

News and Prayer Update for 21st June

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

www.rosthernewithbollington.co.uk
www.stjohnshighleggh.org
www.stpaulsovertabley.co.uk

Vicar: Revd Philip Robinson, Tel: 01565 830 595
Email: robinsonpj50@gmail.com

Assoc. Priest: Revd Trish Cope, Tel: 07703 470101
Email: trishcope2012@btinternet.com

Curate: Revd Patricia Robinson, Tel: 01565 830 595
Email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com

Reader: Mrs Chris Stanisstreet Tel: 01925 755 559
Email: stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

Pastoral Worker: Mr Stewart Jackson Tel: 07835 249 835

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/ERJZjKbuZXE>

HYMN: Fear Not, Rejoice and be Glad

Priscilla Wright Porter

*Fear not, rejoice and be glad,
The Lord hath done a great thing;
Hath poured out His spirit on all mankind,
On those who confess His name.*

The fig tree is building, the vine beareth fruit,
the wheat fields are golden with grain.
Thrust in the sickle, the harvest is ripe,
the Lord has given us rain.

Ye shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
the mountains will drip with sweet wine.
My children shall drink of the fountain of life,
My children will know they are mine.

My people shall know that I am the Lord,
their shame I have taken away.
My Spirit will lead them together again,
My Spirit will show them the way.

My children shall dwell in a body of love,
a light to the world they will be.
Life shall come forth from the Father above,
My body will set mankind free

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READINGS FOR 2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Psalm: Psalm 69: 8-11; 18-20

- ⁸ For your sake have I suffered reproach;
shame has covered my face.
- ⁹ I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.
- ¹⁰ Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
- ¹¹ I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.
- ¹⁸ Answer me, Lord, for your loving-kindness is good;
turn to me in the multitude of your mercies.
- ¹⁹ Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift to answer me, for I am in trouble.
- ²⁰ Draw near to my soul and redeem me;
deliver me because of my enemies.

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First Reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-13;

Jeremiah Denounces His Persecutors

⁷ O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name', then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering: 'Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.

'Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.'

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten.

¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord!

For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10: 24-39

²⁴ 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master;

²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.

²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father.

³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;

³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

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³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;
³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Matthew 10: 24 – 39

One of the side-effects of the Covid-19 crisis has been the amount of fear experienced by some people. For some there has been perhaps too little fear or at least caution but for many there has been and remains a significant fear of undertaking the ordinary tasks that are part of daily life.

For some groups of vulnerable people that fear remains a necessary reality. However, for others that fear arises through an amplification of the original realistic caution about living with a serious, easily transmitted and potentially harmful infection. Such amplification of caution can lead to a debilitating fear which inhibits a fulfilled life.

Of course, fear is a perfectly normal feeling to experience – it has helped humans to survive through millions of years of evolution.

But, as someone who has lived with anxiety and panic disorder through most of my adult life, I understand how fear can become unreasonable, such that everyday situations cause severe panic and fear of fear itself permeates our being and impedes the lives that we want to live.

In the central section of today's reading from Matthew's gospel Jesus addresses the fear that his followers may experience in trying to follow him and speak of the gospel message.

We see a similar reaction in Jeremiah. In our reading, we hear Jeremiah complaining that he has been made a laughing stock, that people deride and despise him for speaking God message; they dislike what he has to say and seek revenge on him and he is afraid. But his fear is turned round by knowing the presence of the Lord with him always and the assurance this brings that it will be his persecutors not himself who will stumble. He concludes with thanks and praise to God for his defence. His fear is overcome by his trust in God and his conviction that God's truth will prevail.

Jesus also reassures his followers that they need not fear to speak the truth – because even if they are, like Jeremiah, disparaged in this life, God's truth will prevail and the judgements of eternity will correct the judgements of time.

If you are fearful about speaking of the faith that underpins your life then listen to what Jesus tells us about the care of our heavenly Father.

Our Father cares deeply about the whole of his creation so much so that not a sparrow falls to the ground – the original uses a word meaning "alights" on the ground -without the Father noticing. So how much more can we be assured of his care for us. This doesn't mean that we are sheltered from all harm; that we will never experience hurt or injury; but that whatever happens to us, God will be there to

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comfort, support, strengthen and guide us – to protect us from the fear that would otherwise burden us and to reassure us, as Julian of Norwich said:

“All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.”

God’s perfect love for each one of us can cast out fear.

So,

Do not let fear hinder you from living your life in a way that makes your faith explicit and brings the Kingdom of heaven here to earth now.

As Mahatma Ghandi is reported to have said:

“Be the change that you want to see in the world”.

Be the one who acknowledges Jesus before others, so that others may also acknowledge him as Lord.

Collect for 2nd Sunday after Trinity

Lord, you have taught us

that all our doings without love are nothing worth:

send your Holy Spirit

and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,

the true bond of peace and of all virtues,

without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.

Grant this for your only Son 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: Lead Us Heavenly Father Lead Us James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us;
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.
Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

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FAMILY SERVICE 21 June 2020

Link: <https://youtu.be/Kuq1F5o0IZo>

Hymn: Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me His praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for his grace and favour
to our fathers, in distress;
praise Him still the same for ever,
slow to child, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hands He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before Him;
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Praise with us the God of grace.

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Bible Reading - Matthew 7: 7-12.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹ “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

I wonder whether there are things you would like to say thank you to father God for?

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

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Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

To think about and do:

Make a list of all the people you can thank God for.

Make a list of all the things you can thank God for.

Make a list of the things you are good at.

Thank God for all the things on your lists.

Song: Father God I Wonder How I Managed to Exist

Father God I wonder how I managed to exist
without the knowledge of your parenthood
and your loving care.

But now I am Your child I am adopted in
Your family, and I can never be alone -
'cause, Father God, You're there beside me.

I will sing Your praises, I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises, for evermore.

I will sing Your praises, I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises, for evermore.

Ian Smale (1984 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)

ooOOoo

PRAYER in the coming week:

Monday - pray that as lockdown is eased for many of us, we will be especially alert to those around us who are still shielding at home and need our help, whether this is providing a practical service or simply listening on the phone.

Tuesday - pray for all with health needs, that as hospitals are able to open up more, those who have been awaiting operations are able to get the treatment they need, that cancer treatments will be able to fully resume and that all will be able to seek health support safely.

Wednesday - pray for all in physical or financial need at this time, especially those who have recently lost their jobs, those who still face months on furlough with an uncertain future and those self-employed people whose work no longer exists.

Thursday - pray for the organisations who are helping to provide people throughout the UK with the resources they need to stay healthy and safe, such as food banks and homelessness charities.

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Friday - pray for wisdom for all those making decisions about how best to use available funds to support those in need during this time while lockdown is being eased (particularly those in local and national government).

Saturday - pray for the organisations who are helping to provide people across the world with the resources they need to stay healthy and safe, such as Christian Aid, Water Aid, Unicef etc.

Opening the Churches

You will be aware that we now have permission to open the churches for supervised individual private prayer. We have to follow Covid-19 Guidelines set in place by the Government and the Diocese, complete a risk assessment for each church and clean thoroughly before we open again. You are able to go to any of the churches at the times they are open that suit you.

St John's High Legh will be open on:-

Tuesdays from 13.30 to 15.00 and Saturdays from 09.30 to 11.00.

St Mary's Rostherne. Sadly, there is a delay in opening St Mary's as the builders have not been able to finish their work. We will let you know when it will be opening. In the meantime, Patricia is setting up an outdoor prayer activity in the churchyard.

St Paul's. Not yet open because of the ongoing work.

There are no plans to open Holy Trinity at the present time.

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 21 June

There will be a Zoom Coffee meeting starting at 11.00am on Sunday. Make your drink, get your biscuits and join us.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89333980458?pwd=REFsRkgrU1VIZ25RZnc3aWZaM0ZPdZ09>

❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 24 June

We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting every Wednesday morning from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86721817172?pwd=QUVyOVVjTEpvMnV5b3k2e1BhNGJPdz09>

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❖ Midweek Morning Prayer Thursday

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.

Topic: Morning Prayer Thursday Time: Jun 25, 2020 09:30 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89486529848?pwd=enlRbmQ4VE5icnE4ZjNCays5NXJCdz09>

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

By this time in the year we would normally have been holding various events for all the parishes as well as holding weekly services. Events are usually well attended by church members and their friends and family. We wonder whether you would be prepared to make a donation in lieu of what you might have spent at any event(s) you would normally have attended.

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 (Wednesday 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.

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Click on the link for the [Worship at Home](#) booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer. Contact the Vicarage if you need large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out.

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 22nd June: Psalm 44; Judges Chapter 2; Luke 13: 1-9

Tuesday 23rd June: Psalm 48; Judges 4: 1-23; Luke 13: 10-21

Weds 24th June: **Birth of John the Baptist:** Psalm 50; Malachi 3: 1-6; Luke 3: 1-17

Thursday 25th June: Psalm 57; Judges 6: 1-24; Luke 14: 1-11

Friday 26th June: Psalm 51; Judges 6: 25-end; Luke 14: 12-24

Saturday 27th June: Psalm 68; Judges Chapter 7; Luke 14: 25-end

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:

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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