

News and Prayer Update for 22nd 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
- 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/HquWBzD9SA0>

HYMN: The Servant King (Graham Kendrick born 1950)

From heaven you came helpless babe
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
'Yet not My will but Yours, ' He said

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

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Collect for Christ The King:

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm: Psalm 95: 1 – 7

¹ O come, let us sing to the Lord; ♦

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- let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ♦
and be glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God ♦
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth ♦
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, ♦
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down ♦
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God; ♦
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

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First reading: Ephesians 1: 15 – end

- ¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason
- ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.
- ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,
- ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
- ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.
- ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
- ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.
- ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,
- ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 31 – end

- ³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.
- ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
- ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.
- ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;
- ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
- ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."
- ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?"

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³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?

³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"

⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;

⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me."

⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?"

⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READING by Revd Trish Cope

Today we are celebrating the Festival of Christ as King and the parable we have just heard is of a King sitting on his throne and judging all his people. But this King is depicted as a shepherd.

As I contemplated the nature of kingship I was reminded of a story I heard about an American soldier on a bus in Sweden who told the man sitting next to him: "America is the most democratic country in the world. Ordinary citizens may go to the White House to see the president and to discuss things with him." This was a few years ago!)

The man replied, "That's nothing – in Sweden the king and the people travel on the same bus."

When that man got off the bus, the American soldier was told by other passengers that the man he had sat next to and talked with was in fact King Gustav Adolph VII!

He was sitting next to the king but didn't recognise him!

So how do we recognise Kings and Queens – how would you recognise our Queen coming down the street. I guess that the numbers of security men in black talking into their wrists might be a clue or perhaps we'd look for a smallish elderly lady who always has a handbag and never carries any money! Of course, we have seen sufficient photos to physically recognise her even without her crown but what about the many years that existed before photos or even paintings of Kings and Queens?

How did people recognise their monarchs in the middle east 2000 years ago? In the time and place where Jesus lived. What about.....

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- Crowns – an obvious sign of monarchy
- Rich clothes – a sign of wealth and power
- A palace or castle to live in and emerge from
- Or we might see them surrounded by soldiers or other people exercising power on their behalf – that would be
- A sense of authority – although it was all too often power rather than authority

But what about Jesus? How might people have recognised him as the King of Heaven?

Jesus himself never claimed to be King – not even the King of Heaven; “King of the Jews” was a title first given to him by soldiers mocking him before his crucifixion.

The only crown he wore was a crown of thorns as he hung on a cross – you wouldn’t have recognised him from that.

What about his clothes – apart from the time that the soldiers ridiculed him with a scarlet robe, he wore the simple robes of a first century itinerant teacher – so, you wouldn’t have recognised him from his robes and he lived in a simple home – no grand palace for him – no clue there.

What about those he surrounded himself with – fishermen, tax collectors, prostitutes and other women – certainly you wouldn’t have recognised him as a King from them.

But you might have recognised him from his authority – eventually the scribes / pharisees / the religious leaders recognised an authority in him that they could not challenge – that was why they plotted his death / to get rid of him

However, for the most part the birth and life of Jesus Christ challenged every usual way of thinking of kingship:

- His birth in a stable / his home life in a house in a village in Nazareth
- his work as a carpenter (we don’t hear this written about in the gospels but we can be sure that as an older child and as a young man He would have had to earn His living along with the family and that He would almost certainly have been apprenticed to his father);
- His friends – simple everyday people, cheats and sinners – fishermen, tax collectors, prostitutes
- His arrival in Jerusalem prior to His arrest and crucifixion, riding on a donkey was in sharp contrast to the arrival of Pontius Pilate on a powerful horse at the head of an army through another gate.

In the parable we have just heard we hear Jesus describing himself as a shepherd. This is how the King of all creation exercises judgement over his people – as a shepherd separating the sheep and goats. And his judgement is decisive.

Yet, remember this King is a shepherd who will go to any lengths to rescue any sheep that go astray; the one who pronounces judgement will first go through judgement himself and before this man will finally reign as King of Heaven, he will hang on a cross in pain and humiliation.

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Remember too, that this King - the King of heaven - walks and sits beside us every step of the way – not just for the duration of a bus ride but each and every day of our lives.

But make no mistake, there will be a final judgement. As we heard in last week's parable about the servant's and their talents – there will be a final reckoning. Jesus makes it clear that the final judgement will provide reward for some, and punishment for others.

So - why wait? Why wait until that final judgement?

We will face the final reckoning with more confidence by checking our lives against the King's compassionate and merciful judgement each and every day.

At the end of each day, in fact during the day ask yourself:

What have I done for the least of these my brothers and sisters in my world-wide family across the world?

Have I recognised Christ - King of all - in the most needy members of that family?

Have I heard Christ's voice of judgement in my thoughts, words and deeds?

Where would I have been – in with the sheep or goats?

HYMN: Meekness and Majesty (Graham Kendrick born 1950)

Meekness and majesty manhood and deity
In perfect harmony the Man who is God
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity
Kneels in humility and washes our feet

*O what a mystery meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship for this is your God
This is your God*

Father's pure radiance perfect in innocence
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross
Suffering to give us life
Conquering through sacrifice
And as they crucify prays Father forgive

O what a mystery meekness and majesty.....

Wisdom unsearchable God the invisible
Love indestructible in frailty appears
Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne

O what a mystery meekness and majesty....

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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

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,

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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 (23rd – 29th November)

Lord Jesus Christ,

in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you.

In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster.

Do it again, we pray.

Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders,

Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers.

Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve.

Lord Jesus Christ,

in these dark and difficult days,

turn your face towards us,

have mercy upon us,

and heal our land, we pray.

Amen.

Link for Storytelling Service: The Prophets and the Angel

https://youtu.be/r2XuRFGri_0

If you would like the sheet that accompanies this with the words for the songs and the template for making the Angel please email Revd Patricia pmrobinson51@gmail.com

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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 25th 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=NIpjampXNXVpT1REaGIUS0NobWRxdz09>

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.

❖ 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

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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.

If we find we are able to hold a course where we meet we will see if there is any interest in doing this. Watch this space!

❖ **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

❖ **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 than 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.

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

❖ **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.

❖ **Fundraising Christmas Produce Sale for St Mary's Church:**



ST MARY'S CHURCH ROSTHERNE

CHRISTMAS PRODUCE SALE



As we are unable to hold our usual **CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING** we have decided to go "online" so that everyone can still enjoy their favourite mince pies this Christmas!

We will be offering the following for sale and will make arrangements for collection/delivery:-

Mince Pies, Christmas Cake, Gingerbread Trees, Chocolate Tiffin, Fudge and Meringues
Cranberry Sauce, Marmalade and a variety of Jams and Chutneys.

Locally grown Hyacinth Bulbs, Primulas and Lewisias.

Please tell your friends and help us raise much needed funds for St. Mary's Rostherne.

Orders to be placed by Sunday 6th December for collection/delivery from 13th December

Early ordering advisable – some items subject to availability.

Order form available from Gail at gail_simpkin@hotmail.com or 01565 830457 or use this link

A copy of the order form can be found on the back page of this update.

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❖ 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 23rd Nov – Psalm 96; Isaiah 40: 1 – 11; Revelation 14: 1 – 13

Tuesday 24th Nov – Psalm 97; Isaiah 40: 12 – 26; Revelation 14: 14 – 15: end

Wed 25th Nov – Psalm 112; Isaiah 40: 27 – 41:7; Revelation 16: 1 – 11

Thursday 26th Nov – Psalm 125; Isaiah 41: 8 – 20; Revelation 16: 12 – end

Friday 27th Nov – Psalm 139; Isaiah 41: 21 – 42: 9; Revelation Chapter 17

Saturday 28th Nov – Psalm 145; Isaiah 42: 10 – 17; Revelation Chapter 18

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,
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.

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ST MARY'S CHURCH ROSTHERNE CHRISTMAS PRODUCE ORDER FORM

NAME:

EMAIL/TEL:

Home address (if unable to collect):

Orders to be placed with Gail at: gail_simpkin@hotmail.com or 01565 830457
By Sunday 6th December (for collection/delivery from 13th December)

	Quantity	Price
CAKE STALL		
MINCE PIES (Pack of 6 standard size - £2.00)		
MINCE PIES (Pack of 8 minis - £2.00)		
GINGERBREAD TREE (£2.00)		
SEASONAL CHOCOLATE TIFFIN (Pack of 4 - £2.00)		
MERINGUES (Pack of 8 small - £2.00)		
VANILLA FUDGE (approx. 100g - £2.00)		
CHRISTMAS CAKE (top iced, 4" square - £4.00)		
JAMS AND PRESERVES (all £2.50 per pot)		
CHUNKY SEVILLE MARMALADE		
FINE SHRED MARMALADE		
CRANBERRY SAUCE		
REDCURRANT JELLY		
APPLE JELLY		
STRAWBERRY JAM		
DAMSON JAM		
APPLE CHUTNEY		
GREEN TOMATO CHUTNEY		
PLANTS		
HYACINTHS – TRAY OF 6 BULBS (5.00)	PINK	
	BLUE	
	WHITE	
HYACINTHS – TRAY OF 3 BULBS (£3.00)	PINK	
	BLUE	
	WHITE	
PRIMULAS – 4" POTS - £1.00		
LEWISIAS – (4" Pots £3.00 or 2 for £5.00)		
DONATION optional but welcome		
TOTAL		

(Please have exact sum available in an envelope.
Cash or cheque in favour of St. Mary's Rostherne PCC)