

St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold
Sunday, July 19, 2020

ePEWS NEWS

**SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER TRINITY**

SUNDAY: 10am DUNSFOLD CHURCH



Matthew 13: Parable of the wheat and the tares

COLLECT FOR 6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY: Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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.

OT: Genesis 28: 10-19a

NT: Romans 8: 12-25

GOSPEL: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43.

CAN YOU HELP IN THE NEXT EXCITING DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR CHURCH?

In many respects it has been a frustrating time for Reverend Ian Maslin and his wife Susie since they started their lives in Dunsfold in February.

Ian's licensing service took place on February 3 but because the Rectory wasn't ready for them to move into he had to commute from Cranleigh for the first six weeks and then had issues with a lack of wifi until many weeks later. Thankfully, the teething problems are all behind them.

And then came the lockdown to dramatically alter their ability to get out and about to meet as many parishioners as possible.

Ian and Susie have already sent a personal letter to every home in the parish and he has exciting plans to develop his work fulfilling Christ's mission in Dunsfold. And part of that requires the recruitment of an able parochial assistant.

We are looking for a volunteer to help Ian with some of the many clerical issues that crop up around the parish. Clearly, we need somebody with the right skill set to take on a job that will only require a few hours a week. And you will have spotted that at the moment we have to ask for voluntary help. This is not a paid post.

If you feel you'd like to play a part in helping Ian become an even more efficient ambassador of Christ please give him a call at the Rectory. His number is 200048. Perhaps you just want to know more about what the job will entail. He'll be happy to answer any queries so please give him a call.

DUNSFOLD CHURCH COMMUNITY

The lockdown may have eased but we are well aware that some people still need to remain in voluntary isolation because of medical issues. And there are others who are fearful of venturing too far from home.

If you need help, feel lonely or afraid please call any of the people listed here for help. You may be at home but you are never alone within the Dunsfold Church Community.

Reverend Ian Maslin 200048

reviandunsfoldandhascombe@gmail.com

Sheila Jones Churchwarden 200204

sheilajones4@btinternet.com

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REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL READING BY REVEREND IAN MASLIN

There has been much discussion about this parable and to whom it applies.

It would be easiest to believe that it is the world in general. It could refer to those people in Israel who would not accept Jesus as the Messiah.

But others suggest that it actually refers to us, the members of Christ's own Church.

In His explanation of the parable, Jesus says that it is the Son of Man "who sows the good seed" and "the field is the world". But those whom Jesus draws into membership of His Church gather in His name and it is among these, His chosen, that the weeds are sown by the evil one.

There has always been evil in the world and it was partly to overcome this that Jesus came in the first place. But as this Gospel was written when the Church was in its early stages of development, it may be a warning.

Just because the teaching of Jesus is the perfect model to be followed, we often let Him down by failing to follow His example. We are not perfect.

It would be wonderful to think that the influence of Jesus would instantly transform His followers to mirror Him in every way, but life is not like that and neither are people.

Spiritual opportunity can transform its participants, but it can also be abused; a good influence can turn rotten and can poison the whole.

Even in the best surroundings, some good people change, becoming like weeds in a field of good grain. Jesus warns us against assuming that all people in His field of activity are wholesome.

It is His word, His influence, His life which must guide us, or we may end up collected together with the weeds and dealt with accordingly.

However, our next question might be "Can a bad seed change its nature?"

We need to watch out for and guard against the bad influences even where trustworthiness might be assumed. We need to guard against the temptations of doing everything by our 'own' power. It's important that we don't become complacent about our own failings.

Not one of us is perfect, we might be lovely people and nice to a few of our acceptable friends, but what about the rest of the world?

It's important to heed Jesus' warning because our eternal life depends upon it.

But at the same time, it is crucial that we don't become paralysed by fear. Jesus never gave up on anyone;

indeed, just before His own death He forgave a criminal and promised him a place in heaven; not sometime in the future or at "the end of the age", but that very day.

Leaving behind our evil ways is an opportunity we can take up every single day.

Forgiveness by God is complete for those who repent.

So perhaps then the answer is "No": a seed cannot change its own character; but God can, by His gifts and promises and the promises which He makes clear through Jesus; promises which He always keeps.

Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

CHURCH: The work of the Church Army. Among their work they provide beds for the homeless at their hostels and meals for the vulnerable at their Mission Centres.

WORLD: The people of Cuba and the Caribbean where the rates of transmission of Coronavirus are currently higher than anywhere else on our planet.

THE SICK: Amanda and Hugh, Sandra Baxter-Brown, Barbara and Des Crabb, Jenny Glover, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Judith Wheeler, Jackie Williams, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Peter Hutley, Sally Davis, Lorna Thompson, Francesca, Paul Wiltshire, Sami Bennewith, Dru Ridley.

THE DEPARTED: Henry

HOW TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

Major income streams have been denied your church during the coronavirus lockdown. We appreciate many people and families are facing their own challenges at this time but if you feel able to make a donation or take up regular giving please either contact our treasurer John Gray at treasurer@dunsfoldchurch.co.uk or you can make a donation to our account which is:

Account name: Dunsfold PCC

Sort code: 30 94 41 Account number: 01828639

Thank you.

YOU DON'T NEED CASH AT CHURCH

Many of you will be aware of the increasingly cashless society in the wake of the Coronavirus crisis. Some people prefer to pay by debit or credit cards rather than carry cash.

And if you are among that group we can now cater for you at Dunsfold Church. We have a contactless card reader so instead of putting money into a retiring collection you can make a donation to the church through your card. Simple!

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