

# PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

## FOCUS ON .... FAITHFUL DISCIPLESHIP

I suppose that if I were to be asked to sum up the Christian faith in very simple terms, I would start with the telling of two stories, two parables from St. Luke's Gospel. The Parable of the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Prodigal Son. They are a hotline to the Christian understanding of the nature of God, the God of love.

First of all, then, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which not only teaches us about care and compassion for other people, but has another important point to make in that the truly compassionate and caring person in the story turns out to be a foreigner – a Samaritan. So, when we consider today's Gospel reading from St. Matthew Chapter 9 & 10, it is important that we realise that although, first of all, Jesus sent out his followers – his 12 disciples - to those who were "lost sheep" of the people of Israel, as St. Matthew's Gospel unfolds, we learn that the mission imperative goes far beyond that and is intended to reach out eventually to the whole world.

And then we have the Parable of the Prodigal Son which tells that, no matter how long or how often you may have strayed from following the right path, God loves you that much that you will always be deserving of another chance. That is the Christian Gospel in a nutshell, so to speak.

Beginning with those who are closest to us, we too are sent to share the Gospel message in what we do as well as in what we say. This is about how we help others, both those near to us and those distant. The Good News of the Gospel helps us to love all our neighbours as ourselves, because we are sharing our love for Jesus, and God's love for us all, however little we may think we deserve it. Perhaps you know this quote from the novelist G.K. Chesterton's detective character, Father Brown, "You matter. I matter. We matter to God – God only knows why".

Tony Bundock

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## SERVICE FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

This Sunday's Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Canon Tony and start at 10:00. The hymns will be led by Cher and the Mole Family with other members of the congregation taking part. Details will be supplied in the Zoom specific email but are shown again here for convenience:

Topic: 1st Sunday After Trinity Service  
Time: Jun 14, 2020 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77500123437?  
pwd=V2l6dURqQ1ZMMlpaWGpFVU1CeHR4Zz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77500123437?pwd=V2l6dURqQ1ZMMlpaWGpFVU1CeHR4Zz09)

*(if copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes on the pew sheet.)*

Meeting ID: 775 0012 3437  
Password: 8iq3ea



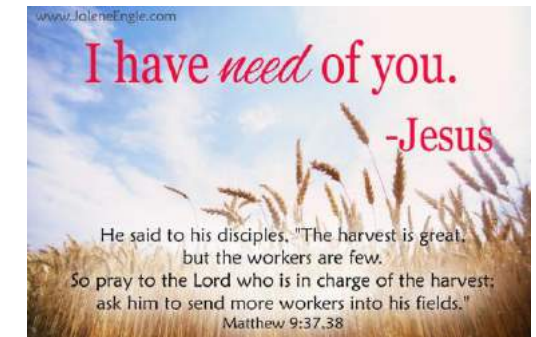
## COLLECT FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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, *Amen*.

## READINGS FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Proper 6)

Exodus Ch. 19 VV. 2 – 8a  
Romans Ch. 5 VV. 1 – 8

Matthew Ch. 9 V. 35 – Ch. 10 V.  
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## PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

*(Roger Wilkes)*

We pray for our church and bring before you all those who lead and inspire our worship, those who visit and pray for the sick and bereaved, and those who carry out the maintenance and administration. Give us the courage and strength to help one another become stronger as we travel on our journey of life.

We pray for people around the world. For those who are hungry and sad. For those who are homeless and cold; for those who are lonely and frightened. We pray for the nations of the world and those whose authority and decisions affect the lives of many people and the health of our planet. We pray for sensitivity and honesty, and the strength to maintain integrity in their positions of power.

We pray for everyone who lives in our community, for the teachers and children in our schools; lecturers and students in our colleges and universities; the consultants, doctors and nurses in our hospitals as they deal with the challenges Covid-19 brings both now and in the future. We pray for our families and friends, both near and far and look forward to being together again soon.

We pray for those who may be sick or suffering in any way; those too ill to be here with us; those who are in hospital, those in care homes and in particular for; Irene Ford, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Phillipa King and Barnaby Woods. We think of those who have departed; we thank you for their lives and the good times remembered, may they rest in peace.

And as we continue to follow government advice, may the light of God shine on us. May the love of God shine in us and may the light of the spirit shine through us. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

### *Weekly Prayer Notes*

- We pray for all parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and the souls of those who have died. We pray for those working in the NHS, Care Homes and Social Services who are working with the sick, the elderly and the disabled.
- We pray for those in our parish who are isolating themselves due to age or infirmity and those supporting them.
- We pray at this time for the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman, which have been badly affected by Covid-19. For our Linked Parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.
- For our Government and Parliament at this time of uncertainty, that MP's of all parties will come together in the National Interest.
- For our mission and ministry in this community with our shared faith.

## LIGHTHOUSE 2020

Due to the COVID virus, the organisers have had to make the sad decision to cancel Princes Risborough Lighthouse this year. But from Monday 27 July for one week the organisers will be launching Lighthouse Live!

LIVE from Lighthouse Central to YOUR house with an hour-long show at 10:00 am full of songs, messy games, drama, craft, stories, prayer and much, much more. Once the LIVE show has finished there will be various activities available to watch throughout the day, whenever suits you. There will be Craft, Prayer, a quiz that everyone in the family can do.

At 4:00 pm there will be Lighthouse LIVE again with more music and games – and someone somewhere will be gunged! All you have to do is turn up, tune in and have fun! So Sign up (Web link - <https://lighthousecentral.org/forms/mailling-list-signup>) and come and join an amazing week! Child registration is on the Lighthouse website as normal. (Web link for registering children - <https://lighthousecentral.org/forms/child-registration>). The organisers are really looking forward to sharing Lighthouse Live with you this summer.

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Church of England guidance currently remains the same, with the church building being closed to worship on Sundays and other days of the week. Although our usual pattern of Sunday Services and mid-week gatherings must be put on hold, this does not mean that the Church of England has “shut up shop”. We may not be able to worship together and pray for people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people from our homes. From 15<sup>th</sup> June churches will be allowed to start opening for private prayer. Further details will follow about arrangements for this at St. Johns.

The Church of England is broadcasting services on-line, including on the Church of England and Diocese of Oxford web sites, both live and as recordings. We have now started running simple Morning Worship services on Sundays at 10:00 on-line using Zoom. These are being led by Canon Tony and all are welcome to join. Details of the service for this Sunday are on Page 2 of this pew sheet and in the separate Zoom specific email that is sent out.

Where we are able, we can certainly offer practical care and support. Keep safe and please continue to pray for one another. *Canon Tony, The Churchwardens & The PCC*

### Key Contacts:

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