

News and Prayer Update for 25th 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/0G-ncks1mDk>

HYMN: When Morning Gilds The Skies

(German C9th trans Edward Caswall 1814-1878)

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day,
when from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
The powers of darkness fear,
when this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th' eternal song
Through all the ages on,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

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Collect for Last Sunday after Trinity:

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

READINGS FOR LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Psalm: Psalm 1

- 1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, ♦
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord ♦
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves

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- that do not wither, ♦
whatever they do, it shall prosper.
- 4 As for the wicked, it is not so with them; ♦
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, ♦
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, ♦
but the way of the wicked shall perish.

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First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1- 8

- ¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain,
²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.
- ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery,
⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.
- ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed;
⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others,
⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.
- ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22: 34 – end

- ³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,
³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.
- ³⁶'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?'
- ³⁷He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
- ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment.
- ³⁹And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."
- ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'
- ⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:
⁴²'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.'
- ⁴³He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,
⁴⁴"The Lord said to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet'"?
- ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?'
- ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS from Revd Philip

A number of years ago my Saturday paper featured a regular short column with the title 'Frantic Semantics'. To simplify a complex subject, semantics is the study of the meaning of words, and the writer of Frantic Semantics looked at the way the meaning of many of the words in regular use today have changed over the years. Sometimes the passing years have changed their meaning entirely, and the Prayer Book Society have felt the need to produce a short guide to the language of the Book of Common Prayer for those unfamiliar with it. I remember as a child singing the hymn, 'Jesus shall reign where're the sun', and being intrigued by the line, 'let every creature rise and bring peculiar honours to our king'. I tried to imagine what those peculiar honours might be, because from its original meaning as something special, in modern usage the word peculiar often means strange or bizarre. And let us not stray too far into the subject of royal peculiars which sadly are not the strange habits of kings and queens but describe a parish or church exempt from the jurisdiction of the diocese in which it lies, but is subject to the direct jurisdiction of the monarch. Someone I know was recently married in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft in the Palace of Westminster which is one such royal peculiar.

In our Gospel reading this morning Jesus responded to a question about which is the greatest commandment by citing two, thus giving us an early example of BOGOF, buy one get one free. I recite a version of this, what we describe as the Summary of the Law, at every service of Holy Communion. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Love is central to both commandments, but what do we understand the word Love to mean today, a word so important Jesus claimed that on it, 'hang all the law and the prophets'? I remember one of my interviewers at the residential selection conference I attended asking me what the most important thing was I wanted people to know. My reply was that I wanted them to know that God loves them, and I hope that over the past 14 years since my ordination I have kept to that ideal.

What, however, does the word love mean, how is it used today? When I tell people that God loves them what do they understand by that? And perhaps just as importantly, how are we to express that love to others, because love is not a gift that we are given so that we can bank it and keep it for our own benefit. Today the word love is used in many different ways. We love many things, chocolate, football, fishing, going on holiday. On Monday my paper listed the top 10 things which a survey had revealed people love to do. At the top of the list was walking, followed by reading, eating out, watching films, gardening, travelling, cooking, doing puzzles, socialising and last of all, baking. All these activities have to do with feelings and the enjoyment we derive from doing them. However, this use of the word love is far removed from the meaning Jesus gave it, for him to love God and to love neighbour was set within the context of a commandment. You 'shall' love. That removes love from being a warm fuzzy feeling we get when we do things we enjoy, to something that needs commitment and dedication. We 'shall' love God both in the good times

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when everything in the garden is rosy, and in the bad times when life is not easy, when there is pain and the future uncertain. Equally, we 'shall' love our neighbours, have their best interests at heart, even if we dislike them and our human instincts tell us to run a mile from them.

In her commentary on this imperative to love, the writer Debie Thomas says she does not think it's a coincidence or a mistake that Jesus inextricably links love of God with love of neighbor. Each reinforces, reinterprets, and revives the other. As heirs of the Incarnation, we *cannot* love God while we refuse to love what God loves. We cannot love God in a disinfected, disembodied way that doesn't touch the dirt and depth of this world. Our love is meant to be robust and muscular, hands-on and intimate.

If we are to take anything away from our reading this morning it is an invitation to reflect on how we understand love, and both love God and our neighbour as ourselves with integrity. May God who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to be our Saviour, the ultimate expression of love, give us his grace and enable us to do so.

HYMN: Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You

(Richard Gillard b.1953)

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey.
Fellow trav'lers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you;
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.

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HYMN: Love Divine All Loves Excelling

(Charles Wesley)

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down:
fix in us Your humble dwelling,
all Your faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, You are all compassion,
pure, unbounded love You are;
visit us with Your salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all Your grace received;
suddenly return, and never,
never more Your temples leave.

You we would be always blessing,
serve You are Your hosts above,
pray, and praise You without ceasing,
glory in Your perfect love.

Finish then Your new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see Your great salvation,
perfectly restored in You:

Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before You,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Storytelling Service Link:

<https://youtu.be/CEmK4kVpx70>

PRAYER in the coming week:

Monday – Everlasting God, you promised that your presence would always go with your chosen people, the Jews; so we pray that we too may find you accompanying us on our life's journey and that ultimately we would find your deep peace in our lives.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

Tuesday – Loving God, we hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dearly as our own needs, help us to love you with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our minds and to love our neighbours as ourselves. With these commandments before us we offer our thanksgiving and our petitions on behalf of the Church here in the United Benefice and throughout the world.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

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Wednesday – Creator God, we pray for the peoples of the world, that they may enjoy un-perverted justice whether they be poor or rich, great or small. We pray that those who use violence and terror to bring about their desires and those who then so readily seek revenge following acts of terrorism, may instead pursue all that makes for peace.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

Thursday – Father God, we thank you for our families and friends. We thank you for modern technology which enables us to hear and see them so easily and to keep in touch, despite not being able to meet up because of the pandemic. We especially pray for pupils and teachers who will be having a well-earned half-term break in the next couple of weeks, we ask that they would have time to relax and be refreshed despite the current difficulties.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

Friday – Loving God, friend of those in need, your son Jesus has loosed our burdens and healed our spirits, we lift before you those still burdened, those who need healing, those in need within the Church and in the world. We pray especially for those experiencing isolation and anxiety caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

Saturday – Merciful God, your son Jesus was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus his friend, look with compassion on those bereaved and grieving at the loss of a loved one, give to their troubled hearts the light of hope and strengthen in all of us the gift of faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

Faithful God at the start of this new week and recognising your trust in us to live and preach the gospel, make us always more ready to please you rather than to seek the praise of the secular world.

Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES:

FACE COVERINGS – These are now 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 25th October:

10.00 Holy Communion St John High Legh

11.00 Holy Communion Holy Trinity Little Bollington

Sunday 1st November

10.00 Holy Communion St John High Legh

10.30 Holy Communion St Mary Rostherne

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Wednesday Mornings

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer at St John High Legh

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

❖ **Sunday Morning Coffee 11.00 – 12.00 Sunday 25th October 2020**

Join us for coffee following the service. Click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88320420040?pwd=cHN0dWh2NmJZWWE9VeTdiSjJBS2kzd09>

❖ **Coffee and Chat Wednesday 28th October**

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/81665747066?pwd=ckdZd2N3a0VZTUZYV2dwQzVvbGplZz09>

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

Virtual Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Vestry Meetings This Week

Tuesday 27 October Rostherne with Bollington are holding their Vestry Meeting and APCM starting at 19.15 with the Vestry Meeting at which the churchwardens are elected. Anyone who lives in the Parish may attend the Vestry Meeting. All those who are on the Church Electoral Roll may attend both meetings.

If you wish to attend please contact Rev'd Patricia by emailing pmrobinson51@gmail.com and she will provide the link for the meeting.

Thursday 29 October High Legh are holding their Vestry Meeting and APCM starting at 19.15. Anyone who lives in the Parish may attend the Vestry Meeting. All those who are on the Church Electoral Roll may attend both meetings.

If you wish to attend please contact Rev'd Patricia by emailing pmrobinson15@gmail.com and she will provide the link for the meeting.

Remembering Services by Invitation 16.00 on Sunday 1st November Holy Trinity Little Bollington and at St John High Legh.

These services are a chance to remember those we have loved and who are no longer here.

An invitation will be sent to those known to us who are recently bereaved. Anyone else wishing to attend one of the services should let us know their names and

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contact details as numbers will be limited because of the need to maintain social distancing.

However, people can join us in different ways:

- During the week before you might like to come to the church garden at St John's and place a stone on our cross of remembering and spend a moment of quiet there.
- You may prefer to watch our online Service of Remembering and wish to have a candle to light at home and a prayer card to use at the same time as the service will be held – we can supply these if you let us know.
- You may wish your loved ones to be named during the service; if so please let us know their name beforehand.

To participate or for further information please contact:

For St John's: Revd Trish: 01925 754787; 07703 470101;
trishcope2012@btinternet.com

For Holy Trinity: Revd Patricia: 01565 830 595; 07854 418 488;
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

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:

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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, Strawberry & Gooseberry, Greengage and Raspberry jams. Also Apple Chutney.

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:

These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Mon 26th Oct: Psalm 126; 2 Kings 21: 1-18; 1 Timothy 1: 1-17

Tuesday 27th Oct: Psalm 132; 2 Kings 22: 1- 23: 3; 1 Timothy 1: 18 – 2: end

Wed 28th Oct: Simon & Jude Apostles: Psalm 116or117; Isaiah 45:18-end; Luke 6:12-16

Thursday 29th Oct: Psalm 143; 2 Kings 23:36-24:17; 1 Timothy Chapter 4

Friday 30th Oct: Psalm 144; 2 Kings 24: 18 -25:12; 1 Timothy 5: 1-16

Saturday 31st Oct: Psalm 147; 2 Kings 25: 22-end; 1 Timothy 5: 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)