

News and Prayer Update for 12th 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.



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Link for this week's service: <https://youtu.be/S0--cj4yoLc>

HYMN: Morning Has Broken Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Morning has broken, like the first morning;
black-bird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day.

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READINGS FOR 5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Psalm: Psalm 65

- ¹ Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.
- ² To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins;
when our misdeeds prevail against us, you will purge them away.
- ³ Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there.
We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house, even of your holy temple.
- ⁴ With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.
- ⁵ In your strength you set fast the mountains
and are girded about with might.
- ⁶ You still the raging of the seas,
the roaring of their waves and the clamour of the peoples.
- ⁷ Those who dwell at the ends of the earth tremble at your marvels;
the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise.
- ⁸ You visit the earth and water it;
you make it very plenteous.
- ⁹ The river of God is full of water;
you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth.
- ¹⁰ You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

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¹² May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness
and the hills be girded with joy.

¹³ May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep
and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.

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First Reading: Romans 8: 1-11

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot,

⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake.

² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow.

⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.

⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!

¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of the sower.

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¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Since the beginning of the lockdown Patricia and I have been busy recording services and putting them on Youtube. There have been the regular Sunday services of Morning Worship, such as you are watching now. Then there has been a Storytelling Service every fortnight to help keep in touch with our young families. Patricia has also recorded several videos for teenagers, and services for the residents and staff in our local care homes. All this has been a new and unexpected dimension of our ministry, and we have been grateful for our ministry team who have supported us unstintingly over the weeks.

Regularly throughout the week I log on to Youtube and check out my channel. It tells me how many people have watched the different videos, if they have liked them and records any comments. If I wish to I can receive a detailed analysis of the responses to our videos including the average time people spend watching them, the number of people who have subscribed to my channel, and whether there has been an increase or a decrease in views over the past four weeks. It could easily become addictive.

The Main Sunday services usually get between 80 and 100 views which is great, and we regularly get positive feedback from this country and around the world. The Storytelling Service has had as many as 45, although that is now dropping which may reflect the fact that children are going back to schools and nurseries. Patricia's first video for teenagers, Amazing Pentecost, has been viewed 34 times, although her second has only attracted 6. All these videos take hard work. There is the physical effort of lugging floodlights, tripod, camera, keyboard and stand between the churches, and the mental effort of preparing the service and making sure everything is on the update which goes out each week. It is tempting to look at the number of times some of the videos are being watched and, if they get relatively few views, wonder if it has been worth the effort. Do diminishing returns in some areas indicate that we should stop them and look for a more fruitful area in which to invest our time and energy. Youtube would say yes, although we have to recognise it does not

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differentiate between us and those people who have channels and post videos for a financial return from sponsorship or advertising. For them the number of views they get are critical for their income.

I believe that what we are doing has more in common with the actions of the farmer in the parable of the sower. Sometimes called the parable of the soils, it describes the return the farmer receives from the different grounds on which he casts his seed. That return varies between zero for the seed cast on the path, the rocky ground and the thorns, to the abundance produced by that which fell on good soil. Statistically only 25% of the ground is fruitful, the other 75% is unproductive. Now common sense would suggest that in future the farmer should be a lot more careful about where he casts his seed. Only casting it on the fruitful ground should maximise his return. Youtube would certainly be in agreement with that approach, as would the NFU.

Yet, as Jesus later explains in private to his disciples, this is not an actual farmer, but Jesus, and the seed is his message of the Kingdom of God. That puts the parable in an entirely different perspective. Jesus preached to vast crowds knowing full well that many of them would either not respond to his message or find it initially attractive but, like the rich young man in another parable, find the pleasures of this world too alluring. Jesus preached to his enemies, knowing full well that they were plotting his downfall. He even preached to his disciples in the knowledge that they were either not listening or failing to understand him. That did not prevent Jesus preaching to everyone.

Such extravagant sowing is a model for all Christians as we go about telling others the good news of God's kingdom which for us now includes streaming services. As Paul wrote to in his letter to Timothy, we are to sow in season and out of season, content to leave the outcome to God. It is not for any of us to decide which is the ground most likely to be fruitful and only concentrate on those areas. Like Jesus, we are to avoid playing it safe and take risks for the sake of the Gospel, not knowing how many will listen and respond.

Collect for 5th Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

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HYMN: To God Be The Glory Fanny Crosby, (1820-1915)

To God be the glory great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life gate that all may go in

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord let the people rejoice
Come to the Father through Jesus the Son
Give Him the glory great things He has done*

O perfect redemption the purchase of blood
To every believer the promise of God
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives

Great things He has taught us great things He has done
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder our worship when Jesus we see

ACTIVITY FOR 11 /12 – 15 YEAR OLDS <https://youtu.be/2DOD6rxFW4k>

STORYTELLING SERVICE (For Families with children up to 10 or 11).

Who Put the Colours in the Rainbow? Words and Music: Paul Booth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9GsKFlaRo0>

Who put the colours in the rainbow?
Who put the salt into the sea?
Who put the cold into the snowflake?
Who made you and me?
Who put the hump upon the camel?
Who put the neck on the giraffe?
Who put the tail upon the monkey?
Who made hyenas laugh?
Who made whales and snails and quails?
Who made hogs and dogs and frogs?
Who made bats and cats and rats?
Who made ev-ry-thing?

Who put the gold into the sunshine?
Who put the sparkle in the stars?
Who put the silver in the moonlight?
Who made Earth and Mars?
Who put the scent into the roses?

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Who taught the honey-bee to dance?
Who put the tree inside the acorn?
It surely can't be chance!
Who made seas and leaves and trees?
Who made snow and winds that blow?
Who made streams and rivers flow?
God made all of these!

Today's story is - Joseph and his Coat. <https://youtu.be/eEjyyJBL32E>

Jesus Love is Very Wonderful (Words - H.W.Rattle)

Jesus love is very wonderful x 3
Oh, wonderful love.

So high, you can't get over it,
So low, you can't under it,
So wide, you can't get round it,
Oh, wonderful love.

Jesus love is very wonderful x3
Oh, wonderful love.

Great Great Brill Brill Doug Horley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o97e9uLQU5U> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t9RSopRxas> (This one has the actions!)

OH, IT'S GREAT, GREAT, BRILL, BRILL, (Doug Horley)
Wicked, wicked, skill, skill,
To have a friend like Jesus.
Great, great, brill, brill,
Wicked, wicked, skill, skill,
To have a friend like Him.
(Repeat)

He's always there,
He always listens,
He always hears me when I talk to Him.
He loves me now
And will forever,
I'll choose Him every day, day, day.

Closing Prayer.

Father God, be with us in the coming week, and keep us close to you. May our minds be full of your voice, our hearts full of your love, and our thoughts full of your grace. Amen.

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Craft from Zoe

Print off the attachment with the email and colour in Joseph's coat.

If you haven't received the email contact Patricia and she will send the attachment to you - pmrobinson51@gmail.com

PRAYER in the coming week:

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

(from the Church of England web site)

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Good News – We're Holding Services Again!

Sunday 12th 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

Sunday 26th July:

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh

11.00 Holy Communion Holy Trinity

Wednesday Mornings

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer at St John High Legh

We regret that we are unable to open 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.

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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 and this will be in place of Pew Sheets and the Prayer Diary for those attending services.

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:

❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 15 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/87459116639?pwd=RmtlWGFFoMHFYSjFmSmFaVkJFNY0VQQT09>

❖ Midweek Morning Prayer Thursday 16 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86884139329?pwd=THlnenZpYWQvZEtsU0VtVTJMcDFGdz09>

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

Magazines:

We will continue to send out the pdf version of the magazine with paper copies only going to those who do not have email or cannot access the website.

Please send in any news or interesting items you have to share with us all. All items should be sent to your usual magazine editor by the 15th of each month. Thank you.

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

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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 Stanistreet 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).

Monday 13th July: Psalm 98; 1 Samuel 1: 1-20; Luke 19: 28-40

Tuesday 14th July: Psalm 106 (or 103); 1 Samuel 1: 21- 2: 11; Luke 19: 41 – end

Wednesday 15th July: Psalm 111; 1 Samuel 2: 12-26; Luke 20: 1-8

Thursday 16th July: Psalm 115; 1 Samuel 2: 27-end; Luke 20: 9 -19

Friday 17th July: Psalm 139; 1 Samuel 3: 1 – 4: 1a; Luke 20: 20 - 26

Saturday 18th July: Psalm 121; 1 Samuel 4: 1b – end; Luke 20: 27-40

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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