

Please share this bulletin as far and wide as you can – thank you

26th July 2020 – Seventh Sunday after Trinity



View from a Vicarage

Hello and welcome to this weeks Bulletin. It is lovely to once again be able to contribute to this magazine; For what started as a short way of reaching out to people when the country first went into lockdown and we had to close the church buildings, has become for many a weekly read, which brings people together and updates them on what is happening across our church communities around the Hill. During the time we have been putting this together, I have received some lovely comments about how much people have appreciated it, and this has been a real encouragement to both myself, and Rachel Tebbatt who puts it together, knowing that the Bulletin is read and people have appreciated what we produce each week.

Therefore, given two particularly lovely messages of encouragement in the last few days, I thought I would use **encouragement** as a theme for this week's "*View Inside a Vicarage*". For we all know the importance of encouragement, especially when things are challenging and tough, but never have we needed encouragement more than over the last few months. Personally, I have been really grateful for the phone calls, cards and messages I have received from family, friends and church members during lockdown and whose words have lifted me, when things seemed so uncertain and unending. They have given me the will and desire to carry on and not give up, and on more than one occasion moved me to the point of tears, which I am not embarrassed to share, because it shows the power which words and gestures of encouragement can have. For the soul needs to be spiritually watered, and when wilting, words of encouragement can have the same impact, as the watering of plants which are badly in need of a drink.

St. Paul makes numerous references to the importance of encouragement; In fact much of his writing and ministry focuses on encouraging the churches he established, even when he was in prison for his witness of the Good News – giving thanks to God for their faith in Him, teaching them by his example to praise Him in all circumstances, and supporting them in interceding for one another. Even in his absence from them, he set the mood for worship services by giving them reasons to be grateful and joyful.

Churches today therefore still include a praise session in a service of worship, and that praise is influenced by the truth in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, which emphasises that no matter the circumstances, Christ is the authoritative Head of the Church and He *"makes everything work out according to his plan."* (1:11).

There are so many examples to choose from to illustrate this, but here are just a few:-

- 1. All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. . . I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly.** (Ephesians 1:3, 16)
- 2. Every time I think of you [church at Philippi] I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy** (Philippians 1: 3, 4)
- 3. We always pray for you [church at Colosse], and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Colossians 1:3)
- 4. I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people.** (Philemon 1: 4, 5)

Encouraging others is something we can all do so easily; And whether it is through sending someone a card, picking up the phone to inspire them in their faith, buying someone a gift or carrying out an act of random kindness demonstrating how much that person means to you, all these actions end up giving so much pleasure, reassurance and hope to the recipient. It is as though their spiritual cup of faith and energy, which may have been so empty, becomes filled, and they are buoyed up again, ready to go and be the people God purposed them to be.

Therefore, my hope is that as the lockdown eases, this gift of building people up which has been such a blessing to so many during the dark days we've experienced recently, is something people will continue to do in the days ahead, because we all need to be given those words of refreshment and hope, even vicars!

As such, the latest encouragement in our church communities across the Bredon Hill Group has been that we have been able to hold a service of public worship in each of the 4 benefices over the last 2 weeks. This has been largely down to the hard work of our wonderful Churchwardens, amongst others; And in spite of not being able to sing during the services, attendances in all four churches has been better than expected, showing that people are now slowly starting to find again that source of connection with God through collective worship, and enjoy the communion of being together once again as a Christian community. Services this week will be 9.00am at St. Faiths in Overbury and 10.30am at Holy Trinity in Eckington and we do hope that many of you will be able to join us in worship at one of these services.

Meanwhile, the business side of the church continues, and your PCC's are still managing to meet to discuss the governance and finance issues affecting each church parish. However, the challenge of finances, given the impact of the Virus, continues to be a major source of concern for most parishes, and so if there is anything that you can do to support financially the work of the church and its' ministry, then please do speak to one of your Churchwardens or your PCC Treasurer.

This *"View Inside a Vicarage"* will be my penultimate before I go on leave for two weeks at the beginning of August; And so next week's edition will be a double edition as there will be no Bulletin on 9 August.

However, it will return on 16th August, when I will be handing over the writing of this slot to Right Reverend Bishop Michael Hooper ,who I am sure will do a wonderful job.

Therefore, until next week, I hope and pray that in the days ahead, you all find new and exciting ways to encourage one another, and that God will continue to bless and keep you and all whom you love and care for.

Allison

Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group



**Principal service based on Holy Communion for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 26th July 2020**

Collect

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Reading: Romans 8: 26-end

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reading: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" Jesus asked. They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine
and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in the saving cup, we may share his glory
and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen



Reflection for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity 2020

Sunday 26th July by Peter Hayes

It is a real joy that our church buildings are now beginning to open for public worship. I wonder what the stones make of this? For several months they have had the place to themselves. The only interruption being a slightly harassed looking Authorised Person who has entered once a week, applied sanitiser, had a quick look round and then left.

As the key grated in the lock silence fell inside once more, broken only by the sounds of the wind whistling through the gaps or the rain on the roof or perhaps an insect caught inside.

It has always seemed to me that stones have a story to tell. In far gone days the walls of churches were covered with garish pictures, stories from the Bible to warn and inform a people who couldn't read of the dangers of hell and the delights of heaven. You can in some places still see the last remnants of these.

Of course we pride ourselves on our recycling efforts yet if you let your eyes wander over the stones in St Mary's Church, Elmley, for example you come across fragments of beautifully dressed stone. These were recycled years ago, probably from the Castle or another stone building. Nothing was wasted. I would love to know the story these stones could tell; stories of reformation, of great families in decline, of kings and lords, of war and peace.

In one sense they keep a record of everything said and sung. Could we but tune in we would hear the plainsong of past ministers. The great Victorian hymns sung to the newly installed organ with the Schoolmistress on the organ stool and a local labourer pumping the bellows. Farther back did the village band play?

Now their silence is disturbed as we again enter. Sadly whilst the pandemic remains a threat we may not sing and should not raise our voices. Yet on Sundays we will again hear the Gospel read, recite the ancient creeds and pray the Lord's Prayer.

On Palm Sunday there were those outside Jerusalem who sought to silence the crowds. "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Perhaps in the silence, if you are able to come along to church, you might listen carefully for the song of the stones?

And in the silence breathe your own prayer of thanks to God.

WE humbly acknowledge before thee, O most merciful Father, that all the punishments which are threatened in thy law might justly have fallen upon us, by reason of our manifold transgressions and hardness of heart: Yet seeing it hath pleased thee of thy tender mercy, upon our weak and unworthy humiliation, to assuage the contagious sickness wherewith we lately have been sore afflicted, and to restore the voice of joy and health into our dwellings; We offer unto thy Divine Majesty the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, lauding and magnifying thy preservation and providence over us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1689 Proposed Book of Common Prayer



Intercessions for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity by Sarah Fincher

Jesus the teacher enables us to understand Gods wisdom.
our loving God is here, let us pray to him now.

We pray for the church throughout the world, and those experiencing difficult times at the moment to spread your word. For our own churches in our group and our Diocese as we face challenges and uncertainties.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for all people in our world, suffering as a result of corona virus which is ravaging communities throughout the world, for those devastated by the loss of family and friends from this pandemic. we continue to pray for all unrest around the world.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are ill and the people who care for them, that they may feel comfort and wholeness of your presence in their pain, and your love for them. In a moment of silence, we pray for all those in our community who need our prayers, and any others known to us.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our prayer

Father, we offer our thanks for lives lived well and faithful souls entering by the gate of physical death to eternal life with you. Prepare us all to meet you face to face. our thoughts are with families and friends of Arthur Ore, Joan Green, Brian Druce and any others known to us

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

Calm us O Lord as you stilled the storm,

Still me O Lord, Keep me from harm,

Let all the worries within me cease.

Enfold me lord in your Peace

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

Lord go before me and lead me,

Let me follow in your steps,

Then let me boldly venture

Rejoicing in all about me.

Reveal to me the way of holiness

and the glories of your creation.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**



Please pray for the ill and isolated, hospital and medical research staff, all those working on the frontline and those who have died. We pray for all whose anniversary of death falls at this time and for all who have been bereaved.

Those on the frontline: Alison Herbert a nurse who has been working with the DART (Disaster and Relief Team) and the Mercy Ships in Italy

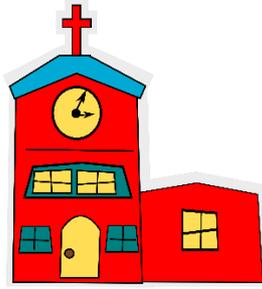
Those who are sick: David Hardy

Those in residential care: Barbara Milton

Those who have died and their families: Jon Doney, Barbara Howell, John Bennett, Charles Bigland-Gibbons, John Bolton, Arthur Ore, Joan Green, Brian Druce

Those who have died internationally: Derek Ho, pro surfer and world champion (requested by a parishioner)

Anniversary of a death: Please pray for the family of Deborah Chambers whose first anniversary is on the 14th August. We remember in our prayers her husband Adam, daughters Grace and Faith and her parents Angela and John Lancelot.



Church and Village News

As our churches begin to open and events are planned it would be useful to keep everyone informed. If you have any details that you would like to share within the Bulletin, please email us at eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com

Reopening the Bredon Hill Group of Churches for Public Worship

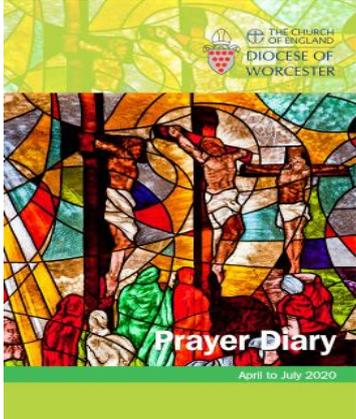
Date	Church	Time	Minister
26 th July	St Faith's, Overbury	9.00am	Reverend Allison Davies
	Holy Trinity, Eckington	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
2 nd August	St John the Baptist, Beckford	9.00am	Bishop Martin Gorick
	St Mary's, Elmley Castle	10.30am	Canon Roger Spiller
9 th August	Holy Trinity, Eckington	9.00am	Bishop Michael Hooper
	St Barbara's, Ashton Under Hill	10.30am	Reverend Catherine Lack

News from the Diocese

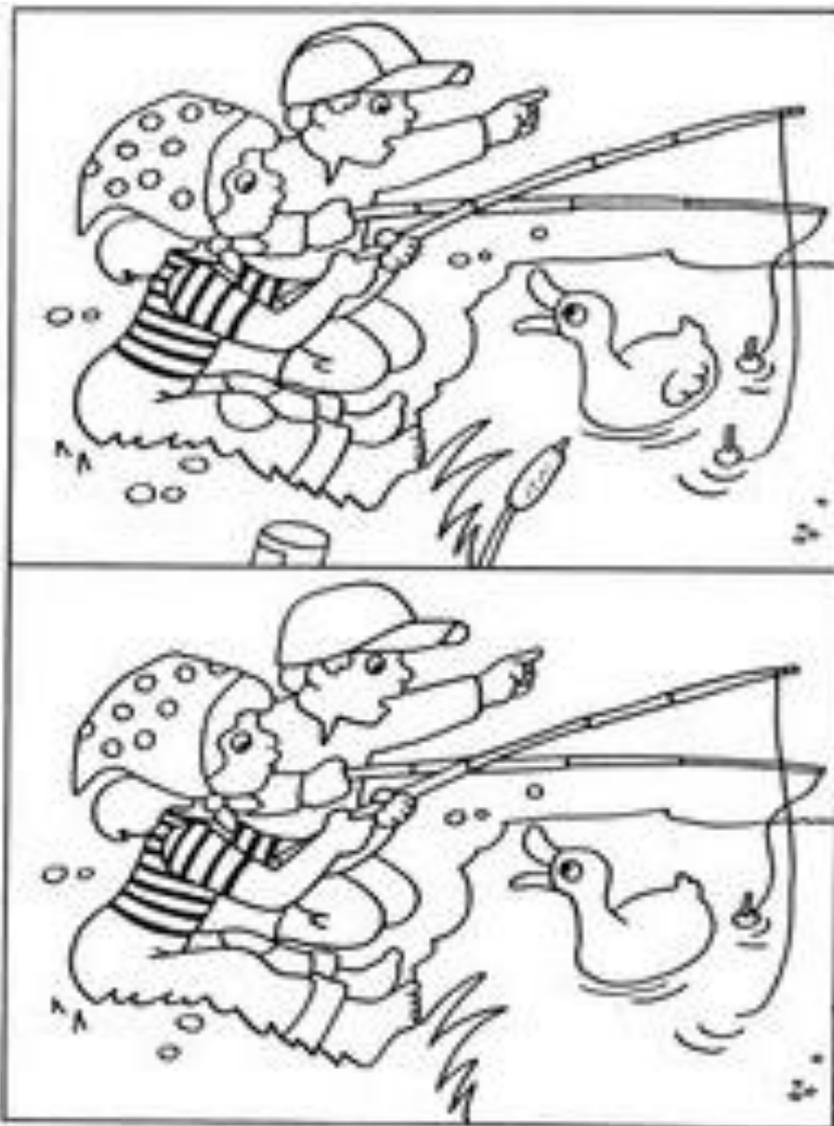
Prayers and diocesan news can be found at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



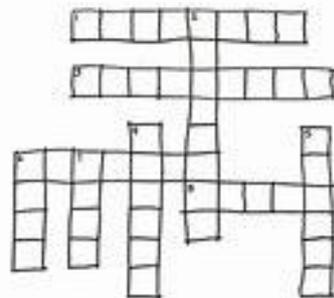
WORSHIPING AT HOME?
IDEAS FROM THE
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER



Spot the differences and colour in



The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Crossword Puzzle



WORD BANK
Cross these words if you've used them.

APPLE	CHEESE	LOLLIPOP
BUTTERFLY	CUPCAKE	PLUM
CAKE	ICE CREAM	SALAM

The Mustard-Seed

Matthew 13: 31, Mark 4: 30-32, Luke 13: 18-19

Look carefully at the words below. Each of these has been hidden in the word search.
 Words can be on the horizontal, diagonal, backwards, forwards, up and down.

PRODUCING	GREATEST	BRANCHES	SMALLEST	MUSTARD	SPRINGS
SHELTER	PLANTED	SHADOW	GARDEN	FIELD	BIRDS
FOWLS	LODGE	LARGE	GRAIN	GROWN	SHADE
EARTH	ROOST	LEAST	SHRUB	HERBS	SOWED
TREE	TINY	NEST	SEED	AIR	MAN

Z X X

N L Q E Q R D P A

Q P F O A O I R E W Y S N

D O G R D G S T S H J X O A

W L T E I G N G M E R T Z W J G

L X H E E G A E R N X H Q S W E W D

S V R T E I L N R B N I G C O E T D N H

Z R D R S P F E I A H R R D N S N W D S

E T R B A T J M C E E A P O A O M D

D P A L E X Z A U H R O S R R R Y

I Y A E T K L T O S D R B G L I B S T

G V N H H X S E V A T D O B S B I D I S

U R S M P S S U M O C N O R M U E N E P

O A B N T Z M O E Q P E Y R P

H A I U E M U S C J I

M Y N R D Y K S T X

H R X S G E M

S A A N A

I G L

P L J

E E N

S G W A

T R K O W P

C A V S I Z V F

L L S L L L

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