

News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need to Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

Link for this week's Service: <https://youtu.be/v6Aki7ji7-M>

HYMN: For All the Saints, Who from their Labours Rest (William Walsham How
1823-1897 adapted by Michael Forster b.1946)

For all the saints, who from their labours rest;
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their refuge, and their might;
thou, Lord, the vision ever in their sight,
thou in the darkness their one true light.
Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine
in earth and heaven the saints in praise combine:
Alleluia, alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west:
soon, soon to faithful pilgrims cometh rest,
sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, alleluia!

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array
the king of glory passes on his way!
Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest shore
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia!

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READINGS FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

Psalm: Psalm 34: 1- 10

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; ♦
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall glory in the Lord; ♦
let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 O magnify the Lord with me; ♦
let us exalt his name together.

News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

- 4 I sought the Lord and he answered me ♦
and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant ♦
and your faces shall not be ashamed.
- 6 This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me ♦
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him ♦
and delivers them.
- 8 O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; ♦
blessed is the one who trusts in him.
- 9 Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones, ♦
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 Lions may lack and suffer hunger, ♦
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.

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First Reading: 1 John 3: 1-3

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5: 1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS by Karen Drury (Reader in training)

'Ooh, you're an absolute saint!'

These are words my mother said to me last week. Tom and I have been looking after her following an operation she had at the beginning of September. During this time we have been her sole carers and because of the current situation with Covid, as her support bubble we've also been her only visitors. But I'm pretty sure that doesn't really make us saints!

Today is All Saints' Day - where we remember the lives of all those saints who have gone before us and praise God for them.

But what exactly is a saint?

If you think of a saint, who or what comes to mind? I think the saint with whom I'm most familiar, given that she was someone living in my lifetime, is Mother Teresa. Her life's work revolved around caring for the very poorest in Kolkata, India. It was an extraordinary life.

The idea of sainthood, though, feels to me very 'other'; something that isn't attainable for most of us mere mortals. But is that really true? What does it actually mean to be a 'saint'?

The word saint or saints is used around 68 times in the New Testament. The Greek word used is 'agios' which can also be translated as 'holy' and is used not only in relation to people but also places and to the Holy Spirit. Paul uses the word 'saints' frequently in his letters:

Romans 16:15: "Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them."

1 Corinthians 1:2: "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours..."

Philippians 1:1 (NAS): "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi,"

Paul is referring to living people, followers of Christ trying to live by Christ's example.

So, as Christians, as modern day 'saints' what does that mean for us?

One thing we can do is look again at today's gospel reading, perhaps one of the most well-known passages in the Bible, which sums up what it means to live as part of God's Kingdom.

There is a danger, especially if we have been familiar with what are known as the Beatitudes over many years, that we can view them almost as platitudes - nice sayings for a nice god.

But this is far from the truth. At this point in Matthew's gospel Jesus is just beginning his ministry. This passage is an announcement that God is doing things in a fresh new way. Jesus is beginning a new era for God's people and God's world.

News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

Jesus is saying that everything will work the other way round. This is not a world that is for the religiously sure, the self-righteous, the religiously proud leaders and Pharisees.

This is the world of the broken or poor in spirit, those who realise how much they need God,

The world of those who mourn the loss of what they could be, due to their own failings,

The world of the unsure,

The world of those with an appetite to seek righteousness and justice,

And those strong enough to use force, but willing to exercise restraint, the meek.

Those demonstrating compassion and forgiveness, not punishment,

The world of those willing to turn from selfish and self-seeking purposes and act with purity of heart

Those prepared to turn away from conflict and, through a peace in their own hearts found in fellowship with God, to work to bring peace to others.

For those listening on the mount that day, this must have been revolutionary stuff.

And so it should be for us today.

Echoing Moses delivering the commandments on the mountain in the Old Testament, what Jesus was doing was setting out the beginning of a new order. This was the way, Jesus was saying, to live here on earth.

Through these statements Jesus was showing us who he was and in living his life he showed us how to live them out. The Bible shows Jesus demonstrating every one of the characteristics described in the Beatitudes at some point in his life. Perhaps most significantly when he was reviled, condemned, taunted and rejected as he carried his cross and was hung upon it in order to pay the price and open up God's Kingdom to everyone. Meekness in majesty.

Surely then, this is also what being a saint is all about? First and foremost, it is believing who Jesus was, accepting him as saviour – having faith. And it is about committing to follow him and trying to live according to his teachings and his example.

This is encouraging news! It means that, in our own way and in our own circumstances we all have the capacity and opportunity to be saints, if we are prepared to try and be more Christlike in our daily lives.

We can't do this in our own strength – we can only do this by the grace of God. Last week's reading from Matthew 22 referred to the two greatest commandments – love

News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and love your neighbour as yourself.

If we love God first and seek to walk with him, we have increased desire and capacity to love our neighbour. If we believe in who Christ is and what he has done for us, then we are on the road to living a life more akin to the example he sets out for us.

As Mother Teresa once said,

"give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your own weakness." In so doing we can also live with the hope that one day, we will be part of that 'communion of saints' who will see God's kingdom not partially, as now, but in all its glory. Amen

A prayer from the Iona Community

From where we are
to where you need us,
Jesus now lead on.
From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you will reveal,
Jesus, now lead on.
To refashion the fabric of the world
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,
Jesus now lead on.
Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God,
Jesus, now lead on.
Amen

Collect for All Saints' Day

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
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 for ever.

HYMN: Let Saints on Earth in Concert Sing (Charles Wesley 1707-1788 and others)

Let saints on earth in concert sing
with those whose work is done;
for all the servants of our King
in heaven and earth are one.

News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

One family, we dwell in him,
one church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream,
the narrow stream of death.

The people of the living God,
to his command we bow:
part of the host have crossed the flood,
and part are crossing now.

E'en now to their eternal home
there pass some spirits blest;
while others to the margin come,
waiting their call to rest.

Jesu, be thou our constant guide;
then, when the word is given,
bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
and bring us safe to heaven.

PRAYER in the coming week:

Sunday – Remembering

Eternal God and Father, we praise you that you have made people to share life together and to reflect your glory in the world. We thank you now for those whom we come to remember today, for all that we saw of your goodness and love in their lives and for all that they have meant to us. As we too journey towards death may we do so in the company of Jesus, who came to share our life that we might share the life of eternity. To him be glory with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Monday - Those who have been bereaved recently.

Lord, have mercy on those who mourn, who feel numb and crushed and are filled with the pain of grief, whose strength has given up. You know the sighing and longings of the human heart: be near to those who mourn and help them to fix their hope on you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday – Trusting God

Grant to us, Lord God, to trust you not for ourselves alone, but for those also whom we love and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death; that, as we believe your power to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, so may we trust your love to give eternal life to all who believe in him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Wednesday - God's Promise

Lord God, creator of all, you have made us creatures of this earth, but have also promised us a share in life eternal. According to your promises, may all who have died in the peace of Christ come with your saints to the joys of your kingdom, where there will be neither sorrow nor pain, but life everlasting. Alleluia. Amen.

News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

Thursday – Confidence for the future

God, our Father, we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus Christ to die for us and rise again. His cross declares your love to be without limit; his resurrection, that death our last enemy is doomed. By his victory we are assured of the promise that you will never leave us or forsake us; that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Friday - For those who have died on active service

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service in the course of their duty.

As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

Saturday – A prayer of thanks and praise

Thank you, Lord God almighty that you are our Father: you loves us and tenderly care for us.

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ that you are our Saviour: you have redeemed us and will defend us to the end.

Thank you, Holy Spirit that you are among us: you will lead us in God's holy way. To God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: be praise and glory today and for ever. Amen.

SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES:

FACE COVERINGS – These are now mandatory in places of worship. Please come prepared.

Please inform the clergy if you are exempt from wearing a face covering and do let the service leader know if you lip read.

Sunday 1st November: All Saints' Day

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh

10.30 Holy Communion at St Mary Rostherne

16.00 Remembering Service at Holy Trinity Little Bollington**

16.00 Remembering Service at St John High Legh (**Fully Booked**)

**For Holy Trinity: Rev'd Patricia: 01565 830 595; 07854 418 488;

pmrobinson51@gmail.com

Online Remembering Service Link below will be accessible from 16.00 on Sunday.

Link: <https://youtu.be//F-qPoZ5jw8Y>

Sunday 8th November: Remembrance Sunday

(Booking Essential – see notice below)

10.00 Remembrance Day Holy Communion at St John High Legh

10.30 Service of Remembrance at St Mary Rostherne

10.30 Service of Remembrance at St Paul Over Tabley

10.45 Service of Remembrance at Holy Trinity Little Bollington

We are pleased to announce that St Paul's Over Tabley will open again for the Service of Remembrance on 8th November, almost twelve months since the work commenced.

News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

Wednesday Mornings

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer at St John High Legh

It is important that no one feels they must come to services if they are reluctant to.

We will continue to stream a service each Sunday.
Some services from St Mary Rostherne will be live streamed.

NOTICES

❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 4th November

We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting every Wednesday morning from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon. Just click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83275839861?pwd=NlpjampXNXVpT1REaGIUS0NobWRxdz09>

If you need the meeting ID and Password for this meeting please contact Patricia.
Email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com or Tel: 01565 830 595

❖ Remembrance Sunday Services – Sunday 8 November 2020

There will be a **Remembrance Service** in all four Churches as usual. However, **you will need to reserve your place** whichever Church you attend.

This is essential to comply with current Covid 19 guidance and regulations

The service times and booking details are as follows:-

St John High Legh at 10.00

Please contact: Rev'd Trish Cope on 01925 754787; 07703 470101
or trishcope2012@btinternet.com

St Mary Rostherne at 10.30

Please contact: Rev'd Patricia: 01565 830 595; 07854 418488;
pmrobinson51@gmail.com

St Paul Over Tabley at 10.30

Please contact Rev'd Patricia as above.

Holy Trinity Little Bollington at 10.45

Please contact Rev'd Patricia as above.

There will also be an online Remembrance Sunday Service that day.



News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

❖ Join the Prayer Chain:

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let Chris Stanisstreet know:

Tel: 01925 755559; Mob 07918 981 723; stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

❖ Offering and Fund Raising – Please continue to give if you can

The best and safest way to give is by monthly Standing Order or direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. You may also send a cheque – please contact the relevant Treasurer.

St Mary's Treasurer: Mr Christopher Tetlow Tel: 0161 928 2137

St John's Treasurer: Nick Whimpany Tel: 07905 741969

Holy Trinity Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Girardier: Tel: 01925 754 717

St Paul's Treasurer: Judy Hancock Tel: 01565 733246

If your income has been adversely affected by the current situation, please do not worry about giving to the Church just now.

❖ Homemade Jams For Sale:

There are various Jams and Marmalade available at prices between £2.00 / £3.00 per jar depending on size, either from St Mary's or by telephoning the Vicarage- we will deliver them to you.

St Paul's are offering: Strawberry, Gooseberry, Damson or Strawberry, Greengage and Gooseberry jams.

St Mary's are offering: Strawberry, Rhubarb & Ginger, Rhubarb Jelly, Redcurrant Jelly, Marmalade and Yellow Raspberry.

❖ Morning and Night Prayer

If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

Readings for Morning Prayer: These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Monday 2nd Nov – All Souls' Day: Psalm 2; Daniel Chapter 1; Revelation Chapter 1

Tuesday 3rd Nov – Psalm 5; Daniel 2: 1-24; Revelation 2: 1-11

News and Prayer Update for 1st November (All Saints' Day)

Wed 4th Nov – Psalm 9; Daniel 2: 25-end; Revelation 2: 12-end

Thursday 5th Nov – Psalm 15; Daniel 3: 1-18; Revelation 3: 1-13

Friday 6th Nov – Psalm 16; Daniel 3: 19-end; Revelation 3: 14-end

Saturday 7th Nov – Psalm 18: 31-end; Daniel 4: 1-18; Revelation Chapter 4

Readings for Night Prayer (From All Saints Day to 27th November)

Short Bible Reading:

The one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations.

Matthew 24: 13, 14a.

You may also like to continue using the readings in the Worship at Home Booklet.

Psalms:

Sunday: Psalm 104: 1, 21-33; 134

Monday: Psalm 4

Tuesday: Psalm 143

Wednesday: Psalm 31: 1-5 [19-end]

Thursday: Psalm 16

Friday: Psalm 139: 1-18

Saturday: Psalm 91 (this is the one in the Worship at Home Booklet)

Collect:

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
brings us to the dwelling which your Son is preparing for all who love you;
give us the will each day to live in life eternal;
let our citizenship be in heaven with the blessed,
with the whole company of the redeemed
and with countless angels,
praising, worshipping and adoring your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who sits upon the throne for ever and ever.

Night Time Blessing:

May the light of Christ, the King of all,
shine ever brighter in our hearts,
that with all the saints in light
we may shine forth as lights in the world.