



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRIDGWATER

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to this weeks bulletin! St Mary's is now open for one service every week at 9.30am on a Sunday.

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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.

Dear All

Last Sunday we said a moving farewell to our vicar Trish and Mike. There were so many messages of love and thanks and even if yours was not read out, or shown on Sunday then please be assured that everything has been passed on to them.

It is an absolute joy serving my curacy with you and whilst, I know for some of you the season ahead feels unsettled I have no doubt that God will hold and guide the church throughout the vacancy. In my homily last week I spoke about two things that are important as we look ahead at St Mary's....

Firstly, we need to let God take the lead. It might sound obvious but all too often we like to tell God how we want our prayers answered rather than listening and trusting God to answer in the way he knows best. I want to encourage us all to place God at the heart of all we do so that we might be energized and inspired by faith.

The second thing that came to mind was what it means to truly lay down our lives following in the example of Jesus. The reading that we had from Romans 12 states what it is to be for the other. It's

a passage I love and encourage you to grab a hold of this week... Let your love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; ¹⁷ do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; ¹⁹ for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is what it is to be the body of Christ! What a wonderful picture to grab a hold of. God journeys with us, never leaves us or forsakes us. Let's continue to push into all that God has for each one of us and support one another in the days ahead. If you have any questions about what happens during vacancy then do get in touch with me or the wardens. Love Suse

13TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 17)

BIBLE READINGS : EXODUS 12. 1- 14, ROMANS 13.8-END, MATTHEW 18.15-20

Jesus spoke to his disciples. "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be lost in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Thanks from Trish & Mike.....

Dear St Mary's and Chilton Trinity, Thank you for your kind words, gifts, cards and messages. Mike and I were overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. We have loved being in these parishes and as we retire and move home we have so many good memories. You have been a great support to us and we have had fun and many blessings along the way.

Thank you for welcoming and encouraging our grandchildren. They will all remember coming to church for different reasons; and have been blessed themselves by your care and patience. **Mike & Trish Ollive**

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE: GOD'S HEART AND OUR CALL TO CARE

READ: PSALM 8: **DIVINE GLORY AND HUMAN DIGNITY**

LORD, our Lord,
how excellent is your name in all the earth!
You set your glory above the heavens!
Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies
you have established strength
on account of your adversaries,
in order to silence the enemy and vengeful foe.

When I look at the heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you established –
what is man that you take notice of him,
or the son of man that you pay attention to him?
You made him a little less than divine,
but you crowned him with glory and honour.
You gave him dominion over the work of your hands,
you put all things under his feet:
Sheep and cattle – all of them,
wild creatures of the field,
birds in the sky,
fish in the sea –
whatever moves through the currents of the oceans.

Lord, our Lord,
how excellent is your name in all the earth!

THINK ABOUT:

1. What response does creation evoke in you? How does it speak to you of God?
2. Looking at verses 4–9, what does the text say about our responsibility? The text says "*You gave him dominion and placed all things under his feet*". In other places we are called to be "stewards" of God's work. How would you describe what stewardship means in your own words?
How do you see our caring for God's creation as a missional activity?
In what practical ways do you sense God calling you to participate in creation care right now?

Coming up:

WEDNESDAY

10.30am - Diocesan led Eucharist
[livestreamed at](#)
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

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

10am— Holy Communion from St Mary Magdalene, Taunton

www.stmarymagdalenetaunton.org.uk/sermons/

People to pray for this week:

- Trish & Mike
- Jess Grandfield—who has had a fall and is in hospital
- The family of Elizabeth Gill who has passed away.
- Sophie & Mitch who are due to marry in St Mary's on Saturday

If you would like to have a prayer

request in the bulletin then please let us know.

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