



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRIDGWATER SUNDAY 18TH 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: Luke 10: 1 –9

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way.

See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Collect

Almighty God, you called
Luke the physician,

Whose praise is in the
gospel, To be an evangelist
and physician of the
soul:

By the grace of the Spirit

And through the wholesome
medicine of the
gospel, Give your Church
the same love and power
to heal;

Through Jesus Christ your
Son our Lord, AMEN

Post Communion Prayer

*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.*

Online service

For those of you unable to attend St Mary's services in person, you might be interested to know that Suse led an online service for St Mary Magdalene, Taunton last week (11th October) which you can check out on their website:

www.stmarymagdalenetaunton.org.uk/sermons/ or on our church facebook page.

LUKE THE EVANGELIST

BIBLE READINGS :

ISAIAH 35.3-6, 2 TIM 4:5-17

LUKE 10.1—9

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

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

200 Club Winners

- 1 st Dudley Coombs 37
- 2 nd Mike Vickery 65
- 3 rd Norman Hucker 49
- 4 th Trish Ollive 87

Drawn on 15th October

**Sermon Proper 23, (Year A) - last weeks sermon given by Suse based on
Philippians 4.1-9 / Matthew 22.1-14**

In our Gospel reading today we see a person turning up to a wedding party in the wrong clothes and it would seem that just because this person is wearing the wrong clothes they get thrown out! Not just thrown out but, bound up and thrown into darkness. I wonder how we make sense of this in light of believing that God welcomes all.

Well, the first thing to remember is that parables are never straight forward, Jesus uses parables - stories that hold a truth - to get people to think and see for themselves...almost like a mirror held up to your face. It's not what we see but, more about how we see. Like everything we read in the Bible we read through the lens of the overarching story of God's grace, fuelled by outrageous love.

So, in this story, we see God trying to give away God – you might think that would be easy but it turns out that's not the case...the king throws open an invitation to this wedding banquet, representative of fullness of life, but gets turned down. And so the invitation goes out wider – invite everyone the good and the bad - tell them to put on new wedding clothes and come to banquet.

Hang on – they were all wearing wedding clothes? What does it mean to put on these new clothes? Well, we see it in our passage from Phillipians but also in Colossians that to put on new clothes means to clothe yourself yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience and above all to clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

The man in today's parable, came to the banquet but, was not prepared to wholly accept the invitation – he wanted to hang on to his old clothes, in other words his old habits and did not have an open heart. In not letting go of the old clothes he was choosing to exclude himself from experiencing the party - from experiencing the fullness of life that God promises. *How many people can you think of that hold on to anger or unforgiveness or pride and it stops them from really being happy.* I think this man was so consumed with self he found himself consumed with darkness rather than light.

You see God doesn't force himself into our lives – it's our choice to say yes to God – to take the gift of new wedding clothes symbolic of a readiness of heart towards God. Allowing the Holy Spirit to journey with us.

Paul says in Phillipians if we live like this - allowing God to be part of our lives— then 'the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *How many of us need to know more of the peace of God in our lives?*

Accepting the invitation to the banquet, trusting God, does not mean life will be without its problems or pain but, accepting the invitation, taking off our old clothes, means accepting the invitation to discover life in all its fullness and a sense of assurance in the midst of whatever we face.

The hymn used in last weeks service was 'It is Well with My Soul' by Horatio Spafford. If you get chance this week to look it up along with the story on how it came to be written.

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

Government Recovery for Culture Grant

Great news!! We have received a grant.....**St Mary's Church, Bridgwater will be awarded £20,900** to enable the expansion, and development, of their community café in an historic place of worship with a vision to be at the heart of supporting and serving the local community.

Our Response

'As a faith community our vision at St Mary's is to serve the community and help people discover life in all its fullness. Our church building is a beautiful landmark site, and the oldest building in Bridgwater. The funds are a real boost for our town and will enable us to recover as a community hub providing volunteer and work opportunities as well as a space for worship, arts and culture to thrive. We are very excited to be able to continue to invest in the community in this way and continue the rich heritage that has been part of this town for over 700 years. Thank you from St Mary's '
More info to follow....