

Private Prayer

The church is available for private prayer on Monday
10 o'clock to 10.20.

Please book with Neale 0113 393 5601.

Because the church cannot be left open and unattended,
we only open the church when we know someone wants to pray.

Please remember to bring a mask.

We have hand sanitiser.

A Service of Morning Prayer

We are planning to start services in September.

There will be a service of Morning Prayer

Wednesdays at 11 am

on the 2nd, 9th and 16th September.

Masks are mandatory.

They may not stop **YOU** getting Covid 19, but
if you are symptomless and a carrier, it will prevent you from passing it on.

We do not want to be closed down again!

Cleaning

We need to give the church another good clean before we open for services.

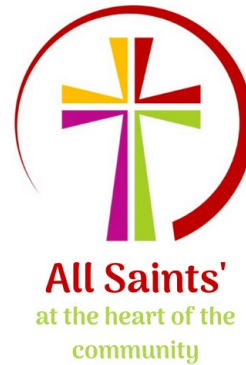
Thanks to Rosie and Chris the church was thoroughly cleaned
before we started private prayers.

The church wardens have cleaned the pews every week
after people have been in to pray.

Now we need help the week starting Monday 24th August,
(the 31st is the Bank Holiday), to be ready for the 2nd September.

Ideally, a couple, or 2 people 'bubbling' are needed.

If you can help, please contact Carole 0113 281 2149
or Leslye 0113 281 2488. Thank you.



TRINITY 10
Sunday 16th
August 2020



Collect for Trinity 10

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be
persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never
to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post Communion Prayer

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. Amen

Readings for Trinity 10

Romans 11: 1-2, 29-32 and

Matthew 15:21-28

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

²⁶ He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁷ "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Today’s reflection is from Pat Rogers

One of the messages of both of today’s readings is that God never gives up on those he loves.

The writer of Matthew’s Gospel is often critical of those Jews like the Pharisees who put the ‘letter of the law’ before its real intention and he wants to emphasise that Jesus must prioritise the bringing back to God of the Jewish people. The Jews rejected Jesus but they are still God’s chosen people.

In this story of a woman’s faith in Matthew 21-28, the writer tells us the woman is a gentile and one regarded with contempt by many Jews as she is described as a Canaanite. In the Old Testament we can read about the many battles against Canaan and its influence. To a Jew a Canaanite was regarded as more unclean than other gentiles. This woman though, must have had knowledge of the Jewish religion and also of Jesus as in Matthew’s Gospel she refers to Jesus as ‘Son of David’, in New Testament times, a synonym for ‘Messiah’. In Mark’s version of the story there is no mention of the woman saying this. Matthew is also the only writer to say that Jesus told the woman he had been sent to save the lost sheep of Israel. Here Matthew is showing his belief in the priority of the Jews and the role of Jesus in helping them to returning to living as God wanted and not in the way the Pharisees interpreted the Law.

I would imagine that verses 25 – 27 are well known to people who have never read the Bible as I have heard the words ‘but even the dogs eat the leftovers from the masters table’ in many a different secular context. These words refer to the practice of wiping the plates clean with bread and feeding that bread to the pet dogs under the table. The faith of that gentile woman was rewarded and her daughter healed.

After the death of Jesus the apostles did take his message to the gentiles and it was readily accepted by many and has been so over the centuries. It could be said that although the Jews are still sitting at the table the gentiles are indeed being fed the words of God that the Jews are rejecting. The Jews are still waiting for the Messiah but Christians would say they have already met with the Messiah and are waiting for Him to return.

Thinking about the reading from Matthew I began to wonder if there was another message in this reading for us today? Well, if someone from our small island visited Israel at the time of Jesus they would definitely be regarded as ‘unclean’ so maybe we should consider our attitude to those often regarded as the ‘outsiders’ in our communities. To stop and think before we speak. I know that sometimes thoughts pass through my mind that I am not proud of. We are all God’s children and God has opened his arms to us and to all who want to come under his care, no matter who they are or where they are from. By showing care for others and particularly those ‘outsiders’ we are helping them to come to God and fulfilling our role as Christians.

Pat Rogers

A message from the Treasurer

Thank you to everyone
who has continued
supporting the church financially during lockdown,
whether via the bank, a cheque or a bag of cash.
Though we will not be able to have our usual fundraising activities
this year, the building still needs maintenance, and the bills still
need to be paid.
Thank you