

News and Prayer Update for 15th November

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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Please be aware that no services (with a congregation) are able to be held during the present lockdown.

We will continue to stream a service each Sunday.

Church Opening Times for Private Prayer During November

- St Mary Rostherne: Sundays 10.00 – 12.00
- Holy Trinity Little Bollington: Sundays 11.00 – 12.00
- St John High Legh: Sundays 10.00 – 12.00 and Wednesdays 09.00 – 11.00
- St Paul Over Tabley: Sundays 11.00 – 12.00.

Link for this week's Service: <https://youtu.be/AlroDaGu3wQ>

HYMN: The Church's One Foundation (Samuel John Stone 1839-1900)

The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation,
by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride,
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
once holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

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Collect:

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm: Psalm 90: 1 – 12

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge ♦
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were
formed, ♦
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to dust and say: ♦
'Turn back, O children of earth.'
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, ♦
which passes like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away like a dream; ♦
they fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; ♦
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; ♦
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
- 8 You have set our misdeeds before you ♦
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; ♦
our years come to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The days of our life are three score years and ten, or if our strength endures,
even four score; ♦
yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow, for they soon pass away and we
are gone.
- 11 Who regards the power of your wrath ♦
and your indignation like those who fear you?
- 12 So teach us to number our days ♦
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

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First reading: 1 Thess. 5: 1-11

- 1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.
- 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

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³ When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;
⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

⁶ So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober;

⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30

¹⁴ 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;

¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents."

²¹ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."

²³ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;

²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

²⁶ But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?"

²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

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³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READING Discipleship and Generosity. Chris Stanisstreet.

There are two conventional ways of reading the parable of the talents. The first is to say that the talents refer to the use of human abilities. The second is to say that the talents refer to making money - one talent being a colossal sum equivalent to a man's earnings for 15 years of work.

However, this isn't a story about God dishing out good accounting skills to one person and football skills to another or giving people differing amounts of money. Rather it is a story about what Jesus gives his disciples before he leaves them. These talents are not natural abilities or large amounts of money but particular gifts suited to the time between Jesus' first and second coming.

Paul talks about these kinds of gifts in his epistles, such as wisdom, kindness, patience (which we all need buckets of at present!) knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, speaking in tongues and many others.

Jesus tells his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations and portrays how to be reconciled with one another. The Holy Spirit is the talent Jesus leaves the Church for the time until he returns. So this parable is not telling us how to come to terms with the fact that we are super talented or super rich. It is telling us that, in giving us the Holy Spirit, Jesus has left the Church all the gifts it needs and that we must use these gifts.

Regarding the distribution of talents, it doesn't make sense to dwell too much on the significance of five, two and one. What the variable distribution tells us is that Jesus does not give us more than we can cope with and that it is not a competition. There is no suggestion that the slave with five talents is better or more important than the slave with two. Even the slave with one talent had more than enough.

The slave-owner is Jesus, and the slaves are the disciples. Some disciples received exceptional gifts – two talents. They were able to prophesy or to speak in tongues or utter words of knowledge. They put these gifts to good use, by shaping communities and living sacrificial lives that brought others to faith and made the kingdom known far and near.

Other disciples received even more exceptional gifts – five talents. They were able to heal people, and shape communities of transformation that brought the heart of Christ's ministry into situations of conflict and oppression, setting people free and bringing about forgiveness and reconciliation.

But some disciples received just – one talent, the everyday gifts of baptism, the

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Eucharist, the reading of Scripture and personal prayer.

This parable comes right at the very end of Jesus' ministry, by which time the disciples have seen the length and breadth and depth of what God has been doing in Jesus. The way they use their gifts from Jesus, that is the Holy Spirit, is by doing the things he did, spending time with the people he spent time with, breaking bread with notorious sinners and healing the blind.

Success for the disciples meant success in imitating Jesus. The challenge for us is to show how trustworthy we are in using the treasure of the gospel and the Holy Spirit in how we live each day.

Inward looking fear prevented the servant with one talent from being entrepreneurial but our faith is not a cautious preservation and keeping safe. Those willing to invest themselves in building and sustaining God's Kingdom are those who will metaphorically make more money for the master.

So, the task for all of us is to examine our generosity and to what extent our lives mirror the values Jesus espoused. Does our faith welcome and support the marginalised in our society: those with special needs, those on benefits, drug addicts, alcoholics, ex-convicts, people with debilitating illnesses, people of different races, politics or religions or of no religion? Do we love, forgive, and pray for those who upset or wrong us?

Anything we don't give freely and abundantly becomes lost to us. St. Dominic puts this simply: "hoarded grain rots but if scattered it fructifies." The secret of a life well lived is a life well given.

Right now is a good time for self-reflection, as we approach Advent, the start of our new church year. Amen

HYMN: One is the Body and One is the Head (John Bell b.1949)

One is the body and one is the Head,
one is the Spirit by whom we are led;
one God and Father,
one faith and one call for all.

Christ who ascended to heaven above
is the same Jesus whose nature is love,
who once descended
to bring to this earth new birth.

Gifts have been given well suited to each;
some to be prophets, to pastor or preach,
some, through the Gospel,
to challenge, convert and teach.

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Called to his service are women and men
so that his body might ever again
witness through worship,
through deed and through word
to Christ our Lord.

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PRAYER in the coming week. A Month of Prayer

The Bishop of Chester has joined the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and other senior church leaders in inviting Christians across the nation to participate in the month of prayer as the second lockdown in England comes into force.

Throughout the month, Christians will be encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating into **a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening**, with cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time.

Christians will be encouraged to follow a simple seven-day prayer cycle, praying for a specific area each day including the NHS and frontline workers, the bereaved, and those struggling with physical and mental ill-health, and for children and young people.

Prayers and other resources will be shared on social media with the hashtag #PrayerForTheNation.

Bishop Mark says: "Prayer is both a duty and a joy. I love that insight. What greater privilege could we have than to bring the world before Christ and seek his blessing? And what higher responsibility do we have than to pray for our neighbours, communities, and nation.

"The thing about prayer is that you don't have to be good at it, fired up for it, or go on about it... you just have to give it a go and God does the rest. Prayer makes a massive difference, and it is our privileged calling. Join me in #PrayerForTheNation this month if you can."

We have included the prayers for each day of the week below, along with the special prayer for this week and a family prayer:

Sunday – Family, Friends and Loved Ones

We lift to God those we hold in our hearts - praying for their health, their well-being and their sense of hope.

We pray that even when loved ones cannot physically be together they would not feel apart.

We pray for God's help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

Monday – Schools and Colleges, Children and Young People

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We pray for those involved in the shaping of young lives.

We give God thanks for the sacrifice and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people in education.

We pray that all may be nurtured and cared for and that every needful resource would be made available – that all lives can flourish even in these difficult times and that no-one would be overlooked.

Tuesday – Elderly, Isolated and Vulnerable

We echo God's commitment to those most at risk of this virus by praying today for those who are particularly vulnerable and isolated: praying for their deliverance, protection and comfort. We hold before God those who care for them – that they would be strengthened and encouraged in this work.

Wednesday – Businesses, The Workplace and Economic Wellbeing

In this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country.

We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work.

We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together.

Thursday – The NHS and Other Keyworkers

Our God is the great healer – and the agent used more than any other is the NHS.

Today we voice our gratitude for those who serve this country in the National Health Service and pray for that God would prosper the work of their hands – that they would all be encouraged in their continued work of sacrifice and care amongst us.

Friday – National and Local Government

We pray for those who are in positions of authority with responsibility for decision making at national and local level at this difficult time. We ask that God would give great wisdom, deep commitment to all and right judgment.

Saturday – All Who Are Grieving and all Suffering with Physical or Mental

Ill-Health

'Lord the one you love is ill....' John 11 v 3.

We bring to God all those who suffer in body, mind, spirit or with grief. We ask that in God's great loving kindness they might know God's sustaining presence amidst their pain.

We pray for those who are stretched beyond their own capacity to cope and remain hopeful – that in the roar of these waterfalls God would bring a sense of coherence, comfort and strength.

Prayer for this Week (16th – 22nd November)

Loving Father God,

be with us in our distress;

be with our families, friends, and neighbours,
our country and our world.

Give health to the sick,

hope to the fearful,

and comfort to mourners.

Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,

insight to our Government,

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and patience to us all.
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Family Prayer

Loving God, you know us and all that we are facing.
We thank you that we can come to you as we are - with all our fears and concerns,
our difficulties and challenges.
Please draw close to each of us and those we remember before you now.
Bring to us your peace and comfort.
And fill us with your Spirit that we may be bearers of your grace and hope to others.
As a country protect us, encourage us and keep us, in the name of your Son Jesus,
we pray. Amen.

NOTICES

❖ **Coffee and Chat Wednesday 18th 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=NlpiampXNXVpT1REaGIUS0NobWRxdz09>

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

❖ **Christingle Services in the United Benefice:**



These are planned for the following dates:
Sunday 13 December at St Mary Rostherne
Sunday 20 December at St John High Legh
Sunday 24 January at St Paul Over Tabley.

Details of Christingle Service on 13 December 2020 at St Mary Rostherne:

Because of the present lockdown we have changed the date for this service, but you need to reserve your place(s).

The last date for reservations for this service is Wednesday 9 December.

However, we advise booking as soon as possible as places will be limited because of the "Covid-safe" measures in place.

Contact: Rev'd Patricia: 01565 830 595; 07854 418 488; pmrobinson51@gmail.com

An online Christingle Service will be available (date to be confirmed) to members in all our churches and we will supply the service sheets, and can supply the kit(s) you need to make up your own Christingles for this if you would like them. Please book as soon as possible as we will need to distribute collecting candles/envelopes as well as the Christingle kits for those joining the online service. Please let Revd Patricia know if you would like to join this service.

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❖ **Advent Study Group - Living in Hope a York Course by Catherine Fox**

'This course is a chance to have a think about what it means to live well, and to die well. We are people of history and people of hope. We look back to the Bible to see where we've come from, and we look forward in hope to what lies ahead'.

We plan to follow this course online over the weeks leading up to Christmas. Please let us know (Revd Patricia email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com or telephone 01565 830 595; Chris Stanisstreet: 01925 755559) if you would like to join us daytime or evening. We have the option to use virtual breakout rooms so we can have smaller discussion groups where necessary. You can use hard copies of the course booklet; or digital copies which you would pay for and download yourself. We have some hard copies (£3.80 each) already on order.

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

❖ **The Hideaway – Hope Centre in Partington**

Partington is just a few miles away – about 15 minutes in the car. Yet the lives of many people there are very different from the lives of most of us here in High Legh and Little Bollington. Approximately 1/3 of the residents live below the poverty line and it is in the lowest 5% of deprived areas in the UK.

Churches Together in Lymm and District have supported The Hideaway – Hope Centre in Partington during the Covid 19 crisis. They are running a foodbank, providing hot meals daily, hosting a play-centre, giving family advice and counselling. An amazing beacon of hope in that deprived area.

They plan to open a shop selling surplus food and uniform at affordable prices but unfortunately one of the businesses that had offered money is not able to give and they are £3000 short and desperately need to begin this project by December. Can you support them? Any amount will help and if possible, within the next two weeks.

Please use the Lymm Baptist Church giving website:

lyymbaptistchurch.com/giving

Any money you give will go directly to the Hope Centre.

If you cannot use online giving but would like to support them please contact Rev'd Trish for help.

Thank you

We are all in need of hope in these difficult times. Please will you give a little hope to our neighbours.

❖ **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.

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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

❖ **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 16th Nov – Psalm 47; Daniel 8: 1 – 14; Revelation Chapter 10

Tuesday 17th Nov – Psalm 52; Daniel 8: 15 – end; Revelation 11: 1 – 14

Wed 18th Nov – Psalm 56; Daniel 9: 1 – 19; Revelation 11: 15 – end

Thursday 19th Nov – Psalm 62; Daniel 9: 20 – end; Revelation Chapter 12

Friday 20th Nov – Psalm 63; Daniel 10: 1 – 11: 1; Revelation 13: 1 – 10

Saturday 21st Nov – Psalm 78: 1 – 39; Daniel Chapter 12; Revelation 13: 11 – end

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)

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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,
p[raising, worshipping and adoring your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who sits upon the throne for ever and ever.

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.