



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 20TH 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 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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 forever. Amen.

READINGS

Jonah 3.10-4.11	The prophet Jonah expresses his anger
Philippians 1.21-30	Imprisoned, St. Paul still believes he can be useful to God
Matthew 20.1-16	The parable of the generous landowner

REFLECTION

John Wesley was notoriously industrious. He travelled in the region of 250,000 miles on horseback, averaging 20 miles a day for 40 years; preached 40,000 sermons, often very lengthy; produced 400 books; could communicate in 10 languages. Aged 83, he was annoyed that he could not write for more than 15 hours a day without hurting his eyes, and at 86, he was ashamed he could not preach more than twice a day! He complained in his diary that there was an increasing tendency to lie in bed until 5.30am each morning!

In his letter to the Philippians, St. Paul faces a different kind of dilemma. As he grows older, under house arrest in Rome and aware he could be summoned for execution at hours' notice, he wants to continue to help his friends in Philippi, but he also wanted to die, soon, he wrote in order that he could be with his friend Jesus. He clearly perceived death as a positive goal but he was acutely aware that he still had work to do, sharing the Good News and teaching about eternal life amongst the early Christians. Paul was positive about life and death, even in challenging times, but he acknowledged that the choice was solely God's and he would positively accept his decision. His thoughts perhaps echo the request made by 20th century English novelist, Winifred Holtby, for the wording on her gravestone: 'God give me work till my life shall end, and life till my work is done.' One trusts faithful Christians would concur with her thoughts!



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 20TH 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)

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10.00AM WORSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY FACILITATED BY ZOOM

An opportunity to join with Father Guy, and our community of faith:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82124248183?pwd=WVEwZlp4NCtTRWZEdkdCcUxTYTdnUT09>

Meeting ID: 821 2424 8183

Passcode: 657315

Also may be accessed by your landline: details below.

Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830

APCM ZOOM MEETING 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 11.30AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83607191692?pwd=MDFMVER1Rm0wNE9hOVhjWTV0dnkwZz09>

Meeting ID: 836 0719 1692

Passcode: 720747

Also may be accessed by your landline: details below.

Landline dial in contact: 0330 088 5830

Please note that although we are using zoom for people to access the APCM, you will only be able to listen, not talk in to the meeting.

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]

The parable of the vineyard labourers is equally puzzling. Whilst justice and fairness implies that those who work long hours should receive the highest salary, practically this is often not the case. In the kingdom of God expectations are different. One cannot, must not, place a price on assistance for the homeless, the most simple or crucial tasks within a community of faith, the care of babies and children by loving parents and grandparents, the efforts of politicians, or other contributions to society, salaried or voluntary. These gifts, commitments are offered in God's service as disciples of Christ, not in expectation of a reward. God does offer rewards but like the landowner in the parable, he provides whatever he feels appropriate. He is not promising a comfortable trouble-free life; the only currency God deals in is his unfailing love.

The parable also teaches us about the nature of daily work. Do you, or have you previously, considered your employment as work or a vocation? For clerks in Holy Orders, priestly ministry most definitely is a privilege and a vocation; the same may be applied to teachers and the multitude of others who work in our nurseries, schools, colleges and universities, or in the sphere of medicine; or in the employment of a plethora of other gifts and talents, but can vocation be applied to a far wider remit? This year there has been much consideration to the roles of keyworkers during the global pandemic. Whilst quite rightly recognising the contributions of those working in the NHS, COVID-19 has also highlighted the diversity of work and vocations which has sustained our nation this year. The importance of the emergency services, retail workers, food providers, refuse collectors, utility providers ... can never be over-estimated. Each role provides another key piece in the jigsaw of survival and safety during a pandemic.

However, ending on a more cautionary note in this most uncertain of years, the parable of the labourers is a reminder to never despise the unemployed. God, working through the landowner, found, "others standing idle in the market-place." With unemployment levels a serious concern in our own nation, and beyond, this autumn, we should not cast blame. It is our responsibility, by whatever means we can, to be encouragers, to offer hope, and one prays, eventually job opportunities even in a voluntary capacity, to the unemployed and challenged members of our society.

Rosemary Bentley

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 Province of ECUSA of South Sudan.

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: Pauline Pryor and Jane Parker

The Departed: Paul Lacy

The Year's Mind: 22nd Bernard Jarvis, Madge Walters, 25th Bob Chelley

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](#) – **Please note that this is now full**

[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

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. Sunday School will be open, so that parents wishing to attend the APCM may do so. 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