

News and Prayer Update for 13th September

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/Q1jhr5C76d8>

HYMN: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of Light
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render, O help us to see:
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

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READINGS FOR 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Psalm: Psalm 103: 1-13

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, ◆
and all that is within me bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, ◆
and forget not all his benefits;
- 3 Who forgives all your sins ◆
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the Pit ◆
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things, ◆
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness ◆
and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses ◆
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, ◆
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, ◆
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, ◆
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

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- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, ♦
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.
- ¹² As far as the east is from the west, ♦
so far has he set our sins from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, ♦
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.

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First Reading: Romans 14: 1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions.

² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

⁴ Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.

¹¹ For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'

²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;

²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."

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²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe."

²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you."

³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt.

³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?"

³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt.

³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS from Revd Philip

The issue of forgiveness is at the heart of our Christian faith. When Jesus' disciples asked him to tell them how to pray, he gave them what has come to be known as the Lord's Prayer. We recite it regularly in our worship in church and at home, it occurs twice in the Prayer Book Service of Holy Communion, both with and without the Doxology. In each case, as well as asking that God will give us this day our daily bread, we pray that God will forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Forgiving someone who has caused us considerable hurt, either physically or mentally, is never easy. Many years ago a lady told me about her two uncles. When they were young men something happened between them, their niece thought it was over a girl, and one said to the other, 'Percy, I will never speak to you again'. For the rest of their lives they never spoke to one another. That is a pretty extreme example of what can happen when forgiveness is withheld, but the result is always damaging. Perhaps that is why Jesus decided to focus on the issue in this parable.

It started when Peter came to him with a question. "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" In the Jewish culture of his day it was required to forgive someone three times. When Peter suggested that he might forgive someone seven times it might have been with a twinge of self-righteousness. He probably thought that Jesus would praise him for suggesting that he should forgive more than twice as many times as was required.

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Jesus' response, that he should forgive seventy-seven times (in some translations it is seventy times seven – 490 times) probably took him aback.

In the parable a king demands that a slave repay a debt. Ten thousand talents was a vast amount of money, millions of pounds in today's money. We are familiar with accounts of how loan sharks and other lenders charge desperate people extortionate amounts of interest on quite small loans, and how if the debt is not repaid promptly the amount owed can rapidly escalate. We have no explanation of how this man came to owe such a huge sum, but like those who take out high interest loans today and let them run on, the amount he had to repay was way beyond his ability to repay. The potential consequences for him and his family were dire, but we read that he threw himself on the mercy of his master, promising that in due course he would pay off the debt. Out of compassion the king forgave him the debt, a gesture of incredible generosity, but one that also demonstrated the fact that his own wealth was so enormous that he could afford to take the hit on his finances.

Jesus then went on to describe how the slave acted with a complete lack of compassion towards a fellow slave who owed him a pittance, 1/450,000 of the debt that he had just been forgiven. His fellow slave asked also asked for mercy, promising that he would pay off the debt. The first slave acted without compassion and had him thrown into prison until he could repay what he owed. His fellow slaves, horrified at what had happened, reported the matter to the king who reversed his original decision and had him thrown into prison.

At the conclusion of the parable Jesus turned to his listeners and told them, 'So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.' That we should have a forgiving heart is obviously very important to God, and that when considering whether to offer forgiveness we should first reflect on the forgiveness we have received from him. What we are being asked to forgive is trivial in comparison to the enormous degree of forgiveness that we have received, just as the few pounds the second slave owed was trivial in comparison to the millions owed by the first one. Neither should we keep track of how many times we have forgiven. Peter probably considered that when he had forgiven someone seven times, he would then be under no obligation to do so again. Jesus reminds us that our forgiveness should always reflect that of God towards us; let us pray that that he will give us the strength to forgive all who have wronged us, just as he has forgiven us.

Collect for 14th Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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.

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HYMN: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Henry Williams Baker 1821 – 1877;
Music: John Bacchus Dykes 1823 – 1876)

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction, grace bestoweth:
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.

STORYTELLING SERVICE Sunday 13 September 2020

Song: As The Deer Pants for the Water Martin Nystrom 1983

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.*

I want you more than gold or silver,
Only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye.

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You alone are my strength, my shield.....

You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.

You alone are my strength, my shield.....

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Today's story is – The Lost Coin <https://toutu.be/KdV8KXBy1Ys>

Song: Wake Up

Wake up, stand up, cheer up, sing up.
Sing up and be happy as we praise the Lord.
Wake up, stand up, cheer up, sing up.
Sing up and be happy as we praise the Lord.

Steve Morgan-Gurr

Song: Faith as Small as a Mustard Seed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggef4J5oYG0>

Faith as small as a mustard seed
will move mountains, move mountains.
Faith as small as a mustard seed
will move mountains by the power of God.

Faith as small as a mustard seed
will move mountains, move mountains.
Faith as small as a mustard seed
will move mountains by the power of God.

Believe what Jesus said was true.
Believe He meant it just for you.
Wait and see what God will do
as you pray, as you pray.

Closing prayer.

Father God you are always for us, Jesus, Son of God alongside us, Holy Spirit within us, guide us in all we do. At home, at school, at work and when we relax may we know you with us to help live our lives for you. Amen

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Craft from Zoe

I am sorry I can't manage to reproduce what Zoe has sent properly (my problem, not Zoe's). There are various things to do with coins and you can search Sunday School Lost Coin Craft or similar. The one particular thing that stood out though from what Zoe sent was a cross made of coins. You could use 2ps for the main shape and add 10ps at the four ends. It looks good.

oooOooo

PRAYER in the coming week:

A word that is sometimes used by the Church of England to describe this season is "Creationtide" and so for the prayers this week, we have the words of a very familiar Harvest Hymn to help us to reflect on and give thanks for God's Creation.

Monday:

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

Tuesday:

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

Wednesday:

The purple headed mountains,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.

Thursday:

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

Friday:

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water,
To gather every day.

Saturday:

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Alexander (1848)

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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 13th September:

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh

11.00 Holy Communion Holy Trinity

Sunday 20th September:

09.00 Family Communion at Holy Trinity Little Bollington

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh

10.30 Holy Communion at 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 recorded at St Paul's.

Some services from St Mary Rostherne will be live streamed.

NOTICES

❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 16th September

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/88989360564?pwd=TUImS3ZpeTh2RFIMUXFuak9JTTVVQT09>

If you need the meeting ID and Password please contact Patricia. Email:

pmrobinson51@gmail.com or Tel: 01565 830 595

❖ Sunday Morning Coffee Sunday 13th September

We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting on Sunday 13th September from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon. Just click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82565330366?pwd=dFpubTFZRTVDTDBxQk9TdjRSZG80QT09>

❖ CROZIER SERVICE Sunday 20th September 2020 3:30pm - Online

Bishop Mark will walk past the Bishop's seat (or Cathedra) and receive the Melanesian Crozier then pray for the city, county and diocese. View live on

YouTube: www.youtube.com/chestercathedralchoirandorgan

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❖ **HARVEST FESTIVALS Sunday 4th October** – for all of the United Benefice Details to follow. There will be a streamed service as usual.

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:

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 and Gooseberry jams.

St Mary's are offering: Strawberry, Rhubarb & Ginger, Rhubarb Jelly, Redcurrant Jelly, Marmalade. 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:

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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 14th Sept: Holy Cross Day: ; Psalm 2; Genesis 3: 1-15; John 12: 27-36a

Tuesday 15th Sept: Psalm 5; 1 Kings 1: 32- 2: 4,10-12; Acts 13: 44 – 14: 7

Wednesday 16th Sept: Psalm 119: 1-32; 1 Kings Chapter 3; Acts 14: 8-end

Thursday 17th Sept: Psalm 15; 1 Kings 4: 29 – 5: 12; Acts 15: 1-21

Friday 18th Sept: Psalm 19; 1 Kings 6: 1, 11-28; Acts 15: 22-35

Saturday 19th Sept: Psalm 23; 1 Kings 8: 1-30; Acts 15: 36 – 16:5

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)