

News and Prayer Update for 18th 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/N_n90b7-hsl

HYMN: Rejoice, the Lord is King Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Rejoice, the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing
And triumph evermore:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus, the Saviour reigns,
The God of truth and love:
When He had purged our stains
He took His seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n:

He sits at God's right hand
Till all His foes submit,
And bow to His command,
And fall beneath His feet:

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READINGS FOR 19th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Psalm: Psalm 96: 1-9 [10-13]

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦
tell out his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations ♦
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Honour and majesty are before him; ♦
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
bring offerings and come into his courts.

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First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly

³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,

⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power
and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people
we proved to be among you for your sake.

⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you
received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit,

⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and
Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we
have no need to speak about it.

⁹ For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had
among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,

¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who
rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22: 15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.

¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we
know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and
show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.

¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?'

¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you
hypocrites?

¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius.

²⁰ Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?'

²¹ They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the
emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.'

²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS - from Revd Patricia

Taxes. I don't think that anyone would say they like having to pay taxes (but I could be wrong). Even if you are not eligible to pay income tax, or you manage your affairs carefully so that you avoid paying some tax, you will still be paying hidden taxes (some may call them stealth taxes) on fuel, goods and even treats – one of the most recent, of course, is the sugar tax. There are national or government taxes and local

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taxes. Really we are all subject to tax in one way or another. One of the reasons for Brexit was the amount of money that had to be paid to Europe each year.

The Jews at the time of Jesus were not exempt from paying tax as we have seen in our reading from Matthew's gospel this morning. There were temple taxes and taxes to pay to the Roman occupiers. They had separate currencies for paying their taxes. There were special coins for temple use with the added problem that you would have to visit one of the moneychangers to acquire the correct coins and they may well charge a fee for doing this. Then there were the taxes to be paid to the occupying power, the Roman government using coins imprinted with Caesar's image and inscription. This hated currency was not allowed in the temple precincts because the coins had the inscription "son of god, high priest". Images were not allowed on Jewish coins. For the Jews, God was the king and paying taxes to Caesar would be seen as insulting.

Bearing that in mind along came the Pharisees with their trick question. They thought they had Jesus cornered because they were the sort of people who only see things as one way or the other and they also saw Jesus as having come to lead a revolution, which of course he had not. Having put the question, they then supplied the coin which would illustrate the answer Jesus gave. Jesus asked for one of the coins because, unlike the Pharisees, neither he nor his disciples had brought one into the temple precincts in obedience to the rules.

In the answer Jesus gave we learn that, as Christians we are not only citizens of the country in which we live (which brings with it certain requirements for living by the law of the land and paying our taxes); but we are also citizens of the kingdom of God. As citizens of this kingdom we need to remember that we should pay our dues to God in the same way we pay our taxes to the government, national or local. If we pay income tax by PAYE or when we pay for goods which include a tax we do not have to think about it. When it comes to giving appropriately to God we may find it more difficult to determine what we should give. The Jews were required to tithe (give 10% of everything, even down to herbs) and then there were freewill offerings on top of that. The bible teaches that each person must decide their giving for themselves and then give cheerfully.

But there is more to think about than just giving an appropriate amount of money to God's kingdom work. As citizens of God's kingdom while we live in this world we are both body and soul, physical and spiritual beings and so we must pay attention to both. Indeed we are the people of God, not just on a Sunday or Christian festival such as Christmas or Easter, but all the time, every day, in everything we do we are called to be God's representatives. We are here to influence all around us with the love and wisdom of God, not just in our church life but in all we do wherever we are. Our love for and duty towards God should have a positive and meaningful effect on the way we live and use the resources God has given us.

Collect for 19th Sunday after Trinity:

O God, forasmuch as without you
we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit

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may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
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: All My Hope On God Is Founded

Paraphrased by Robert Bridges (1844 – 1930)
Music: Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Based on 'Meine Hoffnung stehet feste' by Joachim Neander (1650 – 1680)

PRAYER in the coming week:

This week we remember with gratitude God's generosity to us and his call to be generous people offering our time, abilities and money to his service, caring for the environment and praying for the world.

Monday

Guard us, Lord, from holding back when we should be letting go and honouring you as Lord of all we have. We pray for the work of the Churches in our United Benefice, its ministers and officials especially for those who deal with the day to day finances of the parishes and deal with all the problems of balancing the books, especially in the current circumstances caused by the pandemic.

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Tuesday

Holy God, we thank you for your creation and remember that you entrusted it to our care as stewards. Give us wisdom to manage our money and personal finances well and to practice heartfelt generosity. As we live each day, help us to treat our world fairly whilst receiving its goodness gratefully. Help us to remember that you are the giver of all we have and to put aside pride of ownership.

Wednesday

Creator God, we pray especially for the world's politicians and business leaders, those who manage economies and have responsibility to care for the environment. We also pray that all businesses, large and small pay their taxes in a fair and honest way rather than seeking to dodge their responsibilities. We pray for help for those businesses that are suffering because of the pandemic.

Thursday

Father God, your word promises all the material things that we need to live but we find it hard to trust. We pray now for all those who struggle with the burden of personal debt: for those too frightened to face the problem, for couples who cannot talk about it, for children who cannot understand but live with the worry. We pray also for those who are consumed by money worries, anxious about jobs or homes or the future; those who feel they have lost control of money and cannot cope in the current crisis.

Friday

Loving God, we pray for all who bear the burdens of pain, bereavement, anxiety and depression. We pray for those whose illness stems from financial problems. We pray that they may have an awareness of your presence and an understanding that you are bearing those burdens with them and always working towards their healing and wholeness.

Saturday

Merciful God, we remember with thankfulness and gratitude all those who have left their mark on our lives by giving us love and laughter, but who have now gone before us to be with Christ. We hold them in our hearts, knowing that you, Lord, hold them in yours.

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 18th October

10.00 Holy Communion St John High Legh

10.30 Morning Worship St Mary Rostherne

Sunday 25th October:

10.00 Holy Communion St John High Legh

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11.00 Holy Communion Holy Trinity Little Bollington

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

❖ Coffee and Chat Wednesday 21st 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 this meeting 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 25th October at 11.00am

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

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

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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 Stanistreet 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, 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.

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 19th Oct: Luke the Evangelist: Psalm 145, 146; Isaiah Chapter 55; Luke 1: 1-4

Tuesday 20th Oct: Psalm 106 or 103; 2 Kings 18: 1-12; Philippians 1: 12-end

Wednesday 21st Oct: Psalm 111; 2 Kings 18: 13-end; Philippians 2: 1-13

Thursday 22nd Oct: Psalm 115; 2 Kings 19: 1-19; Philippians 2: 14-end

Friday 23rd Oct: Psalm 139; 2 Kings 19: 20 -36; Philippians 3: 1 - 4: 1

Saturday 24th Oct: Psalm 121; 2 Kings Chapter 20; Philippians 4: 2-end

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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)