

News and Prayer Update for 30th August

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

Link for this week's Service: <https://youtu.be/G-uWngjkRoU>

HYMN: Lift High the Cross (George W Kitchin 1827-1912 and Michael R Newbolt 1874-1956)

*Lift high the Cross
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!*

Come, Christians, follow where our Saviour trod,
o'er death victorious, Christ the Son of God.
Lift high the Cross.....

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in joyful praise combine:
Lift high the Cross....

From north and south, from east and west they raise
the growing harmony their song of praise:
Lift high the Cross....

Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves from fear of death and hell:
Lift high the Cross....

For thy blest Cross which doth for all atone,
creation's praises rise before thy throne:
Lift high the Cross....

So let the world proclaim with one accord
the praises of our ever-living Lord.
Lift high the Cross....

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READINGS FOR 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Psalm: Psalm 26: 1-8

- ¹ Give judgement for me, O Lord, for I have walked with integrity; ♦
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- ² Test me, O Lord, and try me; ♦
examine my heart and my mind.
- ³ For your love is before my eyes; ♦
I have walked in your truth.

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- 4 I have not joined the company of the false, ♦
nor consorted with the deceitful.
- 5 I hate the gathering of evildoers ♦
and I will not sit down with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, ♦
that I may go about your altar,
- 7 To make heard the voice of thanksgiving ♦
and tell of all your wonderful deeds.
- 8 Lord, I love the house of your habitation ♦
and the place where your glory abides.

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First Reading: Romans 12: 9-end

- 9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.
11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.
12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.
17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'
20 No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.'
21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16: 21-end

- 21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.
22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.'
23 But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'
24 Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.
26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?
27 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

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²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS by Chris Stanisstree - Reader

In last week's Gospel reading Peter confessed his faith that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. Now Jesus is showing him what messiahship and discipleship entail. Previously Jesus spent much of his time addressing crowds, working miracles, and verbally sparring with scribes and Pharisees. He is now instructing the disciples—preparing them for Jerusalem and his death on the cross.

The disciples still think that the Messiah is a warrior king like David in the Old Testament, however, when Jesus outlines what to expect of the Messiah - it is the very opposite of what they expected. Only when he dies and is resurrected will they start to grasp the true meaning of his words.

Jesus is confronting the disciples with the challenges of living the Christian life. There are three things that they and we need to do in order to live the Christian life:

- **Firstly we must deny ourselves**

We usually think of denial as giving up something we enjoy such as a chocolate, cake and crisps in my case, usually given up during Lent. But this is only part of what Jesus meant by self-denial. Jesus is asking us to say no to self and yes to God at all times. This doesn't mean giving up all the things we enjoy but rather listening to God's will even if that requires us to give up something or an activity that we enjoy.

- **Secondly we must take up the cross**

This involves sacrifice - a Christian life is one of sacrificial service.

So, what does this mean for us?

Maybe to sacrifice personal ambition because it may be that the best way of serving Christ is one in which the rewards are small and the prestige non-existent. We are very likely to need to sacrifice time, leisure and pleasure in order to serve others.

The parents and dog owners among you will be only too familiar with the sacrifices you have had to make for your children and pets.

- **Thirdly we must follow Christ**

The Christian life is a constant following of Jesus in our thoughts, words and actions - following wherever he may lead us.

Matthew was writing his gospel about 50—60 years after Jesus died, a time when early Christians were being savagely persecuted. He was saying that people could abandon their faith in order to avoid being persecuted but that if they did so they would lose the fulfilment of following Christ - a life that offered them a purpose and hope for the future.

Just as the early disciples were moving against the tide, we too are being asked to remain true to our faith in a largely secular society.

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We are not likely to be martyred but if we always seek to play safe and opt for safety, security and comfort, we are losing much that can make life worthwhile.

Historically, individuals such as Gladys Aylward, an early 20th century missionary in China, Dr Edward Jenner who took a risk in giving the first smallpox vaccination to an eight year old boy in 1796 and Yuri Gagarin, the first man into space in 1961 - were all adventurous people who risked their safety and security but wrote their names in history as people who greatly assisted human progress. Sometimes we all need to take risks when serving our Lord by serving others.

Living the Christian life is not for the faint hearted. It is challenging as those early disciples began to realise. Giving money or paying lip service to Jesus but withholding ourselves from him will not satisfy him - he requires our full commitment and only the gift of our whole life will do.

Collect for 12^h Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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: All Who Would Valiant Be (Percy Dearmer 1867 – 1936 after John Bunyan)

All who would valiant be
'gainst all disaster,
let them in constancy
follow their Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make them once relent
their first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Those who beset them round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound—
their strength the more is.
No foes shall stay their might,
though they with giants fight;
they will make good the right
to be a pilgrim.

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Since, Lord, Thou dost defend
us with Thy Spirit,
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, flee away!
We'll fear not what they say,
We'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

PRAYER in the coming week:

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

Psalm 1: 1-3 (NRSVA)

The psalmist above says that for a healthy spiritual life we should “delight” in the Bible and “meditate” on it regularly. This week let us therefore meditate on some of the verses in this Sunday’s reading from Romans. In his book, “Meditation” (Navpress, 1976), Jim Downing (1913-2018) likened meditation to rumination—the process cows use to digest their food: they bring it up repeatedly, chewing on it until they have gotten all the nourishment out of it. If you do not regularly meditate on Bible verses, you could try the following simple way of “chewing” on the verses:

- Start by praying for concentration, understanding and a positive frame of mind;
- Read the passage carefully, more than once;
- Try to work out what is being said in the passage (it sometimes helps to think about the meaning of each word before taking the phrases together);
- Ask God to show you what he wants you to do in response and re-read the passage while you listen to the thoughts that come to mind;
- Revisit the passage later in the day and consider what you have learnt.

Try meditating on these:

Monday: Romans 12 verses 9 and 10 – Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.

Tuesday: Romans 12 verses 11 and 12 – Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Wednesday: Romans 12 verse 13 – Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Thursday: Romans 12 verses 14 and 15 – Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Friday: Romans 12 verse 16 – Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Saturday: Romans 12 verses 17 and 18 - Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

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Services in the Coming Weeks

Please wear a face covering if you are attending services unless you are exempt from doing so. Please inform the service leader if you lip read.

Sunday 30th August:

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh
10.30 Holy Communion at St Mary Rostherne
18.30. Evening Worship at Holy Trinity Little Bollington

Sunday 6th September:

10.00 Holy Communion at St John High Legh
10.30 Holy Communion (BCP) 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 and sometimes one of the other churches. Some services from St Mary Rostherne will be live streamed.

NOTICES

❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 2nd 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.

<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

The next Sunday Morning Coffee and Chat on Zoom will be on Sunday 13th September at 11.00am.

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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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 and Greengage.

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

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 31st Aug: Psalm 98; 2 Samuel Chapter 11; Acts 8: 26-end

Tuesday 1st Sept: Psalm 106 or 103; 2 Samuel 12: 1-25; Acts 9: 1-19a

Wednesday 2nd Sept: Psalm 111; 2 Samuel 15: 1-12; Acts 9: 19b-31

Thursday 3rd Sept: Psalm 115; 2 Samuel 15: 13-end; Acts 9: 32-end

Friday 4th Sept: Psalm 139; 2 Samuel 16: 1-14; Acts 10: 1-16

Saturday 5th Sept: Psalm 121; 2 Samuel 17: 1-23; Acts 10: 17-33

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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)