

News and Prayer Update for 11th October

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/Pm52hUjoq0k>

HYMN: New Every Morning is the Love (John Keble 1972-1866)

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we need to ask:
room to deny ourselves; a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love,
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

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READINGS FOR 18th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Psalm: Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; ♦
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ♦
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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First Reading: Philippians 4: 1-9

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22: 1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

² 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.

³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet."

⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,

⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.

⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

⁸ Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet."

¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,

¹² and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless.

¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.'

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS - from Revd Philip

Nearly every day the postman thrusts a bundle of letters through our door. If you are anything like Patricia and me they are a mixture of advertising flyers, bills, communications from charities reminders to renew various insurances. Sometimes amongst them there are a few personal letters, even postcards although there have not been so many of those this year. Every now and then one of the letters stands out from the others because of the quality of the envelope, and we open it with anticipation because such envelopes often contain an invitation to some event such as a wedding. Then we prop the invitation on our kitchen windowsill, send a reply, write the date in our diaries and begin to look forward to an enjoyable occasion. Patricia probably begins to plan what she will wear, in my case what I will wear is very predictable for which I am grateful. The only time I have ever had to go as far as hiring a morning suit was when my cousin got married in 1966.

The king in the parable this morning did not send out invitations in the form that we know them today, but he knew who he wanted to invite and made sure that they knew what was going to happen. For us to be invited to a wedding is a great honour. It shows that we are friends of the family and that they value that friendship. To be invited to the wedding of a king's son, a royal wedding, would have been an even greater honour. Then as now a great deal of care and attention would have been paid to the preparations. We know that the seating plan would have been just as important as today as it was an important indication of your status in the eyes of the host. The food would have been sumptuous and plentiful, the wine carefully chosen. Then the great day arrived and the slaves of the king were sent to tell the guests to come and enjoy the celebration. They all refused. Unlike in the similar parable in Luke Chapter 14, we are not given any reason for their refusal, just told that they would not come, even when they were given a second chance. Sometimes they even mistreated, even killed the slaves who were sent to them. The reaction of the king whose hospitality had been spurned was probably more typical of a ruler of that period than one today, at least in this country.

In his commentary on Matthew, William Barclay points out that while it is a mistake to look for more than one point in a parable, in this case there are two that have to be addressed, meanings that would not have been lost on Jesus' hearers. Meanings that would have made uncomfortable listening for them, but are good news for us. The guests who were invited were the Jewish people who had been given the very great honour of being chosen by his as his covenant people. Sadly, often throughout their history they had turned their backs on him choosing to go their own way. When God had sent his servants the prophets to summon them back to him they had often mistreated and sometimes even killed them. Finally, when God sent his Son to invite them one last time they had refused and killed him as well.

With his chosen people turning their backs on him, the wedding banquet was thrown open to everyone irrespective of their ethnic origin, religion or moral standing. These were people who never anticipated being invited to participate in a royal wedding banquet. They stand for us, we are invited to experience the joy of being part of God's celebration.

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At the end of the parable of the wedding banquet there is a parable within a parable. One of the new guests is not dressed appropriately. Part of the largess of the king would be to provide wedding garments for his guests. This person had not accepted the generosity of the king and was thrown out. It is a reminder that the invitation of God to his heavenly feast is not unconditional. We are called to turn away from our sins and live lives worthy of him. This does not mean that before we became Christians we were all living licentious and immoral lives. However, just as the first guests were not doing anything untoward, one going to his farm and the other to his business, the focus of our lives also was not on God and following the teaching Of his Son Jesus. If we want to be part of the great banquet we have to honour the host and show our gratitude in the way we live.

The theologian Gerard Kelly writes what he describes as Twitturgies, personal liturgies in 140 characters or less. One appropriate to finish this reflection is simply called Invited.

God is a party and we've all been invited
A buffet ticket is reserved for me
You are marked on God's dance card
We are guests – VIP- RSVP

Collect for 18th Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

HYMN: When All Thy Mercies O My God (Joseph Addison 1672-1719)

When all your mercies, O my God,
my rising soul surveys,
transported with the view, I'm lost
in wonder, love, and praise.

Unnumbered comforts to my soul
your tender care bestowed,
before my infant heart conceived
from whom those comforts flowed.

When worn with sickness, oft have you
with health renewed my face;
and when in sins and sorrows sunk,
revived my soul with grace.

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Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
my daily thanks employ;
nor is the least a cheerful heart
that tastes those gifts with joy.

Through every period of my life
your goodness I'll pursue;
and after death, in distant worlds,
the glorious theme renew.

Through all eternity to you
a joyful song I'll raise;
for oh, eternity's too short
to utter all your praise.

Storytelling Service Link: <https://youtu.be/z4XO53PJhCM>

PRAYER in the coming week:

Let us use the "Thanksgiving" section from the Harvest service to focus our thanks this week:

Let us give thanks to God, the God of all peoples of the earth. For the colour and forms of your creation and our place within it,

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

Monday – For our daily food, and for those whose work and skill bring your good gifts to us,

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

Tuesday – For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts, for insight and imagination, for the skills of research which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many;

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

Wednesday – For the light and shades of the changing seasons, and their variety and dependability; for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

Thursday – For new hope and strength in our communities, especially in your Church and among all you call to serve you,

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

Friday – For all in whose lives we see goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility, and all the fruit of the Spirit,

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

Saturday – For the life we have been given, and for all those whom you have given us to share it,

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

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SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES:

FACE COVERINGS – These are mandatory in places of worship. Please come prepared.

Please inform the clergy if you are exempt from wearing a face covering and do let the service leader know if you lip read.

Sunday 11th October:

10.00 Holy Communion St John High Legh

11.00 Holy Communion Holy Trinity Little Bollington

Sunday 18th October

10.00 Holy Communion St John High Legh

10.30 Morning Worship St Mary Rostherne

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.

It is important that no one feels they must come to services if they are reluctant to.

We stream a service each Sunday which is often recorded at St Paul's. Some services from St Mary Rostherne will be live streamed.

NOTICES

ZOOM MEETINGS:

❖ **Storytelling Catchup Meeting 10.00 – 10.45 Sunday 11 October 2020**

Do join us to let us know how you are getting on and catchup with one another. Children welcome as well as parents. Just click on the link. If you require the ID and Passcode, please let Revd Patricia know.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87896206394?pwd=b3ZYVFdYa3M4bnBkejIZY3NWcmIhQT09>

❖ **Sunday Morning Coffee 11.00 – 12.00 Sunday 11 October 2020**

Join us for coffee following the service. Click on the link below. If you need the ID and passcode please contact Revd Patricia.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84099357465?pwd=azkwL044c1ZsajAyY3oycmZPNINWQT09>

❖ **Coffee & Chat:** There will be no Coffee and Chat Zoom Meeting this week. Do join us on Wednesday 21 October at 11.00. If you would like the link please let Revd Patricia know.

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HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS



St Mary's porch decorated for Harvest Communion on Sunday 4th October.



Creation Picture for Harvest produced by Florence and Freddie.



This display is my "Thanksgiving Tree".

Some of the leaves have reflections written on them about the past six months written by the congregation in St John's Church last Sunday.

The display is also two-fold: all the food tins will be donated to a local food bank and hopefully most of the display is also recyclable waste.

Thanks, Liz

Thank you to everyone who made the Harvest Services so successful even though things were a little different this year. It was lovely to see the decorations and the food donated for the Food Banks provided good displays. Also thank you to those who did decorate parts of the churches. We have been able to send lots of food to the Food Banks and nearly £300.00 to Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy.

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

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REMEMBERING SERVICES:

We will be holding two Remembering Services on Sunday 1st November 16.00 at Holy Trinity Little Bollington and 16.00 at St John High Legh

People who have been bereaved over the past year will be invited to come to these Services. We may be able to accommodate other people as well, so please get in touch if you would like to attend.

We are also providing an online Remembering Service details of which will be on the websites and weekly News & Prayer Updates nearer the time. Among other things we will be offering candles and prayer cards for those who attend in person and for those who access the online service.

If you would like more details, please contact:

Rev'd Trish Cope 01925 754787 or Rev'd Patricia Robinson 01565 830595

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

The best and safest way to give is by monthly Standing Order or direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. 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.

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.

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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 12th Oct: Psalm 80; 2 Kings Chapter 5; Acts 26: 1-23

Tuesday 13th Oct: Psalm 89: 1-18; 2 Kings 6: 1-23; Acts 26: 24-end

Wednesday 14th Oct: Psalm 119: 105-128; 2 Kings 9: 1-16; Acts 27: 1-26

Thursday 15th Oct: Psalm 92; 2 Kings 9: 17-end; Acts 27: 27-end

Friday 16th Oct: Psalm 88; 2 Kings 12: 1-19; Acts 28: 1-16

Saturday 17th Oct: Psalm 97; 2 Kings 17: 1-23; Acts 28: 17-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)