the Lord that he has called us to follow him, to know his love, to know his salvation. And that on good days and on not so good days he is with us as we try to follow him and serve him in our daily lives.

Samaritan's Purse 2020-

Operation Christmas Child

St Mary's did very well last year, sending nearly 40 boxes, I do hope we can do something similar this year. Please drop off boxes at The alive Christian Ministry, **58 Salmon Parade**, not far from the Fire Station.

Boxes can be left there from **10am to 4pm Monday 9th to Sat 14th November and from 1pm to 4pm Sunday 15th**

November.

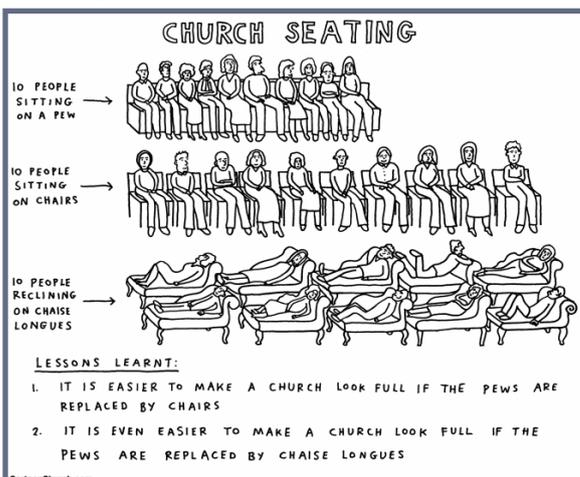
If you would like to, please do take one of the ready to fill boxes in church, I have more at home if we need them. Thank you very much. *Frances Pearce*

Christmas presents for our link parish in Zambia

We would love to bless the children in our link parish in Zambia with a small gift of a rainbow wrist band to let them know we are thinking and praying for them.

If you would like to make a contribution then a donation of 50p would cover one wristband and postage. A collection point will be available on Sunday or please get in contact and we can collect. We hope to send the wristbands off by mid November. Many thanks

Frances Webb



Church seating

We are trialling a new arrangement with the seating in church in order to make it more accessible and inclusive to all.

We encourage you to make use of the chairs in the front section of the nave....Anglicans are notorious for choosing to sit at the back

first!!! Let us know what you think. **PCC**