



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020 READINGS AND REFLECTION

Readings *[The readings are not printed out in full to save space. It is hoped that readers will have a Bible to hand to read for themselves and perhaps with others at home]*

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTEENTH 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.

READINGS

Genesis 50.15-21	Joseph reconciled with his brothers
Romans 14.1-12	Living together in harmony
Matthew 18.21-35	The unforgiving servant

REFLECTION

The author C.S. Lewis said, "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until there is something to forgive." Forgiving those who have hurt us is not easy though talking about it is no bother: "Forgive us our sins – as we forgive those who sin against us" we happily recite each service. But the bigger the hurt the more difficult it is to forgive and for many people the longer it takes to forgive.

Peter, it seems from his question in today's gospel, also found it difficult to forgive. "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" [In the words of the Blessed Les Dawson do you know why Peter denied Jesus three times? Because Jesus cured his mother-in-law!]

Jesus said Peter was to forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times. Jesus is saying we are not to hold any grudges, being angry and resentful, storing up anger in our hearts, is very unhealthy. It can eat into a person, even be a factor contributing to heart disease. But even so, seventy-seven times?? Well look at it like this. Somebody did us a great injustice in the past. Every time we meet that person or think of that person we have feelings of revenge or resentment or anger. Forgiving seventy-seven times is thinking thoughts of forgiveness every time we meet that person or think of that person. Forgiving seventy-seven times is breaking the cycle of thinking revengefully and instead thinking forgivingly.



**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
13TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

Vicar: Rev'd. Guy Scott (Tel: 01767 312243)

Readers: Rosemary Bentley (Tel: 01767 313517)

Colin Dixon (Tel: 01767 317245), Tony & Christine Elcombe (Tel: 01767 682274)

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 11.30AM WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY FACILITATED BY ZOOM

An opportunity to join with Father Guy, and our community of faith, for a Service of the Word:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83726853988?pwd=TURaMkZBcURkY0pyUGx5QktnSFd2dz09>

Meeting ID: 837 2685 3988

Passcode: 710842

Also may be accessed by your landline: details below.

Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830

HYMNS

Father I place into your hands
I want to walk with Jesus Christ
Lord Jesus Christ

If you should like **to receive the weekly news**, please could you inform Rosemary Bentley, by providing your email details. Naturally these details will not be used for any other circulation, unless permission is granted. As appropriate, please inform others about this innovation. Please contact Rosemary: – romybentley@aol.com / 01767 313517 [no answer machine] / 07885 431928 [accepts messages]

Forgiveness is a decision. Forgiveness does not mean blotting out painful memories but it does mean not acting out of them. That is why when the hurt is deep counselling may be necessary to free us from acting out of past negative experiences.

Another thought that should help us to forgive is to remember that Jesus died to save the other person just as he died to save me. Try to visualize the person beneath Jesus on the cross. Can you see Jesus dying for that person? In today's parable the king forgave the servant who owed ten thousand talents, a massive sum. God forgives sin through the death of Jesus. Then in the parable that servant was owed a very much smaller sum but did not forgive. God has forgiven each of us massively; we are asked to forgive comparatively little when others offend us.

Another help to forgiving somebody is to be humble enough to admit that we cannot control another person in the sense of expecting an apology from the other. Giving up the need to control or dominate the person who hurt us, surrendering the need to expect them to ask forgiveness from us, frees us to forgive them.

And remember, forgiving is for our own good because it sets us free. When we don't forgive someone, when we hold bitterness and anger against someone it is us who are held captive not the other person. It is us who are slaves and it is us who are made sick inside not the other person. It has been said that having bitterness, hate and unforgiveness against someone is like us swallowing poison and expecting the other person to die!

But when we forgive from our heart with the heart of Christ we are set free. When we choose to forgive, to let go, with the grace of God then the shackles fall off us, the prison gate is open and we are made whole again, we are healed! Yes forgiveness is for the good of the other person but is mostly for our own good. Seventy seven times seems pretty reasonable in that light if it means we can say with Charles Wesley

*My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*

Colin Dixon

OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

As we explore the mystery of the Trinity, we ponder the nature of God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as we strive, through God's grace to work through the power of the Holy Spirit to build God's Kingdom here and now.

We pray for all those throughout the world suffering from the effects of the Corona virus, for those who are worried and for those involved with the treatment of the sick. We give thanks for those who are recovering from illness, and pray that they may continue to know God's love and help in their lives.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Anglican Church of South America.

We pray for the people of Mafambisa, for the vulnerable and orphaned children, the care workers, the care givers and all who support them.

www.standrewslink.blogspot.co.uk

Needing our prayers: Louise Joy, Yvonne Gray, John Bentley, Bernie Marron, Angela Morris, Betty Magill, Douglas Dear, Patience and George from Mafambisa, Laura and Audrey from Mozambique.

Continue to pray for: Audrey Huckle, Rebekah Pickles and Sylvia Rutt

The Departed: Paul Lacy

The Year's Mind: 15th Margaret Hardy, Joan Pulham, 16th Olwyn Moore

Please talk to the Vicar to have names added or removed from the prayer list

NOTICES

LAST SERVICES As you all know I will be leaving at the end of September. I just wanted to let you know that my last Thursday service will be on 24th September, last Sunday service will be the 27th September and my final service will be on Tuesday 29th September at 7.45pm Holy Eucharist with incense to celebrate the Feast of Michaelmas. *Guy*

FAREWELL GATHERINGS Due to the current restrictions that are in place for gatherings, we are arranging 4 farewell gatherings for Guy and Kate over the weekend of [24th to 29th September](#). In order to comply with regulations we need to book people into the gathering that they would like to attend. Each gathering will accommodate 25 people so that we can stay within the regulations. The gatherings are:-

[Thursday 24th September](#) (following the 9.30am service) - Morning Coffee/Tea and Cake

[Sunday 27th September at 12.30pm](#) - Barbeque style food for Sunday School families

[Sunday 27th September at 3.30pm](#) - Afternoon Tea

[Tuesday 29th September](#) - (following the 7.30pm evening service) wine and nibbles

All of the events (except Tuesday) will take place outside provided the weather is fine.

For all of the events people attending will need to be seated and those serving will bring your food and drink to you. As you will only be able to attend one of these events, please book your seat by speaking to Rosemary Bentley or Chris Parker at church or email: chris2parker@btinternet.com

PUBLIC WORSHIP At the present time, we will have the privilege of the sacrament of Holy Communion [*Said*] on **Sundays at 10.00 am** and on **Thursdays at 09.30 am**. Conscious that for the time being many members of our community of faith will be prevented from attending public worship owing to extenuating circumstances such as shielding, our weekly Zoom Service of the Word will continue each **Sunday** at the new time of **11.30 am**. Our recent practice of opening our church for private prayer on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons will conclude on Thursday 9th July.

Worshippers are advised to sanitise their hands upon entry into church, and again as departing. Please respect social distancing at 2 metre intervals, unless you are with family or household members; or within a social bubble. Communion will only be offered in one kind from a covered ciborium; the president is the only person who will receive both the bread and wine, after the sanitizing of hands. Communicants will receive the bread standing near the screen, maintaining two metres' distance with fellow worshippers as they approach, and then return immediately to their seats. Only the president will handle the wafers during the distribution – please cup your hands in order that the priest may gently drop the consecrated wafer onto your palm. The words of distribution will be said before the administration; then Holy Communion is administered in silence without any words from the President.

We look forward to welcoming children to our services although at the moment Sunday School will not take place; parents and carers are requested to stay with their children throughout the worship, and, unfortunately, at present it will not be possible to provide access to the children's area. Offertory plates for your donations will be positioned near the north and south doors, but there will not be a collection during our worship.

In order to minimise risk, singing is not possible but we are delighted that on Sundays we will be able to enjoy organ music before and after Holy Communion, as well as during the administration; similarly the Peace will be omitted. Regrettably, for the foreseeable future we will not be able to offer refreshments, but we will continue to assess possibilities. Please refrain from bringing ANY food or drink into church (water will be available if absolutely necessary).

Votive candles may only be lit **after** the conclusion of each Holy Communion Service.

Father Guy

THE GREAT ST. ANDREW'S TEA GARDEN This year's Country Fayre is going to be slightly different from previous as it is going to take the form of a tea garden, within the grounds of the Church. This will allow us to create a Covid secure area in line with Government guidelines. We are going to be on the lookout for volunteers to come along and help, serve, wash up, bake cakes etc. There will be some simple musical entertainment provided, so please book the date, to either attend or to help or a bit of both. Proceeds will be donated to St. John's Moggerhanger.

APCM The Meeting of Parishioners and The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 20th September at 11:30am in church. We require nominations for 2 churchwardens, and there are 3 vacancies on the PCC; 2 people to serve for a period of 3 years and 1 person to serve for a period of 2 years. We also require nominations for Deanery Synod representatives. There will be paper copies of nomination forms for these roles available in the vestry on Sundays and Thursdays. Alternatively please contact me and I will send you an electronic copy. Please pray and consider whether you feel God may be calling you to fulfil these important roles. Many thanks Ruth, PCC Secretary.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR We are seeking a Foundation Governor for St. Andrew's Lower School. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please have a chat with Guy, Rosemary or Sally Wells about it.

LOOKING FORWARD TO HARVEST We will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October both at our 10.00am (said) communion service and sung on our 11.30am Zoom service.

CREATING A BUZZ IN NEPAL Our Bishop's Annual Harvest Appeal this year will help many people in Nepal. In 2015, Nepal suffered immense loss and devastation in two major earthquakes; thousands of lives were impacted, 9,000 people died, communities made homeless, infrastructures collapsed and livelihoods completely lost.

In more recent years, however, the Nepalese people are growing to appreciate the value of beekeeping. Bees help to maintain the fragile biodiversity, as pollinators, to enhance crop production and a good income can be generated from sales of honey. It has been estimated that the country of Nepal can sustain 125,000 beehives; presently, there are around 26,000, showing there is significant opportunity. Donations for this can be made by using the Harvest envelope, or by putting a donation in an envelope marked Harvest and handed in at church or put through the vicarage door.

We will be collecting non-perishable foods for harvest which can be brought to church to the service or we will have 2 collection times, Saturday 3rd October 9.30-10.30am and Sunday 4th October 3-4pm. Both collections will be in the church foyer.

FACE COVERINGS As from Saturday 8th August, 2020 it is a legal requirement for worshippers to wear a face covering during public worship. However, those officiating at, contributing to, the services are exempt. As always, you are encouraged to follow this guidance, but we note that some people fall under one of the excepted categories. *Father Guy*

CONTACT If you need to contact us for any reason; please do not use the office telephone, as this is not being monitored at the moment. Instead please contact us via: office@biggleswadeparishchurch.co.uk Thank you. *Jackie*

NOTICES Please keep in touch with each other and the church via the church website at www.biggleswadeparishchurch.co.uk

NOAH Adam, Martin and Vicki from the NOAH CBC Rough Sleeper Outreach Team have continued to work hard these past few months supporting people sleeping outside, building relationships and encouraging them to take up offers of support and accommodation. We are well aware of the pressing need for local accommodation in the Biggleswade area and have an ongoing dialogue with Central Bedfordshire Council about this.

The outreach team is currently recruiting for some volunteer support. What we need are committed local people prepared to support us from 5am-8am on Friday mornings once a week. This could be one individual every week or between 2-4 over the course of a month. This person would meet with the NOAH outreach worker (probably Adam) and help him explore the streets, fields, cemetery, woods, allotments and tents around Biggleswade and Sandy. The volunteer needs to be reliable, compassionate and willing to walk a lot whatever the weather! We have other volunteers that support this work in Luton and Dunstable but not in north CBC yet. This will increase our capacity to meet more people, understand who is sleeping out and help to reduce homelessness in CBC.

If you know of anyone interested, please feel free to forward this information onto them. Paul Prosser Head of Welfare Services 01582 728416/07766835049
paul.prosser@noahenterprise.org

DIOCESE OF ST. ALBANS – JOB VACANCY Accounts Assistant 20 hours per week. We are looking for someone to join our small, friendly team at the Diocesan Office in St Albans. Responsibilities include data input, processing receipts and payments, nominal ledger posting and other clerical duties. Computer literacy, an eye for detail and ability to work to deadlines essential. Salary £24,916 – 28,307 pro rata plus generous pension Further details are available at www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies
Closing date: 12 noon – 21st September 2020