

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

**Weekly Newsletter
Registered Charity Number: 1134149**

Sunday 3rd October 2021 –St Francis

Dear Friends,

As our creation season ends, we commemorate St Francis. He prayed ‘make me a channel of your peace.’

Frustration in petrol queues has led to violence, stories of violent actions in Afghanistan, huge rise in mental health problems amongst young people – three headlines this week. Our world is full of frustration, anxiety and vengeance – no doubt that was true in the time of Francis. Then, and now, that simple prayer is always heartfelt – make it your prayer today.

Nick Parish

THIS WEEK

Sunday 3rd October – St Francis

- 9.30am – Harvest Service 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. Remerging Saint Francis of Assisi.
- 12.00pm – Baptism of Orla & Raphael led By Nick Parish
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer – (in Church and live streamed) led by Nick Parish

In light of continued rates of infection in our community, we will continue with communion in one kind during October.

St Martin's 10am Service

This morning we were due to hear from Rachel Hill of St Martin's School who was going to tell us about her work with children concerning the environment, and particularly their Forest School. Sadly, Rachel is unable to join us this morning but we will continue holding her work, and the work of all the teachers at our church schools, in our prayers.

Wednesday 6th October

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

Layout in Church

We are trying a more simple layout of chairs in Church to improve sightlines and accessibility for wheelchair users. Any feedback is welcome, but if you do move chairs please can you put them back as they were. We know this means stacked chairs around the building, but we are looking for a storage solution to that. Thanks

Nick Parish

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 10th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen's – led by Andris Abakuks

10.00am – Choral Matins at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed –
led by Graeme Lodge

3.00pm – Beacon Tea in Church. All welcome.

6.30pm – Holy Communion – (in Church and live streamed) led by Nick Parish

Harvest Giving

If you were unable to donate on Sunday 26th September you can still make a donation to our Harvest Appeal to the charity Kids For Kids, sustaining life in Darfur.

Donations can be made by one of the following methods:

1. In Church by debit or credit card using the donation station and selecting "Giving at our Harvest Service"
2. Online by clicking the following link to our Harvest CAF Giving Campaign:
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/17966> or scan this QR Code
3. If you are unable to donate via the above 2 methods you can drop in a cheque made payable to 'The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom' and clearly label the envelope "Kids for Kids"



Thank you all in advance for your annual harvest gifts.

Laurence Impey

DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS

Morning Prayer and Pastoral Support

Every Tuesday, Morning Prayer is held at 9.00am 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.

I regret I will be unavailable on Tuesday 5th October as I shall be away.

Mary Gilbert, Pastoral Team

Pilgrim

A Pilgrim group will be meeting on Monday evenings from 7.30pm starting on October 4th. This group is for those who want a chance to think about the Christian faith, including those who are curious, those whose journey is just starting, and those who want to revisit the roots of their faith once again. You can find out more about Pilgrim by watching this video <https://youtu.be/cNCxhrMiPt0> or at this website <http://www.pilgrimcourse.org/>.

The initial commitment to the course is for six sessions (up to and including November 8th). Its theme will be "Turning to Christ" and will explore the questions posed at Baptism. Each session will last about 90 minutes.

The Pilgrim group will be led by Graeme Lodge and if you want to know anything further you can contact him on 01372 741746, or graemelodge@hotmail.co.uk, or speak to him after church.

Please pass this on to anyone you know who may be interested.

Churches Together in Epsom Monthly prayer meetings:

Following a well-attended and enjoyable social gathering, 'in person', by CTiE reps, at the Old Moat Café, we decided 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 received a positive response. The Old Moat Café has a covered outdoor area 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.

Dates of our monthly prayer meetings for Autumn 2021 are:

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



Old Moat Garden Centre Café is in Horton Lane, Epsom

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

News from Churches Together in Epsom

At our recent CTiE meeting, we heard details of Emerge Advocacy, a new charity working at Epsom Hospital, and of the return of Street Pastors.

Emerge Advocacy

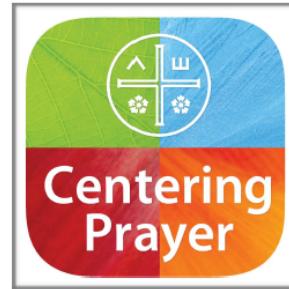
Emerge Advocacy is a Christian charity which provides support to young people aged 10 to 25 arriving at Accident and Emergency at Epsom Hospital because of self-harm, emotional crisis or a suicide attempt. They provide God's presence and a listening ear to those young people at a moment of crisis in their lives. The charity was founded by one woman with a vision and now has a presence in all the major hospitals in Surrey and is moving outwards to Kent and elsewhere. Their team mostly consists of volunteers from local churches who are given full training. At Epsom Hospital volunteers are currently on call from 7 pm to 11 pm, usually Monday to Thursday. Emerge in Epsom needs more volunteers in the hospital and also to give prayer support. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more details, see <https://emergeadvocacy.com/> or get in touch with Bethany via email bethany@emergeadvocacy.com, or call 07534 331 455.

Street Pastors

Please pray for the Street Pastors who have recently started going out again after a gap of 18 months because of the pandemic. They are on the streets of our town from 10 pm to 3 am on a Friday night, talking and listening to anyone who is willing to talk to them. They go out in teams of at least three, are DBS checked and are trusted by the people they meet. They show the love of God and, if asked, will pray with someone and talk about God in a non-confrontational way. They help to calm situations and arrange transport to get people home safely. If you would like to find out more, see <https://streetpastors.org/locations/epsom/> or email: epsom@streetpastors.org.uk

Judith Mitchell and Meg Topley

Centering Prayer Taster Day at St Martin's Saturday November 13



Following on from our Remember: Reflect: Restore time in June, and as part of St Martin's community outreach, we are organising a Centering Prayer Taster Day on Saturday, November 13 from 10.30am to 4.15pm.

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer where we consent to God's presence and action within. It is a movement away from more active modes of prayer into a receptive prayer of resting in God. It is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

This is rooted in the work of Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO, one of the principal founders and teachers of Centering Prayer. Fr Thomas began this work in 1983 and it is now practised worldwide.

Taught by trained and commissioned presenters, including one of our own congregation, Dr Lynne Scholefield, the Taster Day will familiarise participants with the method of Centering Prayer and its roots in the Christian tradition, whilst offering two opportunities to experience the prayer.

Following the Taster Day, participants will be invited to attend six weekly, continuing, sessions, at St Martin's, which provide more background and the time to establish a personal Centering Prayer practice.

The Taster Day is open to people from other churches in the area and we hope that lots of people from our church will come and make our visitors welcome, as well as learning about Centering Prayer for themselves.

The cost for the day is £5.50 which includes coffee/tea and takeaway literature. For more information on Centering Prayer, please speak with Lynne Scholefield. To book your place at the Taster Day please contact Judith Mitchell at stmcenteringprayer@gmail.com

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.



Cheques to St Martin's

If give a cheque donation to St Martin's Church, please can it payable to:
'The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom'

Donation Station

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

OTHER NOTICES

Congregation Emergency Contact

We are increasingly visiting people at home who are unwell, or frail. We would like to have a record, if people are willing, of an emergency contact, so that should there be an issue we know who to contact. If you are willing, please let the office know a telephone number/ email. Thank you.

Nick Parish

Rip Ron Smith

Many of you will remember Ron Smith, who sadly died on Tuesday this week aged 88. Having been a regular worshipper, with his late wife Hazel, at St Martins for many years, Ron moved into Firtree Lodge care home 2-3 years ago and has been comfortable and well cared for and made many friends there. John last visited him about 3 weeks ago, and although getting a bit confused he was still his usual smiling self. It was Ron's wish to have his funeral at St Martins so we hope to have details shortly.

John Aronson

Service of Thanksgiving and Memorial – Sunday 7th November at 6.30pm:

The annual Service of Thanksgiving and Memorial remembering those who have died will be at **6.30pm on Sunday 7th November**.

1. There will be a list out at the back of St Martin's Church throughout October for any member of the congregation to add any name that they wish to be remembered aloud at the service. There is also a list of the names read out at last years' service, please tick if you would like the name read out again this year. Please do not assume that any name will be carried over from a previous year.
2. Those who have had funerals associated with St Martin's over the past three years will be invited to the Service.
3. Anyone can add names at the back of the church on the day where one of the team will be ready and available from 6pm to complete the list. This will be taken to the dais during the opening hymn.



The Memorial Garden

This much appreciated space is beginning to get a little cluttered with memorial items. We understand people wish to put these items near the place where their loved one's ashes have been interred, but after an appropriate period of time, if they are not removed we will place them at the foot of the Church wall. Thank you. **Nick Parish**

Beacon Teas

The Beacon Teas have resumed, and are held in St Martin's Church on the second Sunday in each month between 3.00pm. and 5.00pm. The next one will take place on **10th October**. We look forward to seeing anyone 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

ECO Fair Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped and advised to make the Eco Fair the cheerful, warm, informative and welcoming event I've heard people say it was. It was good to be collaborating with so many other local groups; particularly Sustainable Epsom and Ewell with whom we co-organised it (well, I'm a member of them and St Martin's). The Mayor played hopscotch (yes - in his chain!) on one of the chalk patterns on the terrace and, as his stick landed on 'reduce', said he would reduce the number of crisp packets he would put in the bin, now he knew they could be collected (by Terracycle) for recycling (not EEBC recycling). [And a reminder here that if you take an empty tub to the market on Thursdays and Saturdays you will find crisps without any single-use plastic]. The Mayor said he'd learnt so much in his first half hour at the fair about eco/green things that were going on in the Borough and he was very impressed. Personally, I found the poems and art work by pupils at St Martin's schools particularly moving.

Some of you may have been expertly collared by Debra Lodge to put a stitch into a patch going up to COP26 on the Coat of Hopes. Thank you for your stitch(es). You can read more about The Coat of Hopes here - <https://www.coatofhopes.uk/>.



St Martin's Eco Calendar

Orders for the St Martin's Eco calendar (Canon Adrian's suggestion, photos and art by members of the congregation, technical work by Janice at St Barnabas) are still welcome - let me, Nigel or the office know if you would like one. They are £10 each.



MISSION FOR THE MONTH

HOME MISSION

The Sunnybank Trust - supports people with learning disabilities and autism to say what they want and live the life they choose, through their range of services. Voices, Choices, Futures - providing advocacy and social opportunities and transitional support to young adults and their families leaving full time education.

Spinnaker Trust – Engaging, Inspiring, Equipping

The aim of this Christian charity is to support primary schools with assemblies and R.E. lessons. Locally they have worked at 11 schools in Epsom and Ewell. They aim to inspire this generation of primary school children to engage with the Christian faith and explore its values.

ABROAD MISSION

St Martin's supports by annual donations many International Charities and Agencies, covering a wide range of needs, both practical and spiritual.

These include:

USPG(church in south India)

Barnabas Fund (suffering Christians in Syria)

AMECA (Malawi)

Also including them in our Harvest and Christmas donations and collections.

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Wheels for the World

Mercy Ships

The Leprosy Mission

Please hold them in your Prayers.

Jill Chapman - Mission

EVENTS AND MUSIC

Beetle Drive – Saturday 16th October 2021



You are all invited to a **Beetle Drive** on **Saturday 16th October 2021** between 5.00pm – 7.00pm in Church House. We will be supplying tea/coffee and cake and all you need to play “Beetle” as well as little prizes for completed beetles! You need to provide a die and a pencil (we will have few spares if required). We will be seeking donations for this event with proceeds raised going to the church.

If you would like to attend this event please sign up on the sheet provided in Church, before close of play on **Sunday 10th October**. If you are unable to do this, please contact Mary Holloway-Neville at mary.hollowaynevile@sky.com or on 01372 723453 to let us know that you would like to attend. We will continue to follow the relevant COVID guidelines and be socially distanced although we cannot speak for the beetles! We hope that you will come, meet with friends, enjoy a slice of homemade cake and have a fun filled afternoon.



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

Ashtead Choral Society concert – 7.30pm Saturday 9th October

On the evening of Saturday 9th October Ashtead Choral Society will be celebrating its 71st season of music-making. It has a reputation for presenting varied and exciting programmes with professional soloists and orchestras.

We're thrilled to be back performing 'live' again in St Martin's Church. Join us for an evening of great classical music by two of the world's most famous composers.

We would also like to invite those who aren't able to attend an evening concert to drop in during the afternoon rehearsal from 2.30pm.

Our conductor is Andrew Storey and once again we're delighted to be working with the Kent Sinfonia.

Tickets are £15, half price for under 25s all unreserved

For tickets, please email

boxoffice@ashteadchoralsociety.org.uk or ring the box office on **07835 115 716**
www.ashteadchoralsociety.org.uk



ASHTEAD CHORAL SOCIETY
ACS

MASTERS in CONCERT

MOZART REQUIEM
BEETHOVEN CHORAL FANTASIA &
PIANO CONCERTO No2

Louis Pares *Piano*, Andrew Storey *Conductor*, Kent Sinfonia

Saturday 9th October 2021, 7.30pm
St Martin's Church, Epsom KT17 4PX

All tickets £15 unreserved : half price for under 25s.
From boxoffice@ashteadchoralsociety.org.uk or telephone 07835 115 716
[@Ashteadchoral](http://www.ashteadchoralsociety.org.uk)

St Martin's Music Recitals – Next one 23rd October

Payment for the admission for attending a recital as part of Music @ St Martin's can be made by either :

1. Using the Donation Station in Church and select "Giving at a Recital at St Martin's"
2. Put the following link into your web browser:
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14629>
3. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code



MUSIC@ST MARTIN'S
AUTUMN RECITALS RETURN 2021

Sat 18 Sep 4.30pm
TWILIGHT ENSEMBLE
music by Rameau, Vaughan Williams, Rutter and Schumann

Sat 23 Oct 4.30pm
TAILLEFERRE ENSEMBLE
music by Brandon, Burton, Stolzel, Samuel and Dring

Sat 20 Nov 4.30pm
OXBIDGE ORGAN DUO
music by Briggs, Tomkins, Wesley and Stravinsky

www.stmartinsepsom.org
ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, EPSOM KT17 4PX
Registered Charity No 1134149
Admission £10 Children £5



SING WITH ST MARTIN'S CHOIR, EPSOM

St Martin's Choir, Epsom provides music for Sunday services throughout the year. Our wide repertoire from the great Anglican tradition includes music by Byrd, Handel, Brahms, Mozart, Wesley, Stanford and Howells as well as newly composed works. We welcome new members of all ages who like to sing heavenly music and share in the following:

- Complete the RSCM Voice for Life Programme
- Sing regularly in regional cathedrals
- Perform in concerts and make recordings
- Enjoy our social events

Contact Richard Dacey, Director of Music
Tel: 01372 722567
www.stmartinsepsom.org

Latest message from Food Bank

Wishlist: This week we need help with:

Urgent:

- Meat pies
- Tinned Fruit
- Powdered Milk
- Squash
- Shaving foam
- Noodles (dried egg/rise noodles or straight to wok)

- Coffee
- Sugar (500grs ideally)
- Bags for Life - we urgently need these
- Shower Gel
- Female & Male Deodorant
- Kids Toothbrushes

Please, no more donations of the following items at this time:

- pasta,
- baked beans,
- porridge,
- baby shampoo,

- tampons & sanitary towels,
- marmalade,
- cat/dog food,
- 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 FOODBANKGIFT15 to donate £15



Text FOODBANKGIFT10 to donate £10

Text FOODBANKGIFT20 to donate £20



Book Sale
Saturday 9th October
10am-3pm

Christ Church Hall
Christ Church Road, Epsom KT19 8NE

Admission free, refreshments available



All proceeds go to supporting children in education in Sierra Leone. For book donations and info contact Sarah Chorley 0779 2527956



PEER

SUPPORT GROUP IS BACK FROM 15 OCTOBER

This ongoing group is non-judgemental, an environment where we are learning from others and supporting others. The sessions will help you to improve your emotional health, wellbeing and resilience.

Start Date: Fridays

Duration: Weekly

Times: 11am-2pm

Venue: Brickfield Centre, Portland Place, Epsom, KT17 1DL



MFT supports adults in Surrey to improve and maintain their mental wellbeing through one-to-one support, courses, groups and activities.

To book your place, you will need to register with MFT first and then contact: 01372 375400, text 07929 024722, email info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk or visit www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk



Registered Charity 1055113

WOMEN'S CRAFT AND SEWING GROUP IS STARTING AGAIN

This term time group will help you to discover how to achieve greater confidence, a more balanced life and improved emotional health, wellbeing and resilience.

There will be guidelines in place to keep people 'as safe as possible' from covid.

Wearing a mask will be optional. Sessions will be a small group of 8 people until December 2021. To attend you will need to book a place Mondays each week by texting Parvin on 07380857701. To allow the maximum numbers of attendees, places will be given on a rotation basis to allow everyone the opportunity to benefit from this group.



Start Date: Wednesday 20 October 2021

Duration: Term Time

Times: 10.30am -12pm

Venue: Creche room, King Church, Longmead Rd, Epsom KT19 9BU

MFT supports adults in Surrey to improve and maintain their mental wellbeing through one-to-one support, courses, groups and activities.

To book your place, you need to register with MFT first and then contact: 01372 375400, text 07929 024722, email info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk or visit www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk



Registered Charity 1055113

MEDITATION WITH SOUND HEALING

Our 4-week course will help you to learn tools to reduce your stress, worry and anxiety.

It will be delivered by Litsa, a qualified yoga and meditation teacher.



From Friday 29 October 2021

12pm to 1.30pm

at the Brickfield Centre, Portland Place, KT17 1DL, Epsom

MFT supports adults in Surrey to improve and maintain their mental wellbeing through one-to-one support, courses, groups and activities.

To book your place, you need to register with MFT first and then a Zoom Link will be given to you: 01372 375400, text 07929 024722, email info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk or visit www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk



Registered Charity 1055113

ARTS & CRAFTS

This ongoing group will help you relieve stress, meet new people and boost your confidence and self esteem. The sessions will be supported by a qualified ceramists.



Start Date: Tuesday 19 October 2021

Duration: Weekly

Times: 2pm -3pm

Venue: Banstead Youth Centre, The Horseshoe, SM7 2BQ

MFT supports adults in Surrey to improve and maintain their mental wellbeing through one-to-one support, courses, groups and activities.

To book your place please contact: 01372 375400, text 07929 024722, email info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk or visit www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk



Registered Charity 1055113



We are all in this together

Epsom Mental Health
and Well-Being Festival

9th - 16th October 2021

www.epsommentalhealthweek.org.uk



Follow us @
lovemelovemymindepson
lmlmepsom

Epsom Mental Health and Well-Being Festival is organised by Love Me Love My Mind, a charity dedicated to promoting understanding about mental health issues. Registered charity no: 1177683

CONTACT US

Parish Office:

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

E-mail: stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com

Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

**Opening hours are Mondays, Wednesday, Thursdays & Fridays
9.30am to 12.30pm**

**The Revd Nick Parish – Vicar – 01372 743336
Email: vicar@stmartinsepsom.org**

**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 and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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 Genesis 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

PSALM Psalm 8

R How exalted is your name in all the world!

O Lord our governor, how exalted is your name in all the world! Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens. You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, to quell the enemy and the avenger. **R**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them?

mere human beings, that you should seek them out? **R**

You have made them little lower than the angels; you adorn them with glory and honour. You give them mastery over the works of your hands; and put all things under their feet, **R**

All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field, The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea. O Lord our governor, how exalted is your name in all the world! **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who

are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

GOSPEL Mark 10:2-16

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

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. Jesus said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

POST COMMUNION

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where
you reign
with all your saints for ever.

Sunday Homily

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

3 OCTOBER 2021

YEAR B

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined together,
let no one separate."

Mark 10:8-9

Illustration

Rabbi Lionel Blue, the well-known British religious writer and broadcaster, commented that honesty is essential if morality is not to become mere moralising. The assertion is true and the distinction is an important one. Morality seeks to discern what is right and what is wrong and to live by what we find to be the truth. It is a way of finding freedom, for ourselves and others.

In contrast, moralising is about judging others' behaviour and seeking to impose our moral values on them while sometimes exempting ourselves from our own moral legislation. It is generally an attempt to limit others, either because we can, which becomes a crude exertion of power over them; or because in seeking to limit them we are recognising that we ourselves are not free. It is difficult for some people to watch others fly in freedom when they have neither the will nor the courage to do so.

Introducing honesty into the equation enables us to examine our motives, something the Pharisees were not very good at. But moralising and legalism make cosy bedfellows. They produce a blanket of security for people who never take risks with imagination or life. It is easy to forget that laws are made for the people's guidance, protection and well-being, not to trip them up, especially those given by God to his well-loved children.

Gospel Teaching

The Pharisees were not primarily interested in the question of divorce. Their main purpose was to test Jesus, to catch him out, to see if he was prepared to acknowledge the Mosaic Law as they themselves taught it. Their question was an attempt to find a weapon which they could use against him.

The divorce law as it stood then sought to moralise. It laid down firm rules but was very one-sided in favour of men who could put away women at will, leaving them destitute.

Jesus was fully aware of the Pharisees' intentions. But as he had done before, Jesus turned their trickery into an opportunity to teach them and us a moral

truth. In describing the unity of both partners becoming one flesh he is implying that they are not just indivisible as human beings but that they are to be equal in their treatment of each other, and their union is to be similarly respected by the outside world. There is not to be one set of rights for men and another for women. God made them, joined them and loves them equally. This is a model for vowed relationships.

Jesus was overwhelmingly concerned about justice, especially in relationships. Women and children in his day came low on the status ratings. Yet, following his teaching on marriage, he sternly ordered that the little children should not be prevented from equal status with adults in their right to approach him. He even chooses them as the model of perfection needed by adults to achieve heaven. So, in one short exchange, he diplomatically handles the Pharisees, then highlights and raises up the status of ordinary men, women and children to take their rightful place as equals, in society, under the moral law, as properly befits a people made by God.

Application

This attitude of Jesus' is extremely important for us today in a world which places a greater emphasis upon what people produce than on their intrinsic worth. It is a foundation stone of his moral teaching about justice in relationships, not just marriage, but amongst neighbours, in communities, in the Church, between nations.

Jesus wants people to be free, not to condemn them. Free people are people with a purpose, moving forward in life and relationships, keen to grow, to change, to live in a constant state of becoming more authentically who God made them to be.

Most importantly, people who themselves live with a sense of God-given freedom are far more likely to help to free others. Free people are happy people and happy people are far better able to do God's will with quiet determination and a light heart. But freedom can be a hard road, much harder than the security of legalism and moralising. Jesus' teaching gives us the tools for the job and a yardstick by which to measure our natural responses to life's questions. Its essence is clear-sighted honesty. Honesty is the key to morality. Rabbi Blue, that other Jewish teacher, is right!

**MONDAY
4 OCTOBER**
Jonah 1:1 – 2:2. 10
Canticle: Jonah
2:2-4. 7 or
Psalm 69:1-6
Luke 10:25-37

**TUESDAY
5 OCTOBER**
Jonah 3
Psalm 130
Luke 10:38-end

**WEDNESDAY
6 OCTOBER**
Jonah 4
Psalm 86:1-9
Luke 11:1-4

**THURSDAY
7 OCTOBER**
Malachi 3:13 – 4:2a
Psalm 1
Luke 11:5-13

**FRIDAY
8 OCTOBER**
Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2
Psalm 9:1-7
Luke 11:15-26

**SATURDAY
9 OCTOBER**
Joel 3:12-end
Psalm 97:1. 8-end
Luke 11:27-28

REFLECTION

The week begins with the story of the Good Samaritan. “What must I do...?” asks the lawyer who prompts the story. There are several answers to that question. Be a neighbour to others, says Jesus, and allow time to listen to him, as Mary did.



The story of Jonah, which we hear from Monday to Wednesday, demonstrates the importance not only of listening, but of doing what God asks of us. Jonah’s anger at God’s decision not to destroy the people of Ninevah because they repent gives God the chance to explain that all created people are worthy of concern, not just those who have always behaved well. The Old Testament readings later in the week, though, underline the importance of repentance.

All of these ways of answering the “what must I do?” question are underpinned by Wednesday’s rendering of the Lord’s Prayer. Above all, we must pray and, as Thursday’s Gospel points out, we must be persistent in our prayer. It is in prayer that we will understand what it is God wants of us.

PRAYER

 Lord, teach us to pray.
 Teach us to hear what you would say to us
 and help us to act on it.
 May our actions demonstrate your love
 and concern for others
 and lead them towards you.

PART II – COLLECTS

Richard Greatrex continues his series about prayer.

Although brief in length, the prayer known as the “collect” is a high point in the Eucharist, occurring shortly after the confession. It consists of three elements: an opening introduction by the minister (usually “Let us pray”), then silence during which the congregation settles into the holy space, concentrating their thoughts on the matters they wish to bring before God, which are finally drawn together by the minister in a carefully structured prayer. The silence, while easy to underplay, is a vital component of the whole, pooling our individual needs, what we carry to the service or wish to receive from it, and offering them corporately. The collect prayer, as entreated by the minister, rounds off these unvoiced thoughts, presenting them to God while providing further focus for the remainder of the liturgy.

There have been collects in Western church rites since the fifth century, taking a specific form that can trace its roots through Greek and Latin literature back to Hebrew prayers. Concise and rhythmical, they contain certain universal components and are usually addressed to God the Father, who is petitioned to grant a specific request on behalf of the Church. The prayer is offered to the Father through the Son, who is accompanied by the Holy Spirit, thus finishing in a Trinitarian doxology.

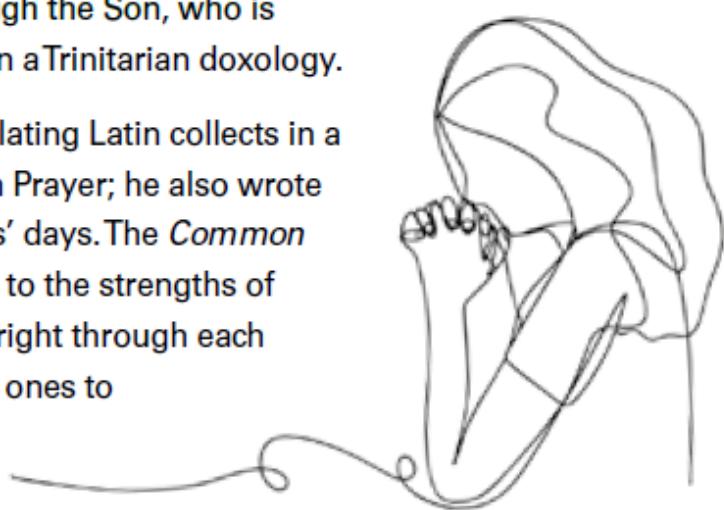
Cranmer was extraordinarily successful at translating Latin collects in a beautiful melodic style for the Book of Common Prayer; he also wrote fresh ones in the same vein to provide for saints’ days. The *Common Worship* compilers endeavoured to stay faithful to the strengths of Cranmer’s collects, using modernised versions right through each year, while also creating over one hundred new ones to cover the expanded commemoration of saints and restored festivals.

Each Sunday’s collect is prayed in services throughout the week. In times past their succinctness, coupled with their theological breadth, resulted in their use in Sunday school. Memorised for weekly recitation, they provided short, easy-to-remember aids for learning the faith.

LIVE theWORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Eighteenth week
after Trinity

Monday 4 October
to Saturday
9 October 2021

Steadfast love

Ricarda Witcombe *reflects on* Psalm 26

The psalms form a unique part of the Bible. In the fourth century, St Athanasius said that the whole of human life could be found within them. In the sixteenth century, Martin Luther said the psalms contain the whole of scripture. They are our prayer book, and they were Jesus' prayer book, too. During October, we are going to see what the appointed psalms may say to us.

We start with Psalm 26, which contains lines of intimate, loving prayer, as well as a surprising conviction of personal integrity. Integrity is about living a life of coherence – where there is no difference between what we say and what we do. Jesus modelled such a life and we are called to do so as well. For the writer of this psalm, an unwavering trust in God may be what makes this kind of life possible, giving a solid foundation in a world of bribery, evil and bloodthirsty desire. Whatever else may be going on, life is a journey with and towards God.

This writer consciously sets the "steadfast love" of God before their eyes, as they deal with all the challenges and injustices of daily life. In this love, and by this trust, we too may find God's glory and our own true selves.

Faithful God, may we set your steadfast love before our eyes, as we journey through our lives; and when our trust wavers, take us by the hand and turn us back to you. Amen.

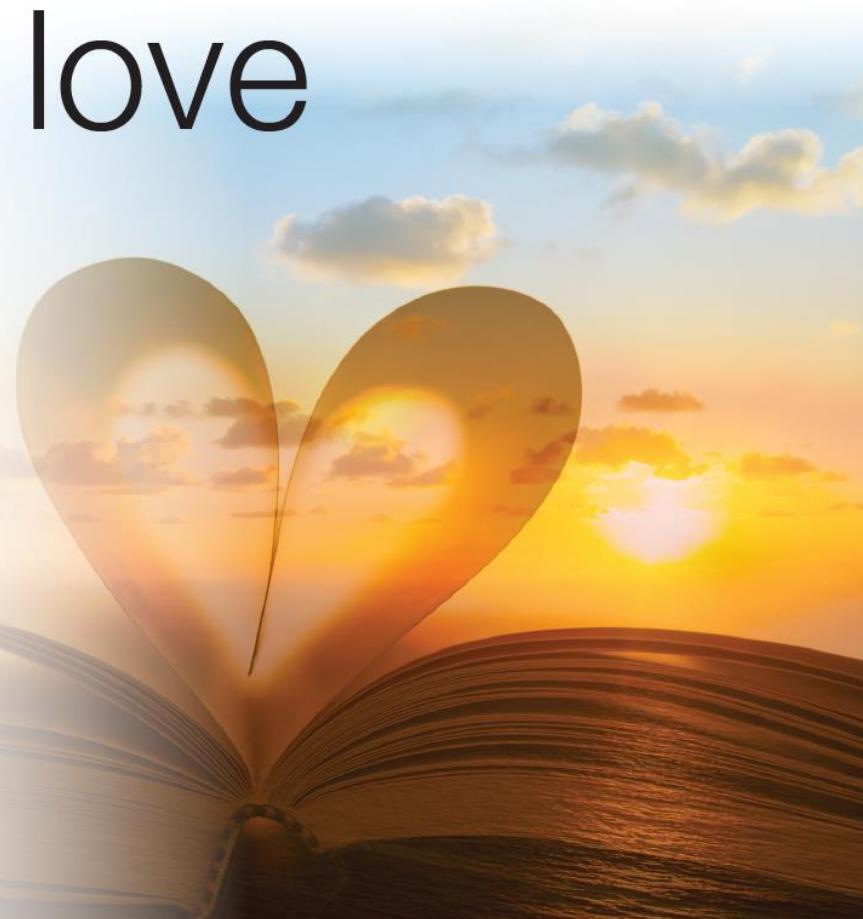
Holy Places *Malmesbury Abbey*

by Heather Smith

A small market town, Malmesbury is an attractive place for a pilgrim. Approaching from the south you travel up the steep High Street as it bends round towards the crossroads at Abbey Row, with its fifteenth-century market cross. Behind it lies the abbey gateway which leads you into the churchyard and gives a stunning view of the west side of the church with its beautiful carved stone entrance. The nave is all that is

left of the once extensive abbey buildings, covered with bullet marks made during the English Civil War.

The large building dominates the small town and in its heyday must have been impressive. Dating from the twelfth century it is the third structure to stand on the site. During his time as abbot, St Aldhelm, the first saint of Wessex (born c. 639), replaced the wooden building with a large complex of stone buildings. Step inside and you are greeted by a broad space. Although Aldhelm himself did not see the current structure, you can be transported back in time, imagining the monks silently going about their business.



Walking with Poppy *Alongside*

by Gillian Cooper

It's autumn, and there is damp in the air and on the ground. As she gets older, Poppy becomes even more reluctant to get her paws wet. She sees puddles on the path and retreats into the house. The morning walk becomes a matter of commanding (futile)

and cajoling (not much better) – until we meet her friend Roly. Then she forgets all about the damp and trots along happily beside him.

We have a God who walks alongside us. Our God is not distant and aloof, too powerful to be concerned with us. Our God made the earth for us, breathed us into life, came and lived in our world, gave us the Spirit to be with us for ever and in the end calls us home. Whether we feel it or not, we have a companion on our journey, in whose presence puddles become streams of living water.

“ Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

Matthew 6:8



Sunday 3 October 2021

Mark 10:2-16

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

My name is _____

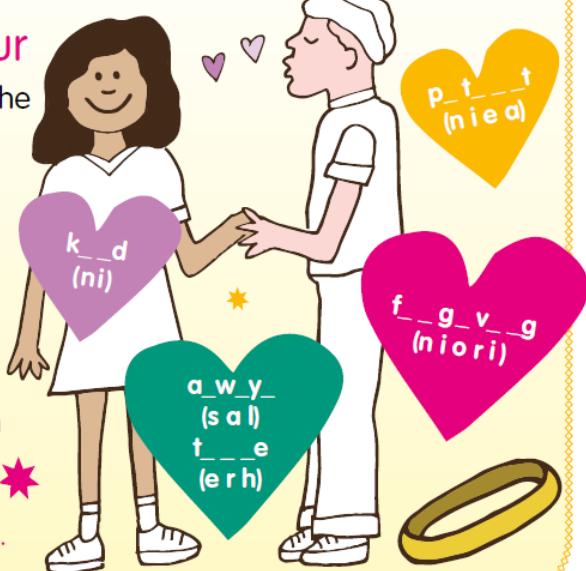


WELCOME LOVE

A picture to colour

Fill the missing letters in the hearts to find out what God is like. **Joseph and Grace are married.**

They love each other very much and want to be together for ever. We can see by looking at them what love is like. They show us what God is like.



Which does not belong?

Here are some pictures of Grace and Joseph showing how much they love each other.

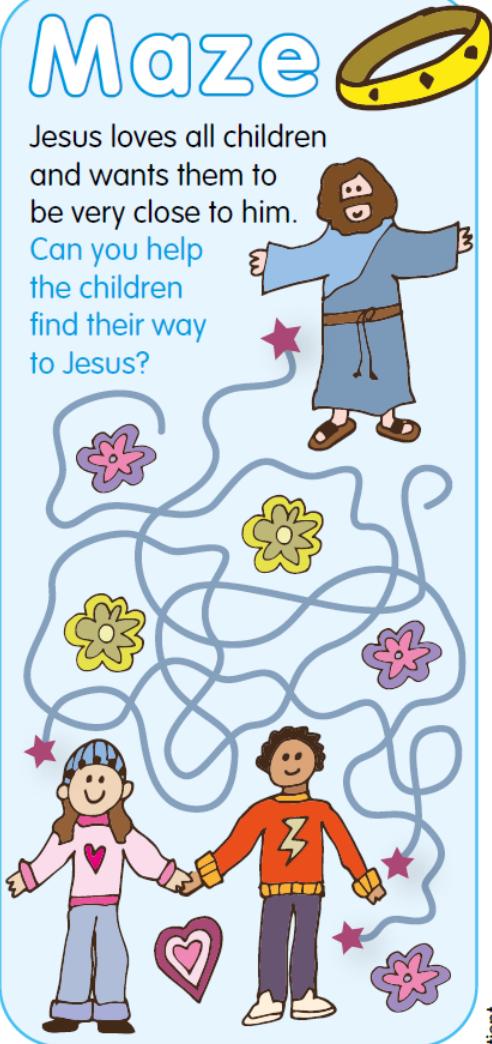


Spot the rings

People who are married wear a ring. A ring has no ending. It shows that love goes on forever. **Can you find the 4 lost wedding rings on this page?**

Maze

Jesus loves all children and wants them to be very close to him. Can you help the children find their way to Jesus?



A PRAYER TO SAY

Please, God, help all the people who are married to stay friends always. Sometimes people can't stay married. Please help them to know that God's love for them will never end. Amen.