



The Parish Church of St. Lawrence Little Stanmore
alias Whitchurch



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 5th September 2021

We welcome everyone to our Parish Eucharist

in order to continue to keep one another safe we would ask that you please observe the following throughout

- Please continue to wear a face covering/mask in church unless you are exempt.
- Stay in your place, including at the distribution of Holy Communion which will be brought to you.
- For the time being Holy Communion will continue to be in one kind only (*aka The Host/Bread*)
- The congregational responses and texts are sung and said and in a normal conversational tone

COVID precautions will be kept under review in accordance with guidance and local infection rates

Entrance Antiphon Ps 118: 137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Introduction

As a prophetic people and by virtue of our baptism, we have responsibility for our sisters and brothers, especially when they turn from God's ways. Contrary to public opinion, we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

Penitential Act

Let us confess our sins and thank the Lord for his goodness to us.

Lord, you bring good news to those who are poor.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you bind up hearts that are broken.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you call us to listen to your voice.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading *Isaiah 35:4-7*

The blind shall see, the deaf hear, the dumb sing for joy

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *145(146):7-10*

R/ My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
 who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
 the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R/**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
 who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just,
 the Lord, who protects the stranger. **R/**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
 Zion's God, from age to age. **R/**

Second Reading *James 2:1-5*

God chose the poor according to the world to be rich in faith

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Is 3:9, Jn 6:68*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 7:31-37 'He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak'

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession *These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.** *(or)* Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
And at the end

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,
graciously grant that through this offering,
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For through his Paschal Mystery,
he accomplished the marvellous deed,
by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death,
summoning us to the glory of being now called
a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people for your own possession,
to proclaim everywhere your mighty works,
for you have called us out of darkness
into your own wonderful light.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of
our Blessed Lady, S Paul, S Lawrence and all the Saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon *Cf. Ps 41: 2-3*

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,
whom you nourish and endow with life
through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament,
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit to live and work
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Final Blessing

May the Lord guard you and keep you in his care.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you at all times

May the Lord keep you from harm and give you his peace.

And may almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Introit Hymn

God is love: His the care,
Tending each, everywhere.
God is love, all is there!
Jesus came to show him,
That mankind might know Him!

Sing aloud, loud, loud!

Sing aloud, loud, loud!

God is good! God is truth!

God is beauty! Praise Him!

None can see God above;
We can share life and love;
Thus may we Godward move,
Seek him in creation,
Holding every nation.

Jesus lived on the earth,
Life and hope brought to birth
And affirmed human worth,
For He came to save us
By the truth He gave us.

To our Lord praise we sing,
Light and life, friend and King,
Coming down, love to bring,
Pattern for our duty,
Showing God in beauty.

Recessional Hymn

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Background on the Gospel Reading Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophenician woman who asks him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding to dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and he heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' own mission affirms the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret."

Summer is now officially over or at least the schools have gone back! Consequently, we return to our usual timetable with our Sunday Parish Eucharist at 10:00, and Weekday Eucharists on a Tuesday morning at 09:30 and a Thursday evening at 19:30. Note Thursday has now reverted to its pre lockdown time of 19:30 NOT 18:00. We hope to reinstate Coffee in the Hall after the 10:00 next Sunday (12/09) using disposable cups and individually wrapped biscuits. Alternatively, you are welcome to bring your own mug or cup!

We Really Need Your Continued Financial Help! It would be really good if you could continue with your weekly/month thank offerings if at all possible. You can transfer money electronically by using the details below or alternatively, a collection plate is always located in the church porch:

Account Name: Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Whitchurch

Bank: HSBC Sort Code: 40 - 11 - 58 Account: 20126942

Reference: Just use your surname!

Harrow Food Bank Please bring your donations for the Foodbank and leaving them in the church porch each week. Alternatively, when in your own supermarket use the Foodbank collection bins at the front of the store. The Shopping List below shows the food items that they urgently need this month and also shows the food items that they have plenty of and so do not need. Small and regular size items are best – they can be given to both small and large families and are easier for people to carry home from the foodbank Centre.

September Shopping List:

Sponge Puddings, Bags for Life (20p Carrier Bags), Tins Vegetarian Meals, Men's Body Wash, Shaving Foam, Childrens Toothpaste, Children's Toothbrush Age 6-8, Women's Deodorant, Shower Gel, Washing Powder/Detergent, Packet Mashed Potato, Tinned Macaroni Cheese, Treats and Chocolates
We Have Plenty of - We Do Not Need: Baked Beans, Tinned Soup, Cereal, Dry Pasta/Dry Spaghetti, Oats/Porridge, Biscuits, Tuna, Rice

50th Anniversary of Priesting *Fr David Knight (Rector 1984 - 1991) writes:* Michaelmas is the Golden Jubilee of my Ordination to the Priesthood. I should be delighted if you could join me for a Eucharist at 12 noon on Saturday, September 25th, in Holy Trinity Church, Headington Quarry, Oxford [OX3 8NU] followed by light refreshments. It would be very helpful [but not absolutely essential!] for catering purposes if you could let me know whether or not you are able to come - along with any other supporters. There is some parking on Quarry Road and a footpath through to the church. The nearest bus stop is the Gladstone Road stop on the London Road. Buses from Thornhill and Seacourt Park & Ride and from central Oxford stop here as well as the Oxford Tube coach from London. Very many thanks for your support, As ever, David

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Because of Covid people might have concerns about travelling together in close proximity in a minibus or coach for a prolonged period of time. Consequently, we would ask that those who wish to attend make their own arrangements. However, if you'd like to be associated with a parish gift in the form of an Amazon Voucher for Fr David then please give your donations to Fr Paul.

In Your Prayers This Week *Please pray for our Parish and for its needs;*

The Sick *Those who are known to us personally and those whose names are read out in Church, the patients and staff of The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital & St Luke's Hospice, the elderly & housebound especially those who live within Henry Nihill House, Knights Court & Whitchurch Lodge.*

The Departed

Recently *all those who continue to die as a result of the Covid -19 pandemic, those who have died alone, or through the violence of others* Carol Fawdon, Dorothy Lizon, Yvonne Nyss, Eric Rowley, Joan Smedley, Maggie Thomas

Years' Mind Jean Anderson, Donville Bailey, Colin Ball, Betty Bateman, Eleanor Beesley, Coral Bellward, Enid Bowman, Barrie Bright, Sandra Bryan, Lisa Carr, Michael Carter, Jacinta Davies, Janet Deardon, Gladys Elvins, John Eustace, Rosemary Ford, Gert Fox, Thomas Fox, Alan Gosling, Gladys Griffiths, Alan Hinchon, Emma Hudson, Win Huntley, Jane Jones, Sheila Keal, Richard Kee, Joan Kemp, Leonard Kew, Judy King, Erin Klyn, Bob Krause, Angela Le Franc, Dorothy Mair, Thomas Miles, Ken Moth, Peggy Noonan, Nii Odoilartey, Joel Okoli, Jack Orr, Alan Pearce, Luciana Piculin, Lynn Prusher, Baby Cora Shaw, Donald Sparepoint, Vincent Stevens, Bertha Straker, Bryan Tait, Geoffrey Whyley , Colin Wilding, Paul Woodgate



THIS WEEK AT S LAWRENCE LITTLE STANMORE

05 Sun **23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
10:00 **The Parish Eucharist**

07 Tue 09:30 The Eucharist

09 Thu 19:30 The Eucharist

12 Sun **24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
10:00 **The Parish Eucharist**

Rector & Parish Priest - Fr Paul M Reece
t: 07860 690 503 e: little.stanmore@london.anglican.org

*If you have any pastoral concerns
or would like to request prayers for yourself or friends/family,
please get in touch using our email or you can use the contact page on our website*

Daily Hope is a 24 hour free phone line for Christian worship and prayer
Call (free) 0800 804 804



Paws for Thought aka The Tail End
You can pretend to care, but you can't pretend to show up.
as found by Bertie the Rectory Retriever