

The Vicar writes...

This Sunday we are thinking about how our relationships with one another work, what supports them and what hinders them. On Sunday we'll be thinking about our relationships with our church family but it strikes me that our wider relationships with family and friends can encounter some of the same challenges.

When we are connected to God we become more whole. Our life takes on a different quality and so do our relationships. So if we are encountering relational issues perhaps we can begin with our primary one. This may allow God to speak about the root cause, or to heal hurt, or to suggest ways to live better with people. But it will certainly bring us to a different place, make us different people.

This week perhaps you might pray about and for some of your relationships. I am already praying for many of you but please do keep asking for my prayers for you, your loved ones, your communities and your relationships.

Sunday services

Sunday 16th

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| 8.30am | Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) |
| 10.30am | Morning Worship with All Stars |
| 6.00pm | Gone too Soon – a service to remember babies and children we have lost |

NB – No Morning Prayer on 14th, 19th or 20th November

Sunday 23rd

No Service at 8.30 – this was my error. A 5th Sunday in the month confused me.

10.30 – Parish Communion with Baptism of Hayden Parsons (Hooray!!!)

Mens Breakfast

Tony and a couple of others are hosting a breakfast in the church hall on Saturday 15th November at 10am for an hour and would love other men to join them for bacon, coffee (or tea) and conversation. Breakfast is on Tony so please let him know if you're coming so he buys and cooks enough.

tony@stmarysgreenham.org

Downland Filling Station

The next meeting is Thursday 20th November, details are attached.

Tree of Hope

Greener Greenham Group members are delighted that their application to receive a sapling from the famous Sycamore Gap Tree was accepted.

There is an official Tree Planting Ceremony at Greenham Common Control Tower on Saturday 22nd November at 2.30pm. It will be a historic celebration, with representatives from environmental groups, and local VIPs and Gail will be blessing the tree – a first for her!

Tea and cake will be available afterwards. It would be lovely to have some St Mary's Church members there.

Please could you RSVP to contact@greenergreenhamgroup.org.uk or ring Katharine on 01635 31533 or email her on kath.prior68@ntlworld.com if you've planning to come along.

A really rather early Christmas Party

Our next social is on 22nd November at 6pm and is a Christmas Party. Chris Smith is organising so please chat to her about it and especially sign up to let her know whether you are coming along and who with.

There is a sheet at the back of church or give her a ring on 07914 765435.

A Great Big Thank You!

At our Harvest service we collected offerings of food for West Berkshire Foodbank, attached is a great big thank you.

We also made a cash gift to the Farming Community Network who also send their thanks.

We change lives for the better with our gifts.



Readings

This one really is quite long and has some great details. When you read it, what do you notice, what strikes you most? What are you curious about or confused by?

Numbers 11:1-30

11 Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. ²When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the Lord and the fire died down. ³So that place was called Taberah, because fire from the Lord had burned among them.

Quail From the Lord

⁴The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. ⁶But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

⁷The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. ⁸The people went around gathering it and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into loaves. And

it tasted like something made with olive oil. ⁹When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.

¹⁰Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents. The Lord became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled. ¹¹He asked the Lord, “Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors? ¹³Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ ¹⁴I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. ¹⁵If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favour in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin.”

¹⁶The Lord said to Moses: “Bring me seventy of Israel’s elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. ¹⁷I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone.

¹⁸“Tell the people: ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The Lord heard you when you wailed, “If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!” Now the Lord will give you meat, and you will eat it. ¹⁹You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, ²⁰but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?”’”

²¹But Moses said, “Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, ‘I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!’ ²²Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?”

²³The Lord answered Moses, “Is the Lord’s arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you.”

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people what the Lord had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. ²⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.

²⁶However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

²⁸Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ aide since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!”

²⁹But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” ³⁰Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.