



*St John's Park Church Family: Followers of Jesus who Love and Learn from God, so we can..... Empower and Support each other, so we can .... Serve and Reach out to the community and beyond, so we can.....*

## **Sunday 12 September 2021**

**Services** This Sunday, 12 September, we will have both a 9.00am zoom service (Meeting Number 323 564 9987, Passcode 483559), and a 10.45am service in church. The PCC meets on Monday to review our services going forwards.

**Litter Picking** We are litter picking again on Monday. Meet at church at 5.30pm for one hour to litter pick and to pray for the people we meet. If we have sufficient numbers, we will also begin visiting homes to carry out a survey. This is an exciting initiative. Basic training will be provided. Do come and join us.

**Harvest and Climate Change Service on Sunday 3 October at 10.45am** This is when we plan to hold a special service devoted to these important matters. Do come, and please could you bring non-perishable food, in date, which we will give away to local people in need.

**An Evening of Worship on Saturday 9 October at 7.00pm** A worship band from St Helens is coming to lead this evening of worship in church (1.5hr with refreshments). This will be a great occasion. Why not invite some friends?

**Baptisms on Sunday 10 October at 10.45am** We will be holding some baptisms at our morning service in church. If you have not been baptized and are interested, or simply want to know more, please speak to David.

**Giving** If you would like to support the work of St John's Park Church financially, or review your giving, please contact Colin, our Treasurer, at [StJohnsPark@outlook.com](mailto:StJohnsPark@outlook.com). The Church bank details are: ST JOHNS PARK P C C Sort Code: 20-76-89 Acct: 60362786. Thank you.

**David and Margie** Please continue to pray for them as they serve in Chad – for good and safe travel, for their team, and that they will a good support to the leaders.

**Online Prayers** These continue each morning from Monday to Friday at 8.00am for 30 minutes. All are welcome. Zoom Meeting Number 323 564 9987, Passcode 483559.



**Connect Groups** Our small groups have begun again in September. If you are interested in joining one, do speak to David, or Bess and Faustina (our Church Wardens) for more details.

## **Today's Bible Reading                      Mark 7:1-23**

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus <sup>2</sup> and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup> (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup> When they come from the market-place they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

<sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, 'Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?'

<sup>6</sup> He replied, 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>7</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules."

<sup>8</sup> You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.'

<sup>9</sup> And he continued, 'You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, "Honour your father and mother," and, "Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death." <sup>11</sup> But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God) – <sup>12</sup> then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. <sup>13</sup> Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.'

<sup>14</sup> Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. <sup>15</sup> Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.'

<sup>17</sup> After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. <sup>18</sup> 'Are you so dull?' he asked. 'Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? <sup>19</sup> For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.' (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

<sup>20</sup> He went on: 'What comes out of a person is what defiles them. <sup>21</sup> For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come – sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evils come from inside and defile a person.'

What is God saying to you through this passage?

What will you do about it?