

St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

The parish of
St Martin of Tours
with St Stephen-on-the-Downs

Weekly Newsletter
Registered Charity Number: 1134149

Sunday 4th July 2021 – Fifth Sunday After Trinity

Dear Friends,

In today's reading from Mark's gospel, Jesus sends out his disciples to minister to people in the villages around Nazareth. He tells them to set out on this mission without possessions - to go without warm clothes or food for the journey - which meant they had to rely on the generosity of villagers and the provision of God. Jesus gave them power to proclaim the good news and heal the sick. As I come towards the end of my curacy at St Martin's, I am reflecting on what this story might have to say to me about my future ministry - and what Nancy and I should pack for the journey!

David Candlin

THIS WEEK

Sunday 4th July – Fifth Sunday After Trinity

- 9.30am – Morning Prayer at St Stephen's – led by John Padwick
- 10.00am – Holy Communion at St Martin's in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish
- 12.00pm – Baptisms of Danae & Noah
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer at St Martin's in Church and live streamed – led by Judith Mitchell

Thursday 8th July

- 10.00am – Holy Communion, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 11th July – Sea Sunday

- 9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen's – led by David Candlin
- 10.00am – Morning Prayer with Baptism at St Martin's in Church and live streamed – led by Graeme Lodge Nick Parish
- 10.00am – Baptism of Dorothy
- 6.30pm – Holy Communion at St Martin's in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish

DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS

Confirmation Course

The course is open to people aged 3-40 on Tuesdays (on zoom) and older people at St Mark's Tattenham Corner on Wednesdays.

It is open to all, but if anyone is considering confirmation, please note that this year there will be a deanery service at Christchurch, 10am on Sunday 19th September. If you are considering being confirmed, please speak with the Vicar in the first instance.'

A four-step guide to faith

A 4 session course about the basics of christianity

Tuesday 29th June zoom and Wednesday 30th live

God Is there more to God than a "big man upstairs" or a philosophical idea?

What about the supernatural – have you had any "strange" occurrences?

Tuesday 13th July zoom and Wednesday 14th July live

Bible – the all-time best seller that collects dust! Is there any point to reading it and if so where does one begin? Isn't it just a load of ancient stories and rules?

Tuesday 6th July zoom and Wednesday 7th July live

Jesus – Jesus is central to Christianity but who was he, did he really do miracles, is his 2,000-year-old message still relevant today and is it realistic to love one's enemies?

Tuesday 20th July zoom and Wednesday 21st July live

Prayer- Most people pray when they are desperate but is there more to it. What about when prayers are not answered? Can prayer bring peace and calm to our busy lives?

Each session starts at 7.45 and ends by 9.15. For the zoom link contact Des. Live sessions are in St Mark's Church Hall, Great Tattenhams.

Contact Des for more details on
minister@stmarkschurch.me.uk
or 01737 353011 or 07948 273 075

Adrian Esdaile

On Trinity Sunday Nick Parish generously commissioned me for the next stage of my ministry. I am now somewhat hampered by my mobility problems. The four elements of this ministry were to be Contemplative Prayer, Counsel, Spiritual Direction and Healing.

1. Contemplative Prayer – anyone who would like to receive the notes I send out each month, please let me know. At some point we hope to return to the Church on a monthly basis. Also, at the moment there is a Contemplative ‘workshop’ on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 8pm based on the Parish of Headley – anyone is welcome to join in – it is on Zoom and the ID is 822 1768 7907.
2. ‘Counsel’. Anyone is welcome to make an appointment to talk with me about anything informally. Anything said is confidential, of course. Please ring through and ask. Or it can be done on the phone.
3. ‘Spiritual Direction’ is a more structured and formal meeting on a regular basis (usually about every 3 months), with an emphasis on the spiritual life, but by no means confined to it. About 8-10 people come to see me on this basis.
4. We plan some meetings in the autumn to consider the healing ministry.

Do please get in touch if you wish.

01372 723 770 – 29 Hereford Close, Epsom, KT18 5DZ – esdaileadrian@yahoo.co.uk

Adrian Esdaile

STEWARDSHIP

Donation Station

We now have the equipment in Church to take card donations. This is located just behind the pews on the right hand side of St Martin’s. The process is simple – you choose the giving campaign, the amount you wish to donate and then use your contactless card; you can also gift aid your donation using the machine.

Please do not hesitate to speak to David or John on a Sunday or Gina or Nicky in the office who will be able to help you.

Giving to St Martin’s and St Stephen on the Downs

For general and stewardship giving you can give online giving via the Charities Aid Foundation.

Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit.

To make a donation either:

1. Click on the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

OR

2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below

There is also a “Donate” button on our website.



Thank you for your continued giving directly and via online giving.

Cheques to St Martins

If you would like to give a cheque donation to St Martin’s Church, please can you make the cheque payable to:

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom

Many thanks.

OTHER NOTICES

PCC Governor vacancy – Volunteer role.

A vacancy has arisen for a PCC appointed Foundation Governor at St Martin's Church of England Voluntary Aided Schools, Epsom.

Foundation Governors in a Church school play a vital role in ensuring that the Christian character and ethos of the school is promoted and maintained in line with the original Trust Deed of the Church of England school, also known as its 'Foundation'.

Foundation Governors are committed to ensuring the school's Christian ethos. It is hoped to appoint someone with a background in finance who will be able to engage with the school management in offering a supportive challenge in this vital part of the running of the school.

Being a Governor is really worthwhile and rewarding, and if you are interested in this role, please do get in touch with:

- Nick Parish on vicar@stmartinsepsom.org
- Robert Burns on rburns@stmartinsepsom.school

and copy your email to the Clerk to the Governors clerk@stmartinsepsom.school.

Applicants will be asked to complete an application form including a skills audit to support the appointment of the skills and experience needed by the governors.

Free Wooden Framed Electric Piano

I have a Hohner Clavinet Wooden Framed Electric Piano that I no longer have space for. It can be disassembled for transport. If you are interested in having it please contact me on 01372 308282.

Glenys Scadden

MISSION FOR THE MONTH HOME

Cross Rhythms

XRhythms has grown to be recognized as one of the pioneering media initiatives proclaiming Christ into the mainstream market place. Media should be able to engage with the wider community whether attending church or not. They believe in collaborating with other organisations whose impact on society is different to their own.

ABROAD

AMECA

AMECA is committed to health care delivery, training healthcare professionals and to healthcare education in Sub-Saharan African Countries through sustainable initiatives. The latest project was the building of a maternity clinic and this has been completed. With the completion of the new maternity clinic, initial feedback was hugely positive. All the mothers commented on the quality of care and attention given by the excellent maternity staff.

Can you please hold these Mission areas in your Prayers – Thank you

Meg Topley

Sunday 1 August: St Martin's Choir sings at Guildford Cathedral

After over a year's disruption to singing together, we are thrilled to announce that St Martin's Choir will sing the services at Guildford cathedral on Sunday 1 August.

Many of you will recall that, prior to the pandemic, the choir enjoyed a programme of termly musical excursions to sing at Winchester, Chichester, Rochester and Southwark cathedrals. It will be a particular pleasure to visit our diocesan cathedral next month, and we'd be delighted to see you there too, if you can make it. Details of the services are as follows:

09.45 Sung Eucharist -including music by Richard Shephard and Felton Rapley

18.00 Choral Evensong -including music by Sumsion, Dyson and Stanford

Iain will be playing the organ for us as usual, and we certainly intend to 'make a joyful noise' together on behalf of you all!

In the meantime, we're also hoping that government guidance will change to permit a return to singing hymns and other congregational music from July 19, so Sunday 25 July should be a memorable and liberating day for everyone.

Richard Dacey

Judith Mitchell Report for the PCC

Judith has prepared a report giving details of her training. This will be sent as an attachment to the newsletter email and will be on the website.

FREE No Cold Calling stickers

Do you support vulnerable people who live independently? Let them know about the free 'No cold calling' stickers from Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards.

Email trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk

CONTACT US

Parish Office:

***Church House, Church Street, Epsom,
KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567***

E-mail: stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com

Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

The Revd Nick Parish, Vicar – 01372 743336

Email: vicar@stmartinsepsom.org

The Revd David Candlin – Curate - 07723 849 477

Email: revcandlin@gmail.com



The Children's Society



The Children's Society and The Trussell Trust: Holiday Hunger and Well-being – reflections and sharing real life stories
Thursday 15 July 2021, 11.00am to 12.00pm

The Children's Society and The Trussell Trust invite you to a free **National Church Audience Webinar** to hear about supporting children, young people, and families over the school summer holidays. Hear reflections from experiences of living in poverty and about the work of The Trussell Trust in collaboration with churches and their communities. Examples will be shared of how to support those affected by holiday hunger and to improve mental health and well-being.

Hosted by **Ruth Andoh-Baxter** (The Children's Society Relationship Manager for the South), with **The Reverend Lizzi Green** (Curate of St Albans, Gossops Green, Crawley in the Diocese of Chichester), **Dr Heather Buckingham** (Head of Church Engagement at The Trussell Trust) and a local Trussell Trust Foodbank Manager/practitioner.

Sign up even if you can't attend on the day to receive a recording with the presentations as well as all the relevant resource links.

Tickets are **free but registration is essential** via this **Zoom link** -
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pxjnJMj0QmKU3dfSy4X45Q



Bereavement Support Group

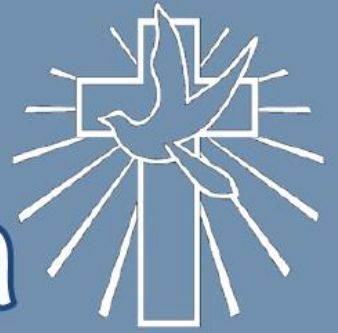
The Brigitte Trust will be running free structured 8-week bereavement courses run by a professional facilitator for anyone in Surrey in need of bereavement support.

The course will be limited to a maximum of 12 people and will be run in different parts of Surrey according to need. The first course will be held on a **Monday morning** from **10.00 am** to **12.00 pm** and will be based in Dorking starting in July.

The next course is likely to be in the West of Surrey in September. There will be refreshments along with parking and disabled access toilets.

For more information or to book a place contact **Sarah Pattenden** on **07469 932192** or email sarah.pattenden@brigitte-trust.com

Christ Church Epsom Common



GUARDIANS OF **ANCORA** HOLIDAY CLUB

Date:

Monday 2nd August - Friday 6th August

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Where: Christ Church, Epsom Common

Book your place **now** by downloading a Registration Form from

[https://www.christchurchepsom.org.uk/event-details/
guardians-of-ancora-holiday-club-1](https://www.christchurchepsom.org.uk/event-details/guardians-of-ancora-holiday-club-1)

or email Jen @ yfw@christchurchepsom.org.uk

Become a **Guardian of Ancora** and help find and return the wonderful story-treasure items to the Hall of Memory. Each day the Guardians will learn more about Jesus and the amazing things he did through with craft, cooking, games and much more! Also interactive game available via App.

Open to children currently in Reception - Year 6.

Fee £35 including Guardian t-shirt

(This event takes place with applicable Covid Restrictions)

Latest message from Chris Shortt at Food Bank

We are so grateful to all of our wonderful supporters, every donation really does make a difference!

Thank you to those who arrange supermarket deliveries to us. This is a fantastic way for people to make a direct donation. If you want to arrange a delivery to us, please pick a morning slot with your chosen supermarket and drop us a message letting us know when to expect it.

You may prefer to make a small donation by text, details are at the bottom of this email.

A huge thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Wishlist:

This week we need help with:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog Food (wet and dry) – urgent• Biscuits – urgent• Breakfast cereal (not porridge)• Pulses• Tinned meat (meatballs, ham, hotdogs etc)• Hot Chocolate• Tinned vegetables• Treats for children (chocolates, sweets, crisps etc)• Bags for life | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instant mash• Tinned fruit• Sweetcorn• Tinned tomatoes• Powdered milk• Washing up liquid• Shampoo / hair conditioner• Deodorant – male & female |
|---|--|

You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask);

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank

Generation Resource Centre

(Behind West Ewell Primary School)

Ruxley Lane, Ewell, KT19 0JG

Donation Drop Off Times: Monday to Friday 9am – 2pm

*** PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL DONATIONS ARE SEALED, IN DATE AND DO NOT CONTAIN ALCOHOL***

Can't get to the shops? You could text to make a small donation, send us a supermarket delivery to the address above, or contact us about sponsoring some fresh fruit & veg!

You can help by texting 70450 to donate:

Text **FOODBANKGIFT2** to donate £2

Text **FOODBANKGIFT5** to donate £5

Text **FOODBANKGIFT15** to donate £15

Kind regards, Chris Shortt

Text **FOODBANKGIFT3** to donate £3

Text **FOODBANKGIFT10** to donate £10

Text **FOODBANKGIFT20** to donate £20



COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the
Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all
your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and
truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 2:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. When I saw this, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking. He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

PSALM Psalm 123

R *Our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he shows us his mercy.*

To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.
As the eyes of servants look to the
hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of
her mistress,
So our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he show us his mercy. **R**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have
mercy,
for we have had more than enough of
contempt,
Too much of the scorn of the indolent
rich,
and of the derision of the proud. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows – was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

GOSPEL Mark 6:1-13

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the

sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be
so peaceably ordered by your
governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve
you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday Homily

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

4 JULY 2021

YEAR B

“So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent.”

Mark 6:12

Illustration

When it comes to sport, the home team is agreed to have the upper hand in any match. There will be more locals in the crowd, willing them on, cheering their attacks, celebrating every point scored and commiserating with their misfortunes. Travelling to another team’s ground may prove to be a rather less comfortable experience, for there the crowd will probably be indifferent, at best, to the players’ efforts, while at home the majority are right behind them. It’s a different matter when the name of the game is “imparting a message”. Instead of cheering on one of their own, the crowd may well turn on them.

Gospel Teaching

This is precisely the situation in which Jesus found himself. The problem was, he could not deliver only messages the crowd wanted to hear – it was as though he was scoring goals for the other side. No matter if his genius was still obvious in the manoeuvres he executed, what he was doing was not what the many desired or expected – their minds were narrowed by habit and prejudice. For this reason Jesus achieved little in the way of miraculous works on home territory: the conditions were simply not favourable. His fellow townspeople were too affronted by his presumptuousness to be receptive to any works of power he might perform in their community. The problem with prophets, which you never find in sporting heroes, was that they would insist on challenging the audience; the crowd’s response was more important than the action.

Voicing a familiar proverb, Jesus notes the impossibility of being an honoured prophet among one’s own people, and, consequently, he adopts a different strategy in commissioning the disciples for their prophetic and pastoral ministry. He sends them out, to places where they are literally and metaphorically unencumbered by baggage, although not entirely alone. The reaction of the hearers elsewhere should be less prejudiced by familiarity – the disciples will play on a “level field”. The message itself is all-important, and the Lord wants it to be plain, undisguised by the livery or identity of its presenters.

Application

As we think about this story, should we perhaps consider where we are when the Lord's message is spoken to us? Are we at the "home" or "away" ground? Too often we tend to become the insiders, the partisan crowd. Many of us have grown up with Jesus and he – and his disciples – have almost become "ours": the domesticated home team. They are at our disposal, their job is to please us and not challenge us, their targets should be the "outsiders" rather than us. The more we hear the words of scripture, the more we become comfortable with what they say: we practically know Jesus too well. So we must try to be foreigners in our listening, to hear the Gospel as if it were new every time.

Initiating a response in their audience was what the disciples, John the Baptist and the Old Testament prophets had in common with Jesus. Their vital proclamation was enhanced by plainness and strangeness, it was not the crowd-pleasing of the home team, but a stark wake-up call from somewhere else. Yet it is not only a change of heart which is required of those who hear the Gospel. For we are less obviously challenged in turn to bear the message ourselves, like the disciples, without baggage or additional protection: we too must carry the kingdom abroad.

You may be thinking that you couldn't possibly be a prophet, standing up and speaking out; or the kind of travelling preachers or healers that the apostles were, let alone another John crying in the wilderness, a Paul or even an Ezekiel, but you can. For there are two fundamental elements which are essential to Christian discipleship: how you pray and how you live.

Through diligent prayer you may become attuned to the words and ways of God. Then perhaps you may adopt values and behaviour somewhat different from those of your immediate neighbours. Thus your whole life can become part of God's message and you will find that you make a difference simply by being "on the pitch", both home and away, without ever resorting to your soapbox! Essentially re-evaluating your life in the alien light of Jesus' teaching, and changing your ways accordingly, amounts to "repentance" and, by thoughtful living, you will be proclaiming his teaching to others.

MONDAY**5 JULY**

Genesis 28:10-end

Psalm 91:1-10

Matthew 9:18-26

TUESDAY**6 JULY**

Genesis 32:22-end

Psalm 17:1-8

Matthew 9:32-end

WEDNESDAY**7 JULY**

Genesis 41:55-end;

42:5-7.17-end

Psalm 33:1-4.18-end

Matthew 10:1-7

THURSDAY**8 JULY**

Genesis 44:18-21. 23-29; 45:1-5

Psalm 105:11-17

Matthew 10:7-15

FRIDAY**9 JULY**

Genesis 46:1-7. 28-30

Psalm 37:3-6. 27-28

Matthew 10:16-23

SATURDAY**10 JULY**Genesis 49:29-end;
50:15-25

Psalm 105:1-7

Matthew 10:24-33

REFLECTION

This week's Gospel readings begin with some incredible miracles. Christ heals a woman who has been bleeding for twelve years, raises a young girl from the dead and enables someone who cannot talk to speak.



Clearly Jesus had incredible powers, so it's surprising he would want to involve fallible human beings in his work. Yet to do so was clearly important to him, for he appoints twelve disciples and equips them to do the same work he has been doing. He also makes it clear, though, that they could not share in his work without also sharing in his suffering. As the disciples face their first mission, he prepares them for rejection as well as acceptance and warns that in the future they will suffer arrest, trial and flogging for continuing his ministry.

The reminder that there is a cost to following Christ challenges us all and it is likely to make us uneasy. However, amidst this difficult teaching Jesus also offers encouragement, reassuring us that this suffering does not mean God has forgotten us. If God knows and cares about every tiny sparrow that falls, how much more will the Lord watch over us?

PRAYER

Dear Lord,
give us the strength we need to continue serving you
and carrying out your mission.
When we find this hard and difficulties arise,
help us to know your love comforting us,
your help enabling us and your wisdom guiding us.

PART III – ST ALDHELM'S WELL

St Aldhelm's Well in Doultling, Somerset, is a spring, the source of the River Sheppey, and it is in this village that St Aldhelm died in 709. He is said to have bathed at the well on the day of his death. If you visit it, you can drive down to the well from the main street of the attractive village, but far better is to approach it from the church. Dedicated to St Aldhelm, the church is an attractive twelfth-century building, but in the saint's time it is thought to have been a wooden construction. Walk along the path directly opposite, past a disused waterwheel on the left. It once pumped water up into the village. You can see it if you peer into a dilapidated building. The land falls away towards the well, which you reach by turning left at the end of the path and walking down a steep hill.

At the bottom is a high wall and a water trough with the spring water flowing into it. You could easily miss it, although it has a small notice proclaiming its name. The Victorians were responsible for the wall and if you are very lucky you may spot a water vole in the trough. Wild garlic scents the air in springtime and in the summertime the trough is surrounded by ferns. Climb up the path to the right, into the shady forest above the wall. To your left you will find the spring itself, flowing from two arches into a pool.

Fulfilling his role as a pastor, St Aldhelm was on his rounds of the diocese when he died in this atmospheric place.

Although famous in England and much further afield, this quiet place was where he left this world. It reminds us, perhaps, that those who are famous and important are just like us and that we can find God in the small places and the domestic places, in the places where we share life with each other.



St Aldhelm's Well, Doultling, Somerset
[Merryn/geograph.org.uk/en.wikipedia.org](https://merryn/geograph.org.uk/en.wikipedia.org)

Fifth week after Trinity

Monday 5 July to
 Saturday 10 July
 2021

WEEK

LIVE
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
 THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
 Caroline Hodgson
 and
 Heather Smith

Jerusalem

Gillian Cooper *reflects on* 2 Samuel 5:1-5. 9-10

David the shepherd boy has become king of Israel. He has survived giants and armies, hatred and betrayal. He has been clever and resourceful. He is good-looking, talented, popular with women, as well as one of the lads. And he has God on his side.

The first seven and a half years of David's reign seem uneventful – they pass by in a single sentence. All we know is that he was based at Hebron. Hebron was already a significant place in ancient Israel. The book of Genesis tells us it was where Abraham bought a plot of land as a burial place for his wife Sarah. It was the first bit of the land of Israel owned by Israel's ancestor. It is the obvious place for the king to hold court.

But Hebron represents the past, and David's reign is about the future. Ever the effective strategist, David captures the city of Jerusalem from its Canaanite residents, and there he establishes the "City of David". Jerusalem has no historical or religious associations. The people's new capital city is David's place. There his palace will be, and there also God's temple, for ever associated with David and his successors.

So David gives us Jerusalem. Beautiful and doomed. Conquered and rebuilt. Essential to three world religions and many warring peoples. A place of hatred, tragedy and death. And a place where, through David's descendant, hatred has been defeated, death has been conquered, and God's love has triumphed. ☺

Making Ordinary Time anything but

by Caroline Hodgson

We're deep into Ordinary Time – that part of the Christian liturgical year that falls outside Advent, Christmastide, Lent and Eastertide.

The origin of "ordinary" in this context comes from the word "ordinal", referring to the system by which the weeks are counted. So strictly speaking it's not ordinary in the sense of being mundane

or routine. Even so, it raises an interesting point, because we tend to discount things as ordinary, to be got through or passed over – whether that's ordinary time (a rainy weekend), or places (where the bins are kept), objects or even people. But the reality is that every nanosecond of existence, every millimetre of God's Earth, every atom of existence and each and every person is worthy of being treasured and celebrated. Now I'm not suggested we start praising God over an egg whisk, but that we practise becoming more engaged with the wonder of creation all around us. So over the next three weeks I'd like to share a practical exercise for keeping Ordinary Time anything but ordinary. ☺



We pray, Lord for the peace of Jerusalem, for reconciliation between all those who live there, and all who from a distance call it home. May it be once more a beacon of hope and a sign of your kingdom on earth. Amen.

Walking with Poppy

World made new

by Gillian Cooper

There has been a thunderstorm after the hot and dry weather, and the air is fresh. Poppy sniffs the air from the door and takes a tentative step out. She does not want to get her paws wet, but the scent is enticing. The walk along the path to the playing

field takes us even longer than usual – the rain has brought out the smells and every inch has to be sniffed. Meanwhile I notice the raindrops on the bushes and the new green shoots on the allotment plants. Between Poppy's nose and my eyes, we are experiencing a world made new.

How much more, we hope, will we rejoice when we experience God's new world, at the end of our lives or at our world's end, when we breathe the fresh air of God's love and marvel at the sparkling glory of the new heaven and new earth. ☺

“David was the last one we would have chosen to fight the giant, but he was chosen of God.”

Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899), American evangelist and publisher



Sunday 4 July 2021
Mark 6:1-6
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

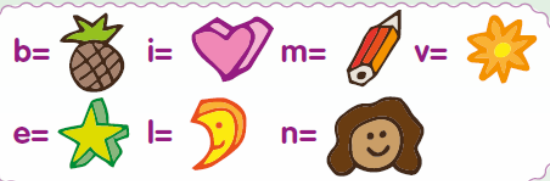
My name is _____

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

Jesus returns home where he teaches in the local synagogue. When people hear him, they can't believe how wise Jesus is. But they do not accept him because they knew Jesus when he was a child. Jesus is unable to help the people because of their lack of faith.

BELIEVE IN JESUS

Jesus was amazed that the people did not have faith.

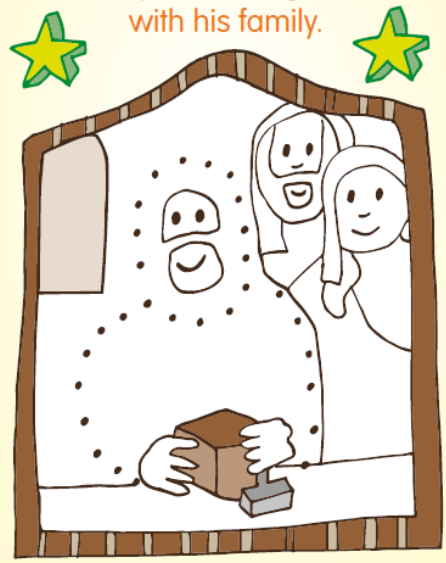


Decode the words to hear what Jesus wants.



Who is Jesus?

Jesus surprises people by teaching in the synagogue. **Join the dots** to see how they knew him before, as a carpenter living at home with his family.



Who am I?

I am ____ years old.
I live in _____.

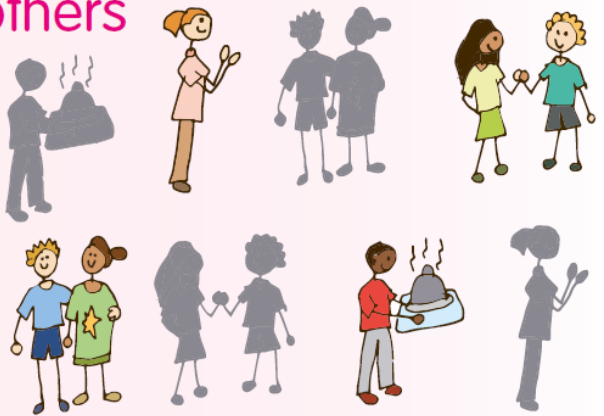
In my family, there are ____ people.



Draw a picture of yourself, to show who you are.

Welcome others

It is good to welcome people into our homes and lives. **Match the picture to its shadow to show how we can welcome others.**



A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, sometimes it is hard to listen to those who know us the best. We prefer to listen to people at school instead of our parents and brothers or sisters. Help us to remember that the people we live with know us well and usually give us the best advice. Amen.

Answers: Believe in me.