

25th September 2020

Welcome to another Friday, and to another week of yet more Covid announcements. If the week has all felt a little bit too much, do get in touch: you are not alone.

We're been busy beavering away in the background. We're thinking hard about Harvest, are already considering our options at Remembrance and throwing some ideas around about Advent: it really has been all go!

We've included some posters both on the services and also an advert for Harvest: if you were prepared to perhaps put it in your window or ask a local shop to put one out we'd be very grateful?

A few headlines for your information:

Harvest (Sunday, Oct. 18th) will both be in church (at the 9am & the 10:30am), and also Online: next week we're off on tour to film it!

Remembrance/Memorial Service is still being finalised, but both morning services at St John's will hopefully be happening (Covid rules allowing). However, as this could be a big service we are **going to be asking people to sign up, and we will be limiting spaces**. If you would like to be there, but feel a little intimidated about signing up, do speak to Wendy, Nikki or I and we will do the sign up for you.

We're also thinking through our Memorial Service and will let you know soon what they may look like.

Advent is already gathering steam. We are hoping to give out a number of small, knitted Christmas Tree decorations. Apparently, the last time you did this with church mice, we managed to make over 200: I wonder if we can beat that this year?! Do get in touch if you, or someone you know, can help.

Rev Claire

What's on this week:

Sunday Services:

In person @St. John's:

We've done all we can to make it Covid compliant, so do join us if you feel comfortable:

09:00 a 'formal' but friendly Holy Communion service

10:20 a relaxed service with a more contemporary feel when our children's groups are on.

Online:

If being in church is still making you anxious, then do join us Online. This week the sermon goes on tour around the church: see how many spaces you can spot!

You can find us on Facebook or YouTube and the details can be found at the bottom of the next two pages.



Note from the Wardens: There's so much happening at the moment, so many irons in the fire, that it is a very exciting place to be. Not everything is necessarily good, but as the old saying goes, every cloud etc etc. The fly tipping at St James' is, to put it kindly, frustrating, it will cost a significant amount to clear, but, as with so many things, it has brought out the best in people. A neighbour has been incredibly generous and given us CCTV system, and installed it for us. The guys at the nearby fishing lake, Whitehall Road Fishing Lake (one of the parishes hidden gems) have generously paid for additional cable Nigel needed to complete the job. All in all, we're blessed to have such lovely neighbours and friends and we'd like to thank them all.

You'll see from other parts of the newsletter that the busyness of this time of year is moving up a gear - Harvest and Remembrance and Advent are looming large; it's certainly not easy planning events which are traditionally peoply when we don't know how many, if any, people can attend! But Claire is inventive and we hope to be able to still do them in style! Don't forget the little Baby Jesus' that we want to bomb the parish with either, at least that can be done without worry. (And if anyone knows the correct plural of Jesus, when, has been pointed out to me there is really only one, do let me know)

And if anyone is wondering, my visit to the dentist was slightly anti-climatic. My anxiety and stress was all in vain in that I didn't actually need any dental treatment as it turned out to be a problem with my jaw muscle! As always, take care,

Wendy

It's been a funny old week this week. Every time I turn on the radio or T.V there have been various interviews concerning the Covid crisis. Politicians, panellists & experts all saying what they think should be done & slating one another for not having the same opinion. There has been so much back peddling that we could have held the Tour De France in reverse!



That got me thinking about people in authority whether it be politicians, leaders in the community or maybe even in the workplace. How many times have we hoped they'd do "the right thing", the thing that would be of greater benefit for everyone, but instead they end up just covering their own backs? That is a bit like the passage this week from Matthew. When the leaders of the Temple try to trick Jesus in to answering a question about who gave him authority to teach, Jesus asked them a question too. Did the baptism of John come from God or man? Now if they had said God, then why didn't they repent & get baptised, if they said man, they'd become unpopular with the crowds. Hmmm, bit like today, do we speak the truth for the greater good of the many, whether it harms our reputation and lifestyle or do we just waffle to save face?

Jesus then goes on to tell the parable of the two brothers in the vineyard. Now this I can relate to having two boys of my own! Lets look at the biggest bane of my life, their bedrooms!!!! Things on the floors, clothes not hung up and cups & plates under the bed with things growing in them that David Attenborough could make a series out of! I ask them to go tidy their pits. One (I will leave those who know my boys to choose which they think is which !) says "Ok Mum" and goes upstairs, the other has a major strop telling me how unfair I am, that I'm always nagging and that he's going to ring Childline (!) before stomping upstairs & banging the door. Later, he repents & tidies his room. I catch the first one laying on his bed playing X Box and the bedroom is still a mess. Who has been the better son? (Don't worry I love them both equally!)

Which are we like? Do we say all the right words that we think God wants us to say, come to Church but then, when he asks us to come out of our comfort zone to help those in need or to spread the Word of God, even if it means hardship, we are the ones lazing around? Or are we the type who might not always say the right thing, perhaps we don't know the Bible off by heart, grumble a little about what's being asked but later...repent and do what is asked by God with a willing heart?

God knows us inside out, he knows us better than we know ourselves and he can tell which kind of son we are, but even if we are the first son, as Jesus tells us, it is never too late to change as everyone who is willing to change has a place in Gods house.

Take care everyone & stay safe x

Sue



Readings & Collect for this Sunday, Trinity 16:

Collect

Lord of creation,

whose glory is around and within us:

open our eyes to your wonders,

that we may serve you with reverence

and know your peace at our lives' end,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Psalm 127 1-6, 37-45

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

² I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

³ things that we have heard and known,

that our ancestors have told us.

⁴ We will not hide them from their children;

we will tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,

and the wonders that he has done.

¹² In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels

in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

¹³ He divided the sea and let them pass through it,

and made the waters stand like a heap.

¹⁴ In the daytime he led them with a cloud,

and all night long with a fiery light.

¹⁵ He split rocks open in the wilderness,

and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

¹⁶ He made streams come out of the rock,

and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Philippians 2.1-13

² If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Matthew 21.23-32

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he

went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

As September approaches, a few people have been in touch with some ideas, which is really exciting!

On **Thursday** we started our first Enquirer's course: a chance for people to gather together to discuss the basics of Christianity.

There is no pressure to agree, and we really are starting at the very beginning so there are no questions too silly!

It's called 'The Start! Course' and might be something for someone you know: perhaps people have been thinking a little bit more about what life is about over Covid, or perhaps they are wondering just what it is that makes you go to church each week.

Perhaps it might even be for you—you may not have had the chance to stand back and work out what you think. Either way, please do spread the word. It will be on zoom, so no need to drag ourselves out on a dark evening either!

Is this it?

WORTLEY & FARNLEY

Why are we here?

What am I doing?

What does Christianity have to say about life?

Join us for a 6 weeks Online Group that explores what the Christian faith is about: all questions and viewpoints are welcome!

Thursday 24th Sept. 8pm.



Readings for Sunday 4th October 2020—Trinity 17:

Psalm 19

Phillipians 3.4b-14

Matthew 21.33-End



We're still on the key trail, so if you have any please can you let us know? We're not looking to gather them in, it's just so we know where they are and can update the register.



Telephone Set Up:
0333 002 1271
Monday - Friday 9-5pm

The logo for the Parish Giving Scheme, featuring four icons: a person, an open book, a circular arrangement of dots, and a musical note.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

WORTLEY & FARNLEY

0800 804 8044

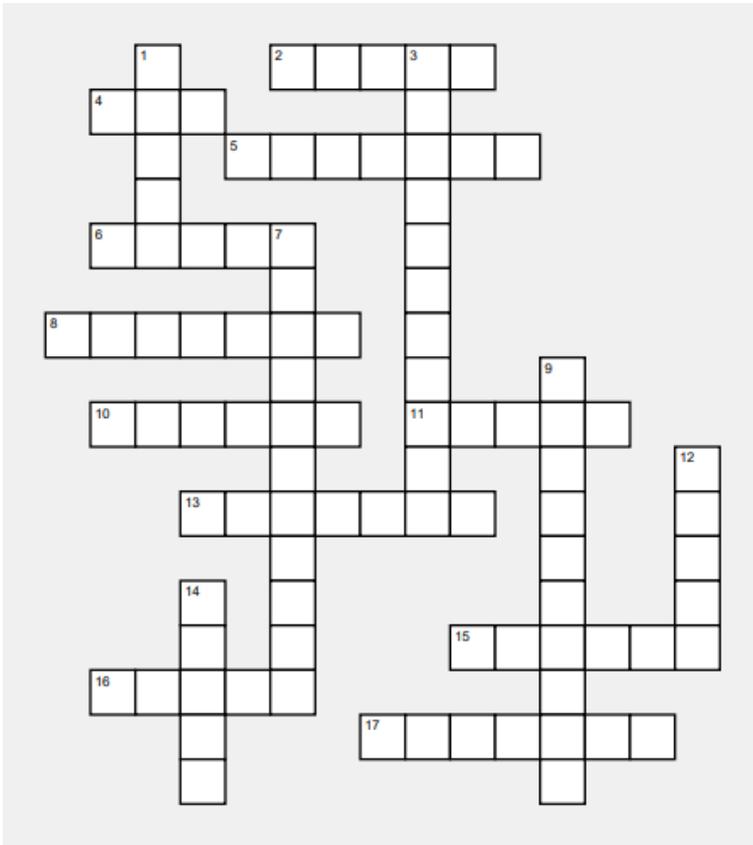
The logo for 'Daily HOPE', with 'Daily' in black and 'HOPE' in green, with a telephone handset icon to the left.

Daily HOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

PUZZLE TIME

FAMOUS POETS CROSSWORD

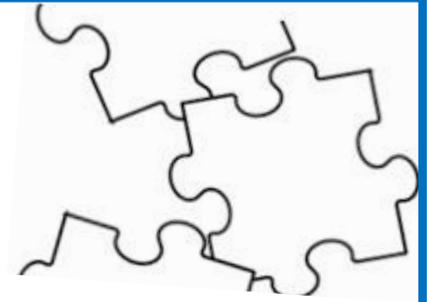


ACROSS

- 2) "The Road Not Taken"
- 4) "The Raven"
- 5) "Still I Rise"
- 6) "A Thing of Beauty" (Endymion)
- 8) "Leaves of Grass"
- 10) Harlem Renaissance
- 11) "The Waste Land"
- 13) "If-"
- 15) "Paradise Lost"
- 16) "Tyger! Tyger!"
- 17) "Jabberwocky"

DOWN

- 1) "No Man Is an Island"
- 3) "Where the Sidewalk Ends"
- 7) The Bard of Avon
- 9) "Paul Revere's Ride"
- 12) "She Walks in Beauty"
- 14) "The Bell Jar"



Solution to last week's puzzle

