



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRIDGWATER SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 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 20: 1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

15TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 20)

BIBLE READINGS :

EXODUS 16. 2—15 / PSALM 105. 1— 6, 37-
END / PHILLIPIANS 1.21-END / MATTHEW
20. 1-16

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

10am— Holy Communion from St Mary Magdalene, Taunton

www.stmarymagdalenetaunton.org.uk/sermons/

1.15pm—BBC 1 Songs of Praise

BBC 1

People to hold in prayer this week:

- Bishop Peter Hancock
- Jess Grandfield—who has had a fall and is in hospital
- The family of Elizabeth Gill and Stanley Way who have passed away.
- Kim & Abbey preparing to marry on 3rd October

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

STOP PRESS!

The Church will now be open on Thursdays for individual prayer 9.30—12noon.

If you could offer help as a steward then please contact Suse

Jonathan's homily from last Sunday 13th September 2020

Lord, if [a brother or sister] sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'

Peter got the answer: 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

It seems a big ask, to have to go on and on forgiving someone who keeps saying or doing things that hurt. Or who knows exactly how to wind us up—and keeps on doing it. Jesus didn't choose his number at random. It points back to Genesis 4, and the fearsome brawler Lamech, who vowed that if his ancestor Cain avenged himself seven-fold, he himself would do it seventy-seven fold.

A vendetta. Memories of ancient wrongs were to be kept alive, grudges were to be nurtured, and ruthlessly avenged. There are places where this continues. Where neighbouring nations or tribes seem to be pitted against each other in perpetuity; where the bitter history of offences and conflicts is kept alive by each side. Not here, fortunately! Yet we may still harbour a grudge, we may still keep revisiting memories of things that have been said or done to us. We might say ... 'I forgive', but underneath we're thinking, 'but I'm never going to forget.'

For Peter, and for all of us who find forgiveness hard ... Jesus tells his story. Of the man forgiven a huge debt by his boss, who couldn't bring himself to let go of something much smaller owed to him. It's simple enough. You've been forgiven—therefore, do the same. We are faced with the message of this parable every time we say the Lord's Prayer: *Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

Deal with us as we deal with others. Forgive us our sins as—to the extent that—we forgive those who sin against us. Give us the measure we give to others. Simple enough to understand. Doing it may be a lot tougher. Supposing hurtful things have been said, or we have been harmed? What can we do? If we find it almost impossible not to keep coming back to it, to turn over the words and actions in our minds, even if they date back years? If we hold onto it even at the risk of damaging our own well-being?

Part of the answer is remembering how much we have been forgiven; by God first, but also by others. If I have a healthy sense of myself and what a mixed bundle of good and bad I am, I can have a more generous attitude to the failings of others. Remembering how much I have been forgiven may be the best antidote to any feeling of entitlement to go through life without anyone crossing me, or harming me. We have to learn to let go.

To do our best not to harbour ill feelings and long memories and hurt pride and all the rest. Not to keep coming back like a dog to where he has buried his bone. But simply to ask the Lord's help just to let it go. Letting go—forgiving—isn't so very far from forgetting. Which may have to be something we do deliberately. *I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will remember your sins no more.* [Isaiah 43:25] I will not remember your sins. I will forget them. If God can forget, we need to learn to do the same. Which should free you and me to be generous and forgiving with others.

Jonathan

Smarties for Zambia

I am hoping to send off our Lent Appeal donations by the end of September. 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*

Harvest service

4th October

Our harvest service will be held on the 4th October and we would welcome donations for the foodbank of the following items. Collection box is in church or let us know and we can collect.

Items needed include:

TINNED FRUIT & Veg

Sugar

Sweets & Chocolate

Toiletries such as shampoo

Deodorant

Tooth brushes

Toothpaste

Many Thanks

Julian Higgs

A SERVICE FOR THOSE BEREAVED DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC— 30TH SEPTEMBER—In collaboration with Wells Cathedral there will be an online service to remember all those who have died during the Covid pandemic.

Led by Bishop Ruth and the Dean of Wells, families of the bereaved are invited to send in names of those whom they mourn, and candles will be lit and their names will be read out. Bishop Ruth said: "So many people weren't able to attend funerals or grieve properly when their loved ones died in the last few months, because of restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We hope this service will offer people a chance to come together and mourn their loved ones by name, alongside others who have also been bereaved." The service will include music from members of the Music Foundation of Wells Cathedral, and prayers will be said by some of Somerset's hospital chaplains. There will also be a reflection from someone who survived Covid following weeks in intensive care.

The service will be [available to watch on the Wells Cathedral website](#) and here on the website of the Diocese of Bath and Wells from Wednesday 30th September. Those who wish the names of their loved ones to be included should email Suse on revsuse@gmail.com or [email them to the Communications team](mailto:comms@bathwells.anglican.org) on comms@bathwells.anglican.org by [Monday September 21](#)