

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 8th August 2021 – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Dear Friends,

We are planning for the autumn. There is a series of Creationtide services and events, study groups, some changes to services and, with the help of the Lord, we can begin to plan for a fuller Christmas programme again. Alongside this, we will embrace the spirit of the C of E's desire to emerge from Lockdowns 'simpler, humbler and bolder.' It is a fine balance between activity and spirituality, action and reflection. Just as it is in our personal lives. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us and inspire us in this coming season.

Nick Parish

THIS WEEK

Sunday 8th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Thursday 12th August

- 10.00am – Holy Communion – led by Nick Parish.

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 15th August – 11th Sunday after Trinity

- 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 Nick Parish
- 6.30pm – NO SERVICE

CHANGES TO SERVICES FROM SEPTEMBER

1. The midweek service returns to **WEDNESDAY** mornings but retains the earlier time of **10am**. It will revert to the Lady Chapel and cease to be live streamed. It can be followed by refreshments and fellowship again.
2. A **monthly**, earlier, Sunday morning communion service will be introduced. This will be on **2nd Sundays** of the month at **8.30am** (*not 8am*). This begins on Sunday, 12th September at 8.30am. It will follow the 'traditional' service, as was the case with the previous 8am.
3. 'In person' daily prayer returns. **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** 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

From Sunday September 5th to Sunday October 3rd, we will be observing this season of the Church year. A programme of events, bible study, guest speakers, music and an eco-fair is in this newsletter.

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.

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

Many thanks.

OTHER NOTICES

David and Nancy moving to the West Midlands

As I come to the end of my curacy at St Martin's, it's a joy to tell you that my next post will be as Team Rector of Bloxwich, a town in the West Midlands near Wolverhampton. Bloxwich is a large parish of 20,000 people served by three CoE churches in the Team Ministry - I will be rector of All Saints on the High Street. There are two churches on the housing estates on the edge of the town, which my soon-to-be colleague Rev Chris Davies looks after. There are five primary schools (two of which are Church of England) and a secondary school in the parish - lots to keep me busy! No date has been set yet for the move or my licensing - but I imagine it might be in late September. I'll keep you posted!

David Candlin

To add to this, 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.

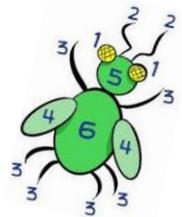
Nick Parish

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**

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.



Latest message from Food Bank

Wishlist: This week we need help with:

Epsom & Ewell
foodbank
HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS



Urgent:

- Powdered Milk
- Honey
- Cooking Sauce

- Crisps and treats for children
- Bags for life

Wanted:

- Milk UHT (SS & FF)
- Long-life Sponge Puddings
- Coffee
- Custard
- Mayonnaise
- Noodles
- Peanut Butter
- Long life fruit juice
- Tinned Vegetables
- Squash
- Instant Mash
- Hot Chocolate
- Tinned Meat (hotdogs, meatballs etc)
- Pasta/beans with meat

- Tinned fish
- Sugar (500g packets)
- Shower gel
- Shaving Foam
- Male/Female Deodorant
- Baby Wash
- Spaghetti in sauce
- Household Cleaning Products
- Adult toothpaste
- Kids Toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Ketchup/brown Sauce
- Nappies – size 5, 6, 6+ and 7
- Pull-ups – size 6, 6+, 7 and toddler training pants

Please, no more donations of the following items at this time: pasta, tampons, marmalade, cat/dog food, spam/corned beef, adult toothbrushes.

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

MISSION FOR THE MONTH

HOME

Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network

Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network help refugees and asylum seekers in this area with support and guidance. They connect with people and organisations who can help with English classes, housing, clothing, food and other essential needs and also organising social events. They collect goods and donations to help all refugees in the UK and Abroad.

Jill Chapman

ABROAD

USPG

The United Society of Partners in the Gospel are the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.

St Martin's Mission and Outreach make a donation through USPG specifically to South India.

Meg Topley

AMECA

Ruthie Markus has sent the below link with further details of the work of the AMECA Trust

[Maternity Clinic; Six months on..... \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

She has written us a lovely letter thanking us for our Mission giving this year, and also for the £237 raised by her sale of goods after last week's service.

Mercy Ships

Last Sunday Ruthie Marcus who founded the charity AMECA" Alex's Medical Education Clinic in Africa, one of the charities our church supports, gave us an update on their work in the address at Morning Prayer.

This was very appropriate timing as our government had just announced it was cutting its aid to the very African countries where this support is needed.

At about the same time the Church Times reported on Mercy Ships latest project – commissioning a new vessel (another project our church supports). Mercy Ships provide health care and teaching around the world but particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. We reproduce their report below.

Mercy Ships is one of the charities we support They recently had cause for rejoicing as the article overleaf explains.



The crew of the Global Mercy are joined by the project-management site team and shipyard officials to celebrate the end of its construction, and the handover to Mercy Ships, last month

THE world's largest civilian [hospital](#) ship, equipped to perform advanced surgery as well as train medical staff, has been launched by the global health charity Mercy Ships. The charity has been using ships to provide health care around the world, particularly in [Africa](#), for decades, but its new ship is its first purpose-built hospital ship. The cost of the *Global Mercy*, including its six operating theatres and laboratory, is about \$200 million (£145 million). The money was raised from corporate donors and members of the Mercy Ships board. The project has been eight years in the running, and sea trials were successfully completed in April.

The Mercy Ships UK executive director, Joanne Balaam, said: "We are grateful to everyone who invested and will give towards this new vessel that will more than double our capacity to bring hope and healing to thousands of people in the coming years."

Over a 50-year lifespan, the vessel is expected to provide surgical treatment for 150,000 patients, as well as train thousands of medical staff in their own countries. Its interior measures 30,000 square metres, making it the world's largest hospital ship for civilians.

The founder of Mercy Ships, Don Stephens, said: "African heads of state and ministers of health have often expressed a desire for more of their health-care professionals to be trained in-country. This ship will do exactly that. Many who suffer from disability and disfigurement will have access to surgical treatment and whole-person care in health-care systems that will enable them to reach their God-given potential.

"We hope that this new vessel and the volunteer crew who serve on her will bring hope, healing, and transformation for the next 40 to 50 years."

The ship will set sail this month from [China](#), where it has been built, to Antwerp, for fitting with IT and medical equipment. It is likely to be in operation in Africa next year, alongside the existing ship *Africa Mercy*.

The charity is now recruiting short- and long-term volunteers to work on the new vessel, which will have space for up to 950 medical staff and other professionals.



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)

Family Fun



with Little Hands Nursery

Forest School

and Christ Church Epsom

Bronze Eco Church



Sat 4th Sept 2021

Campfire Cooking, Outdoor Crafts,

Bouncy Castle & Soft Play

Refreshments

2 - 4pm

Christ Church

Hall Garden.



Cake and Cordial
Every Saturday in August

Christ Church
grounds

10am – 12noon

Pop by for a chat and
delicious homemade
refreshments.

Treats for 4 legged friends too!

Organise your 'care for a cake' get-together

21 – 29th August

Invite friends to share a cake and help raise funds to support unpaid carers. It's easy and fun!

What do I need to do?

Simply gather a few friends or family, either at home, at work or virtually. Bake or buy a cake, you can ask your friends to do the same and then fix a date between 21st and 29th August to get together.

How does it work

It's easy and can be whatever you want it to be. You can either ask people to make a one-off donation to enjoy cake and refreshments or you might decide to charge by the slice or even auction off the cakes – whatever works for you.

Please share those delicious moments!

Please take a picture of the occasion, befriend us on Facebook (if you haven't already) and share the photo using the hashtag **#careforacake**

We'd really love to see all your wonderful supporter events!



How do I collect and send the money I raise?

You can choose which way you prefer to donate the money you raise:

Send us a cheque in the post

Make cheques out to **Crossroads Care Surrey** and post to 121 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7SU. Please include a brief letter letting us know your name and address so we can thank you.

Pay by BACS using online banking

You can make a BACS payment from your account. Please call us or email finance@crossroadscare Surrey.org.uk and we will provide you with our account details.

Pay via Justgiving.com

You can donate directly to our JustGiving page: [justgiving.com/crossroadscare Surrey](https://www.justgiving.com/crossroadscare Surrey), or you can set up your own page on JustGiving selecting Crossroads Surrey Care as your charity – you can find help setting up your page [here](#).

Find out how your money will support unpaid carers by reading our carer stories:
[crossroadscare Surrey.org.uk/carers-stories](https://www.crossroadscare Surrey.org.uk/carers-stories)

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: [f /crossroadscare Surrey](https://www.facebook.com/crossroadscare Surrey) [@crossroadscare Surrey](https://www.instagram.com/crossroadscare Surrey)

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

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your
humble servants;
and that they may obtain their
petitions
make them to ask such things as
shall please you;
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.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:4-8

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

PSALM Psalm 34:1-8

R *Turn from evil and do good.*

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
I will glory in the Lord;
let the humble hear and rejoice. **R**

Proclaim with me the greatness of
the Lord;
let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord and he answered
me
and delivered me out of all my
terror. **R**

Look upon him and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
I called in my affliction and the Lord
heard me
and saved me from all my
troubles. **R**

The angel of the Lord
encompasses those who fear him,
and he will deliver them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in him! **R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

GOSPEL John 6:35. 41-51

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

Jesus said to the crowd, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Then the Jews began to complain

about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,
you have willed that the gate of
mercy
should stand open for those who
trust in you:
look upon us with your favour
that we who follow the path of your
will
may never wander from the way of
life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday Homily

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8 AUGUST 2021

YEAR B

“Whoever comes to me will never be hungry.”

John 6:35

Illustration

Perhaps you have seen the film *The Shawshank Redemption*. Set in an American prison, it deals with themes of redemption and hope and what it means to be free. At one point in it, the character Red describes what it means to be institutionalised: “These walls are funny. First you hate them, then you get used to them, and then you depend on them; that’s institutionalised.” When Red is finally released he finds, as he feared, that freedom is unnerving and cruel. His mind is so shaped by the years of imprisonment that it is difficult for him to act as a free man. He even considers reoffending in order to get back to the relative security of institutional life. Red finds that even when his body is free, his mind is telling him that he is still in prison.

Gospel Teaching

Freedom, redemption and hope are also at the heart of Christ’s message, and it is no less tricky for us to understand what it is to be free than it was for Red in *The Shawshank Redemption*. There are many things that oppress and imprison us, but perhaps the thing that represents our captivity most completely is our need for food and drink. Even if we are not held behind bars, or made to work as slaves, we can never be free from the fact that before we do anything else, we need to make sure that we and our families have enough to eat. So when Jesus announces himself to be the bread of life, he strikes right at the heart of that which holds us captive as human beings. He declares that the bottom line of our existence is not our need for food and drink, but our need for Christ.

This was a daring statement to make, and, not surprisingly, it was followed by cries of protest: who on earth was this local boy, after all, to say such outrageous things? In the verses following our reading, we learn that even those who had supported him began to drift away. John crafts his Gospel to help his readers to see who Jesus is, and to put their faith in him; but it was never going to be an easy decision. Through faith in Christ we have unimaginable gifts, but they are not always easy gifts to receive. For starters, even the most committed believers still have to feed themselves. We are all still captive to our human needs; they still shape how we think and act.

So what kind of freedom is it that we have through Christ? Is it a spiritual freedom that exists despite our physical and mental constraints? Or is it a freedom that

comes into effect only when we are finally free of our earthly bodies after we die? It is both these things, and yet more. A freedom that exists only in a spiritual realm does not have the completeness of the kind of freedom Christ meant to bring. When Jesus declares himself to be the bread of life, he is effectively saying that his freedom operates at the heart of our everyday lives; at the heart of what it means to be human. It is a freedom that changes how we live in the here and now, and not just one that exists only on a spiritual level, or only in the hereafter.

Application

As Christians we all know what it is to struggle with the contradiction of our human constraints and our spiritual freedom. It may be that we are amply provided with food and drink; but we all know what it means to have to pay bills on time, please the boss, complete assignments and care for our family and friends.

And as Red found in *The Shawshank Redemption*, years of captivity shape your mind. The trick is not just to live differently, but to think differently. And for Christians, the means to achieve this is to feed on the bread of life. Christ has set us free; he has opened the prison doors. In this world we can live as if we are free, or we can live as if we are captive. Let's pray that we may find the courage to feed on Christ (and courageous it is), and in doing so to be truly free, even in the midst of the captivity of the humdrum constraints of our everyday lives.

MONDAY**9 AUGUST**

Deuteronomy

10:12-end

Psalm 147:13-end

Matthew 17:22-
end**TUESDAY****10 AUGUST**

Deuteronomy

31:1-8

Psalm 107:1-3.

42-end *or Canticle:*

Deuteronomy

32:3-4. 7-9

Matthew 18:1-5.

10. 12-14

WEDNESDAY**11 AUGUST**

Deuteronomy 34

Psalm 66:14-end

Matthew 18:15-20

THURSDAY**12 AUGUST**

Joshua 3:7-11.

13-17

Psalm 114

Matthew 18:21 –

19:1

FRIDAY**13 AUGUST**

Joshua 24:1-13

Psalm 136:1-3.

16-22

Matthew 19:3-12

SATURDAY**14 AUGUST**

Joshua 24:14-29

Psalm 16:1. 5-end

Matthew 19:13-15

REFLECTION

Have you seen those T-shirts with the slogan, “What would Jesus do?” or simply “WWJD”?

Reading his words this week, let’s remember that Jesus, unlike many of us, did actually do what he said – practised what he preached.

In a world where discrimination can often seem to have taken hold, let’s remind ourselves that Jesus doesn’t discriminate. Although he’s come to replace the Temple as the meeting place with God, he doesn’t want to cause offence, so is prepared to pay the Temple tax. His words about divorce are intended to protect women from being discarded when men simply lose interest. Tongue-in-cheek words about treating repeat sinners as tax collectors and Gentiles should remind us that he certainly reaches out to them.

We’re urged to forgive, not cause offence, and to live in peace with people who are different in any way. Several references to children serve to emphasise this. Children only learn discrimination from adults. If we too practise what we preach, perhaps others will return like lost sheep to the God who loves us all. Monday’s reading from Deuteronomy makes clear that we’re called to love the stranger. As Jesus did.

PRAYER

Father God, help us to remember that there is so much more to unite your children than to divide us.

Thank you for loving each of us regardless of our background.

May we follow the example of your Son in all our dealings with others.



PART IV – BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER TO THE PRESENT DAY

Richard Greatrex concludes his series about the Eucharist.

The nineteenth-century Oxford Movement redirected Anglicans' attention to the Church Fathers, reclaiming earlier Catholic practices and restoring the idea of the consecrated elements as Christ's body and blood, returning the rite to an act of sacramental grace.

The proposed revised prayer book of 1928 modestly attempted to reflect these developments but was rejected by Parliament. However, the Eucharist gained popularity as the main Sunday service, precipitating further change, although it wasn't until 1965 that the first of a series of interim rites was introduced. Series 1 echoed the 1928 revisions; Series 2 reordered the rite to reflect the work of Dom Gregory Dix, whose book *The Shape of the Liturgy* outlined a fourfold set of actions over the bread and wine – take, bless, break and share. Finally, Series 3 introduced contemporary language.

Following the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, the Roman Catholic Church began approving vernacular translations of the Mass, the English version being published in 1975. Five years later the Church of England produced the *Alternative Service Book* (ASB) containing a complete set of liturgies, including revisions of the popular Series 2 and 3 Communion services and a two-year set of Sunday Bible readings – the lectionary.

The groundbreaking 1982 World Council of Churches' publication, the Lima Document, catalogued many growing similarities in liturgy and ministry between different denominations. This led to further convergence as Anglicans, Methodists and others began exploring the post-Vatican II Roman Catholic three-year lectionary, which, in a revised version, formed a shared basis for their own lectionaries. Working alongside Methodists, who were also amending their service book, Anglicans began creating the liturgies published from 1998 onwards as a replacement for the ageing ASB. Using universal liturgical frameworks within which a wide variety of texts may be inserted, *Common Worship*, while grounded in ancient practices, offers a great deal of flexibility, proving suitable for a broad range of theologies and contexts, from highly formal sung Communion to café-style church informality.

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Tenth week
after Trinity

Monday 9 August
to Saturday
14 August 2021

WEEK

"Only" human



Heather Cooke *reflects on* Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2 and John 6:35. 41-51

Do you ever get angry? We all do. It's only human. So it's reassuring to read those two words near the beginning of today's epistle: "Be angry..." But it doesn't end there. "Be angry but do not sin." The difference is explained in the wise advice not to let the sun go down on our anger. Don't let it

last too long, don't let it fester. Put it away from us, later verses advise, and build loving relationships. Sometimes, of course, we're right to get angry – if we can turn that anger into healing action. Even Jesus did, in righteous anger, cleansing the Temple of greedy money-lenders.

Loving God, you came down from heaven in Jesus, that he might lead us home. In our journey, may we see him in all of humanity, share his anger at injustice, and follow his example of service and sacrifice. Amen.

The Sheldon community in a time of pandemic Part II – "spot the difference"

by Julian Smith

Social distancing (SD) meant that the centre was running at half capacity and there were plenty of compromises to be made. The chapel had been rearranged to allow for SD seating, so a simultaneous Morning Prayer took place downstairs. Face masks were worn in the chapel and indoor meetings. For our final plenary the warden wielded a two-metre garden cane to check SD and assess the capacity of the meeting room.

The long dining table had been dismantled and smaller SD tables were dotted around the dining room, as in the chapel. The seats we chose were ours for the duration. There were changes, too, to the way in which food was served. It involved more work for the community running the kitchen but, as usual, the food was excellent and plentiful.

Things worked well for us as guests. How would we fare coming back as volunteers?

www.sheldon.uk.com

People seem angry with Jesus in today's Gospel. How could he have "come down from heaven", they grumble, when they know he is human, with a father and mother like everyone else? What they don't appreciate is that his dual lineage, human and heavenly, is not only possible but crucial – in the strictest sense of the word. The miracle of the cross, giving life

to the world, reconciling heaven and earth, can only work because Jesus is both human and divine, son of Joseph and also Son of God. His humanity manifests itself in many ways – weeping at the tomb of Lazarus, using humour in his teaching and even getting angry. It's only human.

Fortunately for us, Jesus isn't "only" human.

Mary Sumner

Tomorrow, Mary Sumner is commemorated in the Common Worship lectionary. Caroline Hodgson considers the legacy of this remarkable woman.

In 1876, when she became a grandmother, Mary Sumner was reminded how challenging she had found motherhood. She organised a meeting in the parish for mothers from all backgrounds, to offer mutual support in bringing up their children. Ironically, at that first meeting Mary's nerves got the better of her and her husband spoke on her behalf. But Mary persisted and her courage grew, and by the turn of the century

the MU had 169,000 members. When the council was formed in 1896 Mary was elected president, a post she held into her nineties. In 1897, during her Diamond Jubilee, Queen Victoria gave the MU the royal stamp of approval when she became its patron.

In 2016 MU representatives from across the globe attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSD) in New York to lobby governments and the United Nations on women's economic empowerment. From the acorn planted by Mary Sumner, a huge tree had grown, supporting women and families around the globe.

www.mothersunion.org

“If you could see humanity spread out in time, as God sees it, it would look like one single growing thing – rather like a very complicated tree. Every individual would appear connected with every other.”

C. S. Lewis (1898-1963), writer and theologian



Sunday 8 August 2021
John 6:41-51
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

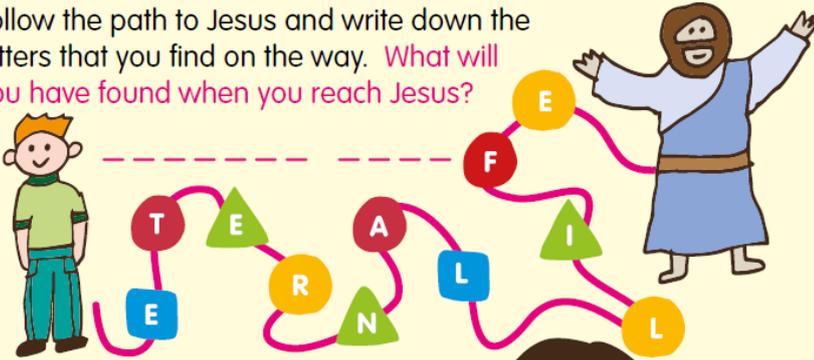
IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is _____

The people are complaining about what Jesus is saying. Jesus asks them to stop and tells them that he is the bread of life. This not the bread they usually eat – but bread that can give life to whole world.

BREAD OF LIFE

Follow the path to Jesus and write down the letters that you find on the way. What will you have found when you reach Jesus?



Be like Jesus

Jesus asks people to stop complaining and teaches us the right way. How would you help when someone is moaning?

I don't like my toys

Can we do something else while we wait?

I'm bored

Shall we sit in the shade?

It's too hot

Would you like another toy?

I want it now

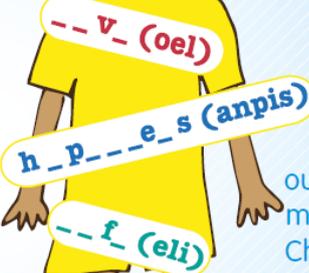
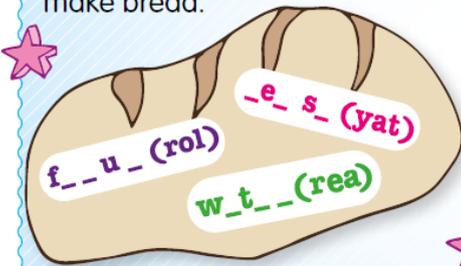
Let's do something different!



Draw a line to match the best response to each complaint.

Ingredients

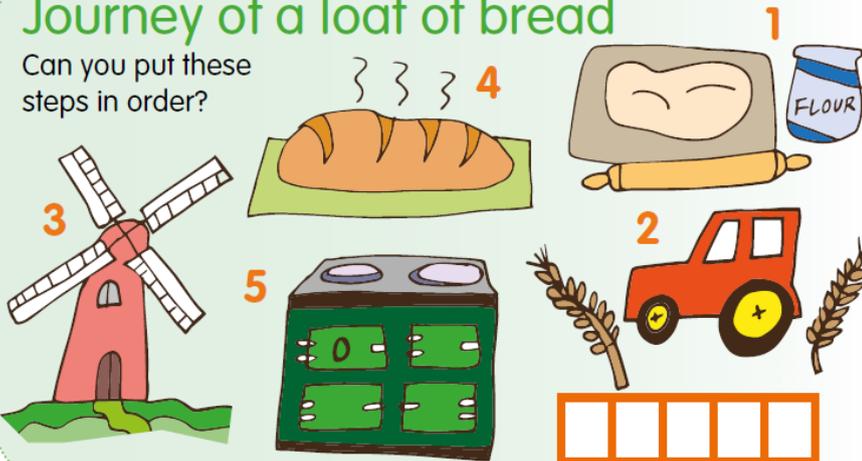
Fill in the missing letters to find out the ingredients that make bread.



Find out what makes a Christian by filling in the missing letters too!

Journey of a loaf of bread

Can you put these steps in order?



A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Father, we love you and thank you for sending us Jesus, the bread of life, so that we may live with you forever. Amen.

Answer: Journey of a loaf: 2, 3, 1, 5, 4. Ingredients: bread = flour, yeast, water Christian = love, happiness, life.