

News and Prayer Update for 5th July

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 5th July

Link for this week's service: <https://youtu.be/5euo6Vv7VoM>

HYMN: Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound vs 1-4 John Newton (1725-1807)
v 5 John Rees (1828-1900)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there a thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

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READINGS FOR 4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Psalm: Psalm 145: 8-15

- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great goodness.
⁹ The Lord is loving to everyone
and his mercy is over all his creatures.
¹⁰ All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.
¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your mighty power,

News and Prayer Update for 5th July

- 12 To make known to all peoples your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
- 14 The Lord is sure in all his words
and faithful in all his deeds.
- 15 The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

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First Reading: Romans 7: 15-25a

- 15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
- 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.
- 17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.
- 18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.
- 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.
- 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.
- 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.
- 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self,
- 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
- 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?
- 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11: 16-19,25 -end

- 16 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,
- 17 "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."
- 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon";
- 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'
- 25 At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;
- 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.
- 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- 28 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

News and Prayer Update for 5th July

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS from Revd Patricia

We like doing some of the puzzles in the paper at coffee time each day. This week one of the clues was "means of control". The answer was reins. Reins are used for controlling horses and keeping small children safe as they develop their walking skills. I thought of the leads we use for Buster our dog as well.

Having reins, a lead or indeed a yoke as is mentioned in our Gospel reading enables the animal to be directed as well as being kept under as much control as necessary. Those listening to Jesus in this rural area would have been found it easy to tune in to what he was teaching on this occasion as oxen working in the fields would have been a common sight. Indeed, it is possible that Jesus himself, in his carpenter's workshop in Nazareth, was experienced at making yokes. There is an expertise here and Jesus would have known about it. A yoke is made for a particular animal which would have been taken to the carpenter, made to measure and then fitted with adjustments being made on a second visit. If an animal is to work well the yoke needs to fit well, then it will be light so that labourer and animal can work effectively together.

So many people came to listen to Jesus because he spoke words of encouragement rather than criticism. He brought hope and through healing he brought new life to many. Of course the Jewish leaders did not like him. Nothing would ever right for them. They criticised both John the Baptist and Jesus who had opposite lifestyles. The leaders felt their authority challenged and they didn't care for it. The yoke the Jewish leaders placed on people was heavy. It was a burden. They despised the ordinary folk, the poor and the outcast who could never manage to aspire to the depth of learning the Pharisees and Scribes saw as necessary to know God. But knowledge on its own will not make anyone good.

It is now 9 months since Buster came to live with us and we have got to know each other better and better over that time. We are able to communicate well and understand his needs. He loves it when we go out for 'family walks', the three of us together, or play throw and fetch in the garden. He potters around the garden when we are busy there, Spending time together has enabled us to know each other well.

The same sort of thing can be the case for us as we develop our relationship with God. I wonder whether, despite the fact that our churches have been closed, you have come into a closer relationship with God during the past few months. Maybe, you have been following the services, taking part in Morning and Night Prayer each day and followed the Bible readings set for each day. Jesus knew God well and was able to reflect the Father to those around him as well as to us through scripture. This was because he spent so much time with his Father. Unlike the scholarship of

News and Prayer Update for 5th July

the Jewish leaders, Jesus calls us to listen for his voice, learn from him and do the things he does as we follow him. Jesus doesn't want us to be burdened, he knew how to make a yoke and all his yokes are easy and light. He has work for each of us to do that is completely suited to our individual abilities. He doesn't ask more of us than we are able to give. Jesus calls each of us, on the one hand to be ourselves - not trying to be someone else and on the other hand to have a close relationship with him and he will support us, provide everything for us and show us the way ahead even, or especially, when we face difficult times.

Collect for 4th Sunday after Trinity:

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

HYMN: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819-1886)

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus only is our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

News and Prayer Update for 5th July

PRAYER in the coming week:

¹⁶ Rejoice always,

¹⁷ pray without ceasing,

¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 (NRSVA)

Monday – pray that at this time we would be grateful for the choices we have and that we would think carefully about where we go to buy the things we need and those we approach to do jobs for us, supporting local businesses where appropriate.

Tuesday – pray and give thanks for those who run and/or work for the businesses based in our Parishes, many of whom have kept working throughout the lockdown in order to support the rest of us.

Wednesday – pray for those who run and/or work for businesses and organisations which are now fully or partly open and who are trying to operate safely, although far from “normal”, (particularly pray for the two primary schools in our parishes and those in the hospitality sector).

Thursday – pray for those who work for organisations that cannot yet open and who are worried about the future (for instance those involved in Music, Theatre and the Performing Arts).

Friday – pray for those in Leicester (and other areas of the country in the future) who suddenly find that they need to face lock down again; pray that despite any frustration, there would be an acceptance of the situation and that they would feel the support they need.

Saturday – pray that the patience, kindness and consideration for others which became evident early in the lockdown, and the community spirit which developed would continue into the future as people return to their busy lives.

Good News - We're Holding Services Again!

Sunday 5th July :

09.00 Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Little Bollington

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh

Sundays 12th and 26th July:

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh

11.00 Holy Communion Holy Trinity

Sunday 19th July:

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh

10.30 Holy Communion at St Mary Rostherne

Wednesday Mornings

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer at St John High Legh

News and Prayer Update for 5th July

We regret that we are unable to open either St Mary's or St Paul's just yet because of building work taking place.

- We will continue to stream services each week from St Pauls for the time being.
- In the next couple of weeks we will be contacting the families who regularly come to Storytelling Services to discuss when these may begin again.
- Within the next couple of weeks we hope to live stream services from St John's and St Mary's.

It is important that no one feels they must come to services if they are reluctant, for whatever reason, to mix with a group of people.

The Weekly News and Prayer Update will Continue

This is sent out each Saturday by Mail Chimp. You just need to let Patricia (pmrobinson51@gmail.com) have your email address and it will be sent to you each week. It includes the link for the Service, a copy of the hymn, the reflection and readings, prayer ideas, notices with links to online meetings, and the link for the Storytelling Services, material for teenagers and the monthly Family Service.

NOTICES

Zoom Meetings to help us meet remotely when unable to be together

The following meetings will be going ahead each week:

❖ Sunday Morning Coffee 5 July

There will be a Zoom Coffee meeting starting at 11.00am on Sunday. Make your drink, get your biscuits and join us. Just click on the link below. If you need the Password and ID separately please contact Patricia

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81391938515?pwd=ZzhuRGRTNFJBNDBydDFIZkpmQ2FCdz09>

❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 8 July

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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85222123557?pwd=eXBdTmdoc2JsODJjd3hJUXdwbIVYdz09>

❖ Midweek Morning Prayer Thursday 9 July

There will be a Zoom Morning Prayer Service at 9.30am on Thursday. Bring your copy of the Worship at Home booklet and your Bible if you wish to follow the readings or take part by reading one of them.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85791361739?pwd=N3YwZ1Npc0NHamM4VG5sNWxkOUV3dz09>

News and Prayer Update for 5th July

To join any of these meetings you will just use the link given. If you need the meeting ID and/or Password separately please contact:
Patricia on 01565 830595 or email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com

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 way to give is by direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. Better still, if you are able, because your income is not affected, please set up a monthly direct debit. 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.

Morning and Night Prayer

If you would like to join with us, we are saying Morning Prayer at 9.00am Monday to Saturday (Thursday 9.30am) and Night Prayer at 9.00pm Monday to Saturday. Whenever you are able, why not say it at the same time as we do, then we will be joining together in prayer and worship.

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:

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

News and Prayer Update for 5th July

Monday 6th July: Psalm 80; Judges 13: 1-24; Luke 17: 20-end

Tuesday 7th July: Psalm 89: 1-18; Judges Chapter 14; Luke 18: 1-14

Wednesday 8th July: Psalm 119: 105-128; Judges 15: 1-16:3; Luke 18: 15-30

Thursday 9th July: Psalm 92; Judges 16: 4-end; Luke 18: 31-end

Friday 10th July: Psalm 88; Judges Chapter 17; Luke 19: 1-10

Saturday 11th July: Psalm 97; Judges 18: 1-20, 27-end; Luke 19: 11-27

Night Prayer from the Day of Pentecost to All Saints Day

This Collect can be used at Night Prayer on any day throughout the year.

Lighten our darkness, Lord we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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)

ACORN

Nick Whimpany, Karen Drury and Revd Patricia attended a webinar on 1st June about the role of the Church in lockdown and beyond. One of the main ideas (from Michael Harvey) is the simple ACORN acrostic that builds on Pilgrim and Alpha both of which have been used in the United Benefice at different times.

It is possible that many of us can think of someone that you would be able to contact. This is a good starting point so please think of someone this week and then contact that person, listen to them, and invite them to share in God's love through prayer for their situation.

The notes of the full meeting have been written up by Nick and will be circulated to PCC members and to anyone else who requests them.

Summary of Acorn:

A – ASK: In prayer ask God is there today someone you want me to connect with, outwith the Church

C – CALL: Contact that person. Ask "How are you?" That should be all that is needed to open up the conversation during which you may well have the opportunity to offer to pray for something or someone they are concerned about at the moment.

O – OBEY: There will be an ache or hurt at present. Identify it

R – REPORT: have a system to report it back to another Christian.

N – NOTICING GOD: what he is doing through us and in us