

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 29th August 2021 – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Dear Friends,

The pharisees were so wedded to their religious observance that keeping the law had become an end in itself. Jesus challenged this way of thinking - and called on his disciples to attend to the things in their heart. James encourages believers to express their faith through a clean heart and in generous acts of service. We are called to be examples of God's love in the world. What can we do to be a beacon of God's love in Epsom?

David Candlin

THIS WEEK

Sunday 29th August – 13th Sunday after Trinity

- 9.30am – Morning Prayer at St Stephen's – led by Graeme Lodge
- 10.00am – Holy Communion at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish
- 6.30pm – NO SERVICE

Wednesday 1st September

- 10.00am – Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel– led by Nick Parish

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 5th September – Creation 1

- 9.30am – Morning Prayer at St Stephen's – led by Howard Bluett
- 10.00am – Holy Communion at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by David Candlin
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer – led by Judith Mitchell

CHANGES TO SERVICES FROM SEPTEMBER

1. The midweek will be on **WEDNESDAYS at 10am** in the Lady Chapel, followed by refreshments and fellowship. A Study group will also begin after the service.
2. On **2nd Sundays** of the month at **8.30am** will be a BCP said communion. First service on Sunday, 12th September.
3. **Morning Prayer** will be said, **Mon – Fri**, at **9am** in the Lady Chapel. (Evening Prayer will continue to be on Zoom, to assist those who are unable to physically attend Church).
4. **Weekly 6.30pm** Sunday services return, with Evening Prayer on the first and last Sundays, Holy Communion on the second and Sung Evensong on the third.

DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS

Creationtide

Runs from Sunday September 5th to Sunday October 3rd. Please see the programme for full details.

Our ministry for children.

Ark will resume regular meetings from Sunday September 5th. New, will be a group for older children (year 4+). Both groups will meet during the 10am service on a fortnightly basis. Please pray that they will prosper and nurture faith in the youngest members of our congregation.



For these groups to work additional adult helpers are urgently required. This will not be a weekly commitment and any preparation will be minimal given the resources we use. If you can offer help please contact:

Yvonne (07717 651123 stmartinsark@outlook.com) for Ark or

Graeme (01372 741746 graemelodge@hotmail.co.uk) for the older group.

The Pilgrim Course

Starting in October, this will be led by Graeme Lodge. Described as a 'discipleship course' it is for anyone who wants to explore Christianity and life following a Christian way. Full details soon.

Wednesday morning study group

This resumes in September, after the 10am service, led by Howard Bluett.

Morning Prayer and Pastoral Support

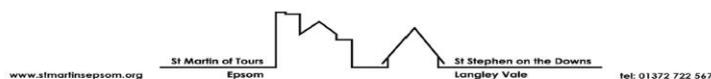
Every Tuesday, starting on 7th September, Morning Prayer will be held at 9.00 lasting between 20 and 30 minutes. From 9.30 am I shall be available in the church until 12.00 noon. If anyone wishes to talk to me about their worries or anything on their mind, please feel free to come for a chat which will of course be in total confidence. When I am not available for any reason another member of the Pastoral or Ministry Team will be there in my place.

Mary Gilbert, Pastoral Team

Beacon Teas

We shall be resuming the Beacon Teas soon, after a long absence because of the pandemic. They will be hosted in the Church by Mary and Elaine from the Pastoral Team on the second Sunday in each month between 3.00pm. and 5.00pm. and the first will be on 12th September. We look forward to seeing again those of you who were regulars at this event, and also anyone else who would like some companionship, sandwiches and cake. You can decide which of these is the most important! If anyone is willing to donate the occasional home-made cake we would be most grateful.

**Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook,
Pastoral Team**



Beacon Afternoon Tea

Need Company? A Chat? Feel Lonely?
Come along. All Welcome

Second Sunday of the Month
3.00pm to 5.00pm in Church
(12th September, 10th October, 14th November & 12th December)

Sandwiches, Cake, Tea & Coffee.
Donations Welcome



Churches Together in Epsom

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th September at 8pm (refreshments from 7.30). It will be in Christ Church Epsom Common Parish Hall, the location of which is at:

<https://ctie.org.uk/index.php/47-how-to-find-us/61-christ-church-parish-hall>

The meeting agenda is here

<https://ctie.org.uk/index.php/48-council-meeting-agendas/62-080921>

All who worship at one of the CTiE churches are warmly invited to attend and contribute.

Monthly prayer meetings:

Following a well-attended and enjoyable social gathering, 'in person', by CTiE reps, at the Old Moat Café, a decision was made to alternately locate the monthly prayer meetings to 'Zoom online' or 'in person', for a trial period. We were able to pray at the end of our social gathering at the Old Moat Café and felt very encouraged by the positive response we received. We look forward to sharing prayer in this community setting in the future. The Old Moat Café has a sheltered covered outdoor area to meet which should prove a Covid-safe environment. The gatherings will start at 9.15 on zoom and at 10 am for the 'in person' meetings, to avoid school traffic.

Dates of our monthly prayer meetings for Autumn 2021 are:

- Friday September 10: 9-15 -9.45am on Zoom
- Friday October 8: 10-11am at Old Moat Café
- Friday November 12: 9.15-9.45am on Zoom
- Friday December 10: 10-11am at Old Moat Café

Old Moat Garden Centre Café is in Horton Lane, Epsom

[Find Us — The Old Moat Garden Centre & Cafe](#)



STEWARDSHIP

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 Martin's

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

Donation Station

If you wish to give via contactless payment, please use the donation station in Church. You can give a pre-set amount, or choose one. You can also gift aid your donation. Many thanks.

OTHER NOTICES

David and Nancy moving to the West Midlands

David's last Sunday with us will be September 5th. Following the 10am service we'll have a farewell reception for David and Nancy. Because of the COVID safe measures currently in place, we won't be collecting cash. If you wish to give to a gift and leave a message for them, you can do so via a special website: <https://thankbox.co/app/thankbox/UrNL2VSQ>

If you cannot access the web, then you can send a message and a cheque to the Parish office, payable to The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom, making clear the purpose of your donation.

Thank you.

Nick Parish

Could you help with the paperwork?

A couple in our congregation are getting behind with paying bills and other everyday admin. Do you have a bit of time to help them out? Clearly this is a sensitive matter and so if you feel you could offer them some of your time, could you contact me in the first instance?

David Candlin

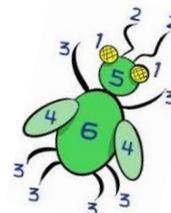
Eco Fair

As part of the Eco Fair on 25th September (and hopefully raising some money, too!) we are planning to put together a 2022 calendar. This will be available to buy (or at least, pre-order) at the fair. An attractive calendar needs some excellent pictures, of course, which is where you come in: is there a picture you would like to submit? I think it would be nice to stick to images from within the parish, or at least Epsom/Ewell, but apart from that, anything on the theme of God's world/eco is welcome. Please send high quality photographs or art work to the office (the images need to be good quality in order to withstand being enlarged; highest quality possible on a mobile phone or a high resolution scan e.g. 600dpi), and please don't be shy - it will be lovely to see what appeals to you! We'll include as many as we can. Thank you.

Helen Williams

*** SAVE THE DATE *** - BEETLE DRIVE

You are all invited to a **Beetle Drive** on **Saturday 16th October 2021** between 5.00 – 7.00 pm in Church House. We will be supplying tea and cake and all you need to play that old favourite – "Beetle". We will continue to follow the relevant COVID guidelines and be socially distanced although we cannot speak for the beetles! **Events Team**



**** SAVE THE DATE ****



St Martin's Christmas Fair will be held on **Saturday 27th November 2021** between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm. Please put this date in your diaries so that you can come and support us. The Christmas Fair is always very successful with lots of goodies to buy, food to eat and friends to meet. Watch out for more information in due course.

Thank you

Events Team

Church Boiler Door Code

The door code to the Church Boiler Room has been changed. If you require access to the Church Boiler Room please email the parish office at stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com detailing the reason for accessing the boiler room.

Parish Office Opening Hours throughout August up to and including the 3rd September.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

10.00am to 12.00pm

Mondays, the office will be closed for August only.

The Parish Office will return to normal working days and times from Monday 6th September – Mondays, Wednesday, Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am to 12.30pm. Tuesdays, the office will be closed.



MISSION FOR THE MONTH HOME

St Martin's supports by annual donations many local and national charities and agencies covering a wide range of needs, both practical and spiritual.

Local include: Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network, The Food Bank, PHAB, Street Pastors, Sunnybank Trust, Love Me Love my Mind.

National include: Through the Roof, Mission to Seafarers, Church Army, Children's Society, CMS England, Cross Rhythms (Christian Radio Station)

Also included Harvest and Christmas donations and collections

Please hold all these in your prayers

Jill Chapman

ABROAD

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

MAF is a Christian organisation that provides aviation, communications and learning technology to more than 1,000 Christian and humanitarian agencies as well as thousands of isolated missionaries and indigenous villagers in the world's most remote areas. There are three major operational centers one of which is situated in Ashford, United Kingdom. These centers provide operational support to programs in the Americas, Africa and the Asia Pacific regions.

Meg Topley

Autumn Arts and Crafts for Wellbeing (FREE)

We're delighted to be back with our face to face Art classes again!

Date/Time: Friday 10th September from 10am- noon (and every Friday for 4 weeks.

Venue: The Focus Youth Centre, Depot Road, Epsom.

This course will use the colours of Autumn as inspiration to create a range of different Art Projects designed to help with mental wellbeing. This gentle course is especially suitable for those experiencing mental health issues and is supported by the NHS Recovery College (Surrey & Borders)

<https://enrolonline.wea.org.uk/Online/2020/CourseInfo.aspx?r=C3747242>

or phone 0300 303 3464 quoting C3747242. (pin 42187)

Available to those living in East Surrey in districts of Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Tandridge & Reigate & Banstead



Latest message from Food Bank

Wishlist: This week we need help with:

Urgent:

Nappies & pull-ups: Size 5 & 6

Crisps, snacks, chocolate bars and treats for kids

Cooking sauce (not pasta sauce), Bags for life

Wanted:

Long life sponge pudding, Powdered milk, Meat pies

Tinned vegetables, Mayonnaise, Tomato ketchup, Spaghetti in sauce

Honey

Noodles (such as egg or rice noodles), Peanut butter

Sugar 500g bags), Longlife fruit juice

Meat (hot dogs, meatballs etc – not spam or corned beef)

Nappies & pull-ups: Size 6+, Training pants and pull-ups

Shaving foam

Baby wash, Pump soap, Shampoo

Washing up liquid, Washing powder and pods (bio and non-bio), Shower Gel

No more: pasta, tampons, sanitary towels, marmalade, cat/dog food, spam/corned beef, adult toothbrushes.

You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park 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

To give:

You can help by texting 70450 to donate:

Text **FOODBANKGIFT5** to donate £5

Text **FOODBANKGIFT10** to donate £10

Text **FOODBANKGIFT15** to donate £15

Text **FOODBANKGIFT20** to donate £20

Protection of Horton Cemetery

Horton Cemetery in Epsom is an abandoned and desecrated cemetery that was used to bury as paupers the unclaimed bodies of people that died in Epsom's Horton, St. Ebba's, Long Grove, The Manor and West Park hospitals between 1899 and 1955. The cemetery contains almost 9,000 people. There is a very active local project to protect this cemetery from development by researching and telling the stories of the people buried there. See <https://hortoncemetery.org/horton-cemetery-stories/>

Our hope is that these stories, which bring these people "back to life", will gain public support for the protection of the cemetery. We are trying to get our Council to add Horton Cemetery to a Heritage list and the Council are now asking for the local community's opinions on whether Horton Cemetery should be added to the council's local list of buildings, monuments and landscapes which have historical or architectural interest. It is essential for our Charity's cause ("The Friends of Horton Cemetery") of protecting the ground from development by a property developer, that the cemetery is added to this list. Addition which will give the cemetery formal heritage status and therefore a lot of protection.

Please email LPenman@epsom-ewell.gov.uk before 31st August and tell him, with great respect, that Horton Cemetery must be added to the list.

If you would like any more information please contact Kevin McDonnell email: hortoncemetery@gmail.com





Creationtide at St. Martin of Tours, Epsom

A programme of events in church to celebrate God as the Creator and Sustainer of life and to explore the challenges facing the natural world.
All are welcome to these events.

Sunday 5th September

10am Holy Communion: Love your neighbour

Sunday 5th September

3pm Reading and Discussion: "The Man Who Planted Trees" by Jean Giono

Monday 6th September

7.30pm Bible Study: Genesis 1

Saturday 11th September

3pm Keynote Talk: Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling, MP for Epsom and Ewell.

Looking forward to COP26

Sunday 12th September

10am Choral Matins: A living community

Monday 13th September

7.30pm Bible Study: John 1

Saturday 18th September

4.30pm Music at Saint Martin's Recital: The Twilight Ensemble

A programme of music inspired by our beautiful planet and the wilds of nature including arias and songs by Rameau, Vaughan Williams, Rutter, Liza Lehmann, Schumann and Orlando Gough.

Sunday 19th September

10am Holy Communion: Need, not greed.

Guest speaker Katie Williams, UK Youth Climate Coalition

Sunday 19th September

3pm Keynote Debate: Question Time on the environment with a panel of local politicians

Monday 20th September

7.30pm Bible Study: Song of Songs 7

Saturday 25th September

9am-12 noon EPSOM ECO FAIR

SUSTAINABLE
EPSOM & EWELL

In conjunction with

Our Eco Fair is a great opportunity to discover a wide range of local (and not so local) green groups, businesses and campaigns. Pop in at any time during the morning.

The Eco Fair will provide:

INFORMATION: practical ideas about what we can do individually and as a community around climate change issues. For those who don't know where or how to start the stalls will provide an opportunity to chat to others and explore the opportunities

LINKS: there are amazing things happening, so it is good to meet like-minded people for mutual support

RESOURCES: a forum for climate-focused action groups

Sunday 26th September

10am Harvest Festival with Holy Communion: Water of life.

Guest speaker Alison Moulden, Diocesan Environmental Adviser

Monday 27th September

6.30pm Speak up for the Planet.

A public speaking competition giving young people a voice on the environment

Sunday 3rd October

10am Holy Communion: Saint Francis of Assisi.

Guest speaker Rachel Hill, Eco-lead at Saint Martin's School

Additional services will be held throughout Creationtide on Sunday evenings at 6.30pm and Wednesday mornings at 10am.

If you have any questions about these events please contact Helen Williams (helen@canossa.co.uk) or Graeme Lodge (graemelodge@hotmail.co.uk)



A free course to help you manage your money better and learn to budget, save and spend well.



budget. save. spend.

Tuesdays // 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th Sept // 7:30pm
Signup at www.epsomvineyard.org/cap

epsom  vineyard church

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 Revd Canon Adrian Esdaile - Priest in Retirement - 01372 723770

Email: esdaileadrian@yahoo.co.uk

***(available for Contemplative Prayer, Counsel,
Spiritual Direction and the Healing Ministry)***

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear
witness
that you were in Christ reconciling
the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news
of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to
you;
through him who was lifted up on
the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-9

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people; he said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

PSALM Psalm 15

R *Those who do what is right
will dwell in the presence of the
Lord.*

Lord, who may dwell in your
tabernacle?
who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and
does what is right,
who speaks the truth from his
heart. **R**

There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend;
he does not heap contempt upon his
neighbour.

In his sight the wicked are rejected,
but he honours those who fear the
Lord. **R**

He has sworn to do no wrong
and does not take back his word.
He does not give his money in hope
of gain,
nor does he take a bribe against the
innocent.

Whoever does these things
shall never be overthrown. **R**

SECOND READING James 1:17-end

A reading from the letter of James.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress,

and to keep oneself unstained by
the world.

GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

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

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" Jesus said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true
manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through
our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place where
hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday Homily

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

29 AUGUST 2021

YEAR B

“You abandon the commandment of God
and hold to human tradition.”

Mark 7:8

Illustration

It was a filthy Sunday morning – rain and strong winds. Meg Smith, the vicar, slipped inside the church door an hour before the service was due to start, to be sure the boiler was working.

She was followed in by Jim Markham, who organised their small town’s monthly farmers’ market. He was distraught. It was going to be impossible to hold the market in these conditions but he was reluctant to cancel because the market had become a lifeline for local farmers. Would Meg use her local knowledge to find a building where the market could find a refuge?

She rang the caretaker of every large building in the town, but no one could help. Just then John Stocks, churchwarden, arrived. Meg took John aside and the two of them spoke in low voices for a few moments, with John nodding vigorously. Then Meg turned to Jim and pinched herself as she heard herself say: “Jim, would it be possible for you to hold the farmers’ market here in church?” It was – and they did.

Gospel Teaching

Pharisees from Jerusalem were shocked to see how people in the provinces disregarded the Law of Moses. They asked Jesus to explain how he could let his disciples so blatantly disregard the traditions of their religion.

The Pharisees probably weren’t trying to trick Jesus here. They were genuinely troubled. And they were right to be, for an institution can become so dependent on its traditions for its sense of identity and worth that if they were all stripped away, like barnacles off a ship’s hull, it might reveal so many holes that the ship would sink.

Jesus cleverly draws on the words of one of their “elders” that the Pharisees are invoking and he quotes Isaiah 29, where God deplores the hypocrisy of Israel. It is a devastating prophecy and cuts right to the quick of the Pharisees’ complaint. For God calls the worship of Israel a vain show and her doctrines merely based

on human precepts. There can be no more crushing critique of a religion than for its worship to be judged as show and its teaching a human invention.

What added to the power of this quote is that it was eight hundred years old! If Judaism had barnacles of tradition clinging to its hull all those centuries ago, what must its condition have been like as Jesus debated the point with these religious leaders? How was it able to stay afloat?

Jesus is ruthless in answering this implicit question: “You abandon”, he says, “the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” What is left of a religion once it has abandoned God and replaced him with human traditions? Nothing! According to Jesus’ judgement, therefore, the ship had sunk beneath the waters long ago. No wonder he was crucified.

Jesus then calls the people around him to hear his answer to the specific complaint of the Pharisees concerning dietary and cooking traditions: nothing that goes into a person’s stomach will defile them, only what comes out of their heart. In that one brilliant statement Jesus places all religion where it should be: within our beliefs, desires, thoughts and intentions – and the actions that result from them. God only ever wanted contrite hearts and a people that treated the weak and the stranger justly. Jesus in this instance is repeating the age-old message of the prophets.

Application

Jesus accused the religious leaders of using human traditions to enslave people with the excessive demands of institutionalised religion, but ironically the same process has happened in the Christian religion.

We have to spend so much time just keeping the Church afloat and yet how willing are we to take a knife to the barnacles of tradition that weigh us down? Maybe we need to be more willing to listen to the prophetic voices of unchurched newcomers? Sometimes the only way is for change to be forced upon us: for instance, when their building undergoes a major repair and they have to worship elsewhere, congregations often find a new spiritual life granted them in the new environment.

Fortunately there are plenty of good signs: for example, the growing involvement of congregations in issues of peace and fair trade; our reduced dependence on service books, allowing for more creativity and spontaneity in worship; and the reordering of our churches to make them more suitable for community use – though it will probably be a while before the farmers’ market is traditionally held in the parish church!

MONDAY
30 AUGUST
 1 Thessalonians
 4:13-end
 Psalm 96
 Luke 4:16-30

TUESDAY
31 AUGUST
 1 Thessalonians
 5:1-6. 9-11
 Psalm 27:1-8
 Luke 4:31-37

WEDNESDAY
1 SEPTEMBER
 Colossians 1:1-8
 Psalm 34:11-18
 Luke 4:38-end

THURSDAY
2 SEPTEMBER
 Colossians 1:9-14
 Psalm 98:1-5
 Luke 5:1-11

FRIDAY
3 SEPTEMBER
 Colossians 1:15-20
 Psalm 89:19b-28
 Luke 5:33-end

SATURDAY
4 SEPTEMBER
 Colossians 1:21-23
 Psalm 117
 Luke 6:1-5

REFLECTION

The people of Nazareth still see Jesus as a local boy who grew up among them. They're fascinated by what they've heard about him and wonder what he'll



say to them. They probably don't expect him to claim that Isaiah's prophecy refers to himself! How could a carpenter's son be God's anointed one? That doesn't fit with their understanding of either Jesus or the promised anointed one of God.

Jesus continues the ministry for which he was anointed. He brings good news for those with ears to hear; he frees those held captive by disease or guilt; he sets free those for whom religion is a burden, weighing them down. Everywhere people are amazed at his authority and his teachings. But none of them recognises in him God's Messiah. It's only demons who know who he is: **"You are the Son of God... the Holy One of God,"** they scream and shout.

Jesus brings new ideas, new teaching, a new spirit into the lives of men and women everywhere. Sometimes they don't fit with old and worn out understandings. Is it time we opened ourselves to becoming new wineskins, ready to receive this new Spirit of God?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, open our hearts and minds to hear your message for us today.
 Let us not be closed to new ideas but willing to recognise you,
 to learn from you and to receive from you the new fresh wine of God's Spirit.

PART II – THE AUTHENTICITY OF PAUL

Becky Mynett continues her series about the life and theology of St Paul.

The New Testament contains thirteen letters traditionally thought to have been written by Paul. Today, biblical scholars agree that he definitely wrote seven of them. These are the earliest surviving Christian scriptures and pre-date the Gospels. The first, 1 Thessalonians, was probably written in around AD 50 and the last, Romans, about eight years later. Between these, Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia, Corinth (several times – some of these letters are now lost, and some are combined to form 2 Corinthians) and Philippi, and to Philemon.

As for the rest, scholars disagree whether they were written by Paul or by later followers. However, the vast majority think it unlikely he wrote the two letters to Timothy or the letter to Titus. The style of these “pastoral letters” is quite different and they seem to have been written to more formally organised churches. It is now thought they were written long after Paul’s death in around AD 64.

There is more doubt about the remaining letters. Even so, a majority of scholars think Ephesians, 2 Thessalonians and Colossians were written after Paul’s death. Colossians is probably the earliest Pauline letter that was not actually by him, but it could possibly have been written by Timothy (who is mentioned as co-sender).

Of course, although these later letters were probably not written by Paul, they are still valuable early Christian documents. At the time they were written, it was common for letters to be written in the name of a respected teacher, so we should not think of them as forgeries. However, our understanding of the context in which issues were addressed may be different when we know that it was probably not Paul himself who wrote in the letter to Titus, “Tell slaves to be submissive to their masters and to give satisfaction in every respect; they are not to talk back,” nor in 1 Timothy, “I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man.”

LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Convento de San Esteban, Salamanca,
by an unknown seventeenth-century
artist. Renata Sedmakova / Shutterstock.

Thirteenth week
after Trinity

Monday 30 August
to Saturday
4 September 2021

WEEK

Never forget

Gillian Cooper *reflects on* Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-9

Be careful, says Moses to the Israelites as they prepare to establish themselves as a settled people in the land of Israel. Watch yourselves. Do not forget.

They have been formed by escape from slavery and wilderness journeying, but soon they will be safe in a land where they will become farmers and tradespeople. They will stop travelling with the Ark of the Covenant. They will put the Ark in a house, and they will live in houses themselves. They will get to know their Canaanite neighbours, and they will trade with other nations. Time will pass. It will be easy to forget the past, to settle securely in the present, to worship the Canaanite gods of the land, to become complacent, to think they no longer need the God they met at Mount Sinai.

So Moses warns: be careful, do not forget. Tell the story to your children, and let them tell their children. Tell them what God has done, and tell them what God expects in return. Remind them of God's rules, because they have been given for your own good. Remember to whom you owe your salvation.

So we too tell our story, a story of death and new life, of body and blood, of salvation hard won. We take the bread and the wine in remembrance, because we too must never forget what God has done for us. 🍷

You, Lord, are our God. You rescued us from sin and death, and promised us eternal life. Help us never to forget, and inspire us to tell our story, that the world may know the truth of your salvation, throughout all time and to all eternity. Amen.

St Paul Part II

by Becky Mynett

Despite opposing the Church, Paul never met the pre-resurrection Jesus. His teaching and message were rooted in a mystical experience of the risen Christ. According to Acts, this famously took place on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus. In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul says that he saw Jesus, while in Acts it says

that he saw a blinding light and heard Jesus' voice. Whatever form it took, this experience would lead Paul to travel around the north-eastern Mediterranean, taking the Gospel out through Asia Minor to Greece and Rome, visiting early Christian communities and founding new ones. It also led Paul to write numerous letters to those communities, some of which are in our Bibles today, and some of which are now lost. Next week we will look at which New Testament letters were written by Paul, and which of those traditionally attributed to him were probably written by later followers. 🍷



Walking with Poppy Home

by Gillian Cooper

We are walking on the canal towpath. As usual we are greeted by people on the canal boats, and also occasionally by their dogs or cats, to Poppy's delight. Many of the boats are clearly homes. They have piles of logs, TV aerials, and places to hang washing. Others are hire

boats, holiday homes. But even the established boats are not fixed in place. The moorings are temporary, and their residents spend life on the move.

Poppy and I like our home to be fixed, with walls and a roof and familiar surroundings. But this too is temporary. We have not lived in our present home for long, and no doubt we will move on one day. There is one home, however, that is permanent. There is a place in God's house for each of God's children, where we can one day go home for all eternity. I hope Poppy will be there too! 🍷

“Owe no one anything, except to love one another.”

Romans 13:8



Sunday 29 August 2021
 Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23
 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is _____

Some Pharisees complain that some of Jesus' disciples are eating without washing their hands in the traditional way. Jesus says that people should do things because they love God and not just because it is what usually happens.

LOVE GOD

We know that washing our hands is important to stay healthy. Help Albie find his way to the sink through the maze.



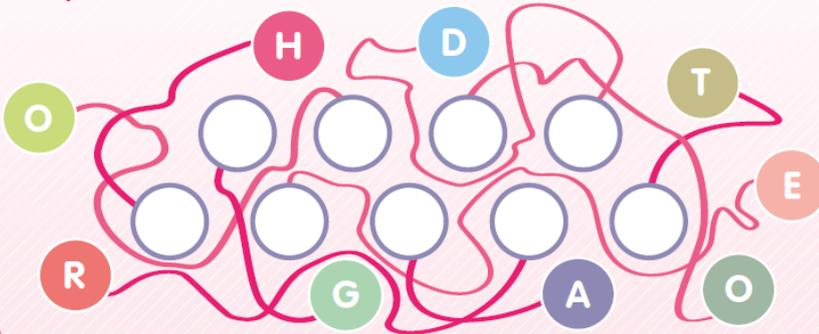
Odd one out

Circle the word describing a body part that doesn't belong in the hand.



Even more important...

Jesus says that something is even more important than clean hands! Move each letter to its empty circle to see what it is.



Using our hands

We use our hands to do so many things.

Find some of them by matching the beginnings and ends of these hands.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for our good hearts and our wonderful hands which do so many things. Help us to use them wisely and help other people whenever we can. Amen.

Answer: Odd one out: toe. Using our hands: wash, touch, clap, wave, help, pray. Even more important: good heart.