

## News and Prayer Update for 28<sup>th</sup> June

### **Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley**

[www.rosthernewithbollington.co.uk](http://www.rosthernewithbollington.co.uk)  
[www.stjohnshighleggh.org](http://www.stjohnshighleggh.org)  
[www.stpaulsovertabley.co.uk](http://www.stpaulsovertabley.co.uk)

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Email: [stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk)

**Pastoral Worker:** Mr Stewart Jackson Tel: 07835 249 835

**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/J3EiUp1tzbM>

**HYMN: O For A Heart to Praise My God** Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

O for a heart to praise my God,  
A heart from sin set free,  
A heart that's sprinkled with the blood  
So freely shed for me.

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,  
My great Redeemer's throne,  
Where only Christ is heard to speak,  
Where Jesus reigns alone.

A humble, lowly, contrite heart,  
Believing, true, and clean,  
Which neither life nor death can part  
From Christ who dwells within.

A heart in every thought renewed  
And full of love divine,  
Perfect and right and pure and good,  
A copy, Lord, of thine.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,  
come quickly from above;  
write thy new name upon my heart,  
thy new best name of Love.

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### READINGS FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

#### Psalm 13

- 1 How long will you forget me, O Lord; for ever? ♦  
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long shall I have anguish in my soul  
and grief in my heart, day after day? ♦  
How long shall my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look upon me and answer, O Lord my God; ♦  
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
- 4 Lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed against him,' ♦  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
- 5 But I put my trust in your steadfast love; ♦  
my heart will rejoice in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing to the Lord, ♦  
for he has dealt so bountifully with me.

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### **First Reading:** Romans 6: 12-end

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.

<sup>13</sup> No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

<sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted,

<sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

<sup>21</sup> So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death.

<sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life.

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 10: 40-end

<sup>40</sup> 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

<sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous;

<sup>42</sup> and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

#### **New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)**

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### **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS** by Revd Philip

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We read our epistle from Paul's letter to the Romans with its repeated references to slavery against a backdrop of the recent protests against racial inequality in this country and in the United States. The death of George Floyd was the spark that ignited a tinderbox of multiple resentments, not just from those who have been campaigning for years against racism. It has also given a platform to those who and deplore the injustices of colonialism and wish to erase the memory of empire. I was born during the reign of King George VI while the British Empire was a reality, although the writing was on the wall. The legend on his coinage proclaimed that he was Defender of the Faith and Emperor of India. As I grew older India gained independence, as did other colonial possessions. We now have a Commonwealth instead of an Empire. As a child I was read the stories of Brer Rabbit, Little Black Sambo and Epaminondas. None of them considered PC today. I collected Robertson's Gollies; my brother now has them in Canada. The books I read for myself as I grew older, from Biggles through the stories of H G Wells and Edgar Wallace were steeped in the language of empire and enforced racial stereotypes that have existed for centuries. Thankfully when I was born in 1950, slavery had been abolished across most of the empire for 117 years. We understand it as a great evil, but also recognise just how much of the infrastructure of this country was built on the proceeds of the slave trade as well as the wealth extracted from colonial possessions around the world. My personal view is that taking down statues such as that of Cecil Rhodes, or Confederate soldiers in America, while grand gestures will not erase history. Education is the key to changing people's perceptions and unconscious biases. We have our own responsibilities in this. As Christians we serve a God whose heart is for those who are persecuted, weak and vulnerable. To paraphrase the words of Jesus said in our Gospel reading, 'whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones will receive a reward'.

In our epistle, Paul uses the analogy of slavery in his description of our relationship with God and the world completely naturally. Just as naturally as Jesus used agriculture in his parables. Slavery in the Roman Empire was part of life. In Italy as many as one in three of the population were slaves, usually people taken prisoner during the many military campaigns. In other parts of the empire the ratio was around one in five. Slaves played an important role in society and the wealth of the empire depended on forced labour. Some slaves, such as tutors and doctors, were highly educated and valued. When Paul was alive a world without slaves was inconceivable, something that presented him with a dilemma when slaves became Christians and members of the church.

Those who first heard Paul's use of slave imagery would have completely understood his meaning. To be a slave to sin meant giving away total control over your life to evil. To be a slave to righteousness meant giving away total control over your life to God. In our modern way of understanding slavery, the concept that Paul uses of being slaves to God, owned by him and obedient to his wishes, might seem outdated and unpalatable. Yet it does reflect the radical call of Jesus to follow him as his disciples, to turn our backs on the world and have our whole focus on pleasing our heavenly Father. Through doing so we receive, as Paul writes, sanctification and eternal life.

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### Collect for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
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: We Have a Gospel to Proclaim Edward Joseph Burns (b.1938)

We have a gospel to proclaim,  
Good news for all throughout the earth;  
The gospel of a Saviour's name:  
We sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,  
Not in a royal house or hall,  
But in a stable dark and dim,  
The Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,  
Hated by those he came to save;  
In lonely suffering on the cross:  
For all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of the glorious Easter morn,  
Empty the tomb, for he was free;  
He broke the pow'r of death and hell  
That we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
By all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
To live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

**Link for Storytelling Service:** <https://youtu.be/1OIWygh5idY>

You will also need the pdf of the service for the songs and craft from the website.

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### **PRAYER in the coming week:**

At the end of his letter to the Galatians, Paul urges the believers:

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore,*

- *and fasten the belt of truth around your waist,*
- *and put on the breastplate of righteousness.*
- *As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.*
- *With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*
- *Take the helmet of salvation,*
- *and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.*

*Ephesians 6: 10, 13-18a*

During this week please pray this for the following people and groups:

**Monday** - pray this for ourselves in our own personal journey.

**Tuesday** - pray this for all the other people from your usual congregation (think about when you were last in a Church building and remember each person who was sat around you).

**Wednesday** - pray this for those who give their time to enable our own Churches to run smoothly (think of our Church Wardens, Treasurers, PCC Secretaries, PCC members and all who help in any way).

**Thursday** - pray this for our own ministry team: Philip, Trish and Patricia together with Chris Stanisstreet our Reader and Stewart Jackson our Pastoral Worker

**Friday** - pray this for the leaders in the Church of England (particularly our Bishops and Archbishops).

**Saturday** - pray this for the wider Christian Church across the world and those who go out to spread the love of Christ practically through charities such as Christian Aid and Operation Mobilisation.

### **Opening the Churches and Resumption of Services**

You will have heard that we will be able to hold services again from early July. At the time of writing the Church of England is still awaiting the Government's guidance on holding services. When we know what the requirements are, we will be able to plan for services. Please do not be disappointed if this is not next Sunday but do

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keep checking the websites for information which will be posted there as soon as we are able to go ahead.

We can tell you that we plan to stream lives services from two of the churches. These will very probably also be recorded and be available to watch by those who are unable to attend for whatever reason.

Opening for services may limit the times we can open during the week for individual private prayer. Information will be in this Update next week and on the websites as soon as we have planned what can be done.

This week you can visit St John's High Legh on Tuesday from 13.30 to 15.00 and possibly Saturday from 09.30 to 11.00.

### NOTICES

#### **Zoom Meetings to help us meet remotely when unable to be together**

The following meetings will be going ahead each week:

##### **❖ Sunday Morning Coffee 28 June**

There will be a Zoom Coffee meeting starting at 11.00am on Sunday. Make your drink, get your biscuits and join us. Just click on the link below. If you need the Password and ID separately please contact Patricia

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707971604?pwd=Y1JXYnFJOXJLbFdjQVR6NGIOYmVyZz09>

##### **❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 1 July**

We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting every Wednesday morning from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89786356572?pwd=OXkxYINQL2xBSlpBSGR6anZDcWV6dz09>

##### **❖ Midweek Morning Prayer Thursday 2 July**

There will be a Zoom Morning Prayer Service at 9.30am on Thursday. Bring your copy of the Worship at Home booklet and your Bible if you wish to follow the readings or take part by reading one of them.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82745271449?pwd=eVpHQ0JrbG5Cdm5VRTdZbEw3SHpYZz09>

To join any of these meetings you will just use the link given. If you need the meeting ID and/or Password separately please contact:

Patricia on 01565 830595 or email: [pmrobinson51@gmail.com](mailto:pmrobinson51@gmail.com)

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### 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](mailto:stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk)

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

**The best way to give is** by direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. Better still, if you are able, because your income is not affected, please set up a monthly direct debit. 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.*

### Morning and Night Prayer

If you would like to join with us, we are saying Morning Prayer at 9.00am Monday to Saturday (Thursday 9.30am) and Night Prayer at 9.00pm Monday to Saturday. Whenever you are able, why not say it at the same time as we do, then we will be joining together in prayer and worship.

*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).

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Peter & Paul Apostles: Psalm 71; Isaiah 49: 1-6; Acts 11: 1-18

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Psalm 73; Judges 9: 1-21; Luke 15: 11-end

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**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July:** Psalm 77; Judges 9: 22-end; Luke 16: 1-18

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** Psalm 78: 1-39; Judges 11: 1-11; Luke 16: 19-end

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July:** Thomas the Apostle; Psalm 92; 2 Samuel 15: 17-21; John 11: 1-16

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Psalm 76; Judges 12: 1-7; Luke 17: 11-19

### **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)

### **ACORN**

Nick Whimpany, Karen Drury and Revd Patricia attended a webinar on 1st June about the role of the Church in lockdown and beyond. One of the main ideas (from Michael Harvey) is the simple ACORN acrostic that builds on Pilgrim and Alpha both of which have been used in the United Benefice at different times.

It is possible that many of us can think of someone that you would be able to contact. This is a good starting point so please think of someone this week and then contact that person, listen to them, and invite them to share in God's love through prayer for their situation.

The notes of the full meeting have been written up by Nick and will be circulated to PCC members and to anyone else who requests them.

### **Summary of Acorn:**

**A – ASK:** In prayer ask God is there today someone you want me to connect with, outwith the Church

**C – CALL:** Contact that person. Ask "How are you?" That should be all that is needed to open up the conversation during which you may well have the opportunity to offer to pray for something or someone they are concerned about at the moment.

**O – OBEY:** There will be an ache or hurt at present. Identify it

**R – REPORT:** have a system to report it back to another Christian.

**N – NOTICING GOD:** what he is doing through us and in us