



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRIDGWATER SUNDAY 11TH 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!

Rev'd. Suse Osmond
revsuse@gmail.com
Tel: 07934 804889
Rev'd Jonathan Trigg
jdtrigg@gmail.com

This weeks GOSPEL reading: Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Collect

*God our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ out Lord.
Amen.*

Post Communion Prayer

We praise and thank you O Christ, for this sacred feast; for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints forever. **Amen.**

People to hold in prayer this week:

- Bishop Peter Hancock
- Bill Perks
- Doug Smith
- Jess Grandfield
- Wendy Harris

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

200 Club Winners

- 1 st Julian Higgs 63
- 2 nd Brian Gale 22
- 3 rd Geraldine O'Loughlin 44
- 4 th David Warren 6

TRINITY 18 (PROPER 23)

BIBLE READINGS :

EXODUS 32. 1—14, PHILLIPIANS 4: 1-9,
MATTHEW 22. 1—14

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

Website

www.stmarysbridgwater.org

Facebook

[@stmaryschurchbridgwater](#)

Twitter

Drawn on 8th Oct

Harvest Reflection (based on last Sunday Oct 4th by Suse)

Last Sunday we shared in a Harvest service giving thanks to God for his generosity seen in creation, wondering at the beauty of nature and considering our response as people who want to imitate Christ. We used some video as part of our reflecting (for which you will find the link below). For me discovering God through nature is one of the ways that my faith has been shaped and honed over the years.

My dad often tells me that from the earliest part of my existence I have had a natural and enduring affinity with animals and creation. For me, this is not something of trivial, sentimental nature or engagement but, at its very basic level gave me an awareness from childhood that I was a part of something much bigger than myself. As an eight-year-old girl I distinctly remember standing on a Cornish beach on a breezy autumn day and talking to the sea as it crashed onto the shore as if it had a personality or life of its own with something that it wanted to say to me. There is something about the innocence and simplicity in the way we engage with creation as a child, that I think is deeply profound. Perhaps this is part of the reason why Jesus encourages his followers to become like little children.

I am so aware that as we grow into adults we can become so familiar with the creation that is around us that we miss the voice of nature. A voice that as the Psalmist says, exists to reflect the glory of God, and give glory to God (Psalm 104). It's this voice of nature that Christ says will still cry out God's glory even if human voices are silent (Lk. 19: 40). Seeing and hearing God in creation is about attentiveness.

These ideas of attentiveness to the voice of creation are far from new and were particularly recognised deeply in the life of St Francis of Assisi. His celebrated writing the Canticum of all the Creatures' gives praise to God and all of his creation. 'Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures.' For St. Francis, creation is a revelation, a gift, and image of God that inherently praises Godself. All creatures were seen as Francis' brothers and sisters not just because he found beauty in them but above all because he loved the creator. The compassion, love, and respect this led Francis to have for creation are the very same qualities that are needed for relationship of any kind and are at the very heart of creation and community. Right at the beginning of Genesis we are introduced to God the creator who looks at his creation and sees that it is good (Gen. 1:25). Again, in Romans 1 verse 20, Paul writes 'ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.' In creation we see something of God's own self, his truth, beauty, goodness, love. As the Franciscan Richard Rohr points out, 'Either we acknowledge that God is in all things, or we have lost the basis for seeing God in anything.' In other words we need to become attentive to God in all of creation in order to encounter him there. I encourage you to take time out this week to discover something of this for yourself.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qlpyeu-B9i8>—Motivational nature. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaEBO7U5mds>—God of creation

LAMENT TO HOPE

An online service led by Bishop Ruth to remember those who have died during the pandemic.

You can find the service online at www.bathandwells.org.uk

Wave of Light service

Thursday 15th October

6.30pm

The 9th—15th October is baby loss awareness week.

On the 15th October as part of the international 'Wave of Light' we will hold a short service and light candles to remember those precious babies who died during pregnancy, at or soon after birth and in infancy. In order to adhere to Covid guidelines, all are welcome but we ask that you register your intention to come along so we can make sure we keep everyone safe. You can do this online at Eventbrite.co.uk and search for Wave of light 2020 Bridgwater

Or, by letting Suse know.