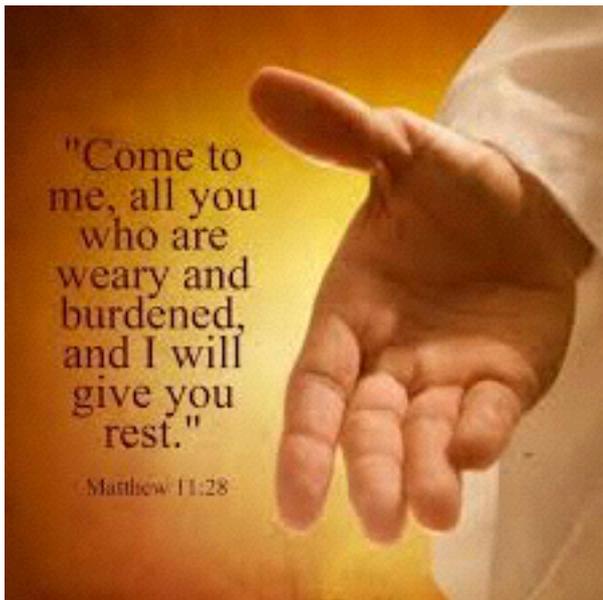


St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold
Sunday, July 5, 2020

ePEWS NEWS

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



COLLECT FOR 4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

READINGS:

OT: GENESIS 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-end
NT: Romans 7: 15-25a
GOSPEL: Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end.

THINGS MAY BE A BIT DIFFERENT BUT WELCOME BACK TO YOUR CHURCH

Psalm 122 perfectly sums up how many of us will be feeling with the return to church worship on Sunday. "I was glad when they said unto me, 'let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

A warm welcome awaits those of you who attend Sunday's and future services at Dunsfold Church.

Re-opening our churches for public worship will inevitably be a time of mixed emotions. There will be joy at being able to come together to worship in our beautiful, historic church; sadness at the absence of some members of our congregation and uncertainty about what the future new normal may be.

Please rest assured that Reverend Ian Maslin and his helpers have worked strenuously to ensure our church is as safe an environment as possible for you. And they will continue to do this over the coming weeks and months.

We are adhering to government as well as Church of England guidelines to reopen the church for safe public worship. There will be some changes to how we go about things. On Sunday Reverend Ian will guide you through the changes in service management required by the church.

And the basic principles of physical distancing, hygiene and safety that you are all aware of will be evident. Some of you have already asked about face coverings. The evidence on face coverings is not strong and suggests that the benefit is not to the wearer but to others for any potential infection by the wearer. Current government advice states that it is up to each individual to decide whether they wish to wear a face covering.

As you are probably aware we have been posting online each week a video of a Holy Communion service conducted on behalf of the churches of Cranleigh, Hascombe and Dunsfold. The Diocese of Guildford is encouraging us to continue this. Please be aware that some of our friends are still having to isolate so we should remember them in our prayers. The video services have been a lifeline to many Christians.

Celebrating the Eucharist is synonymous with giving thanks for the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ and the benefits the Cross has afforded us. On Sunday we can rediscover and participate in the paschal mystery Jesus gave us and give thanks.



**REFLECTIONS ON THE
GOSPEL READING BY
REVEREND IAN MASLIN**

**In today's gospel, Jesus
offers Himself as a teacher:
"Learn from me" He says.**

At this point in His ministry Jesus has had to face up to being rejected by the religious hierarchy and the 'wise' people of the time.

His message found no place in their hearts. Becoming experts in the Law had prevented them from recognising the coming of God's Messiah, the coming of God's Kingdom.

Instead, Jesus found a ready audience among the people considered social outcasts. The tax collectors, prostitutes, money lenders, sinners; those unable to keep the Law in all its rigour, all welcomed Christ's message and the hope that it brought.

Unfortunately, the experts were so preoccupied with keeping the externals of the Law that they had largely lost sight of its purpose, to lead people to God.

They were no longer open to hearing the Word of God, because they did not need it. They placed the Law above every other consideration, even above people. The Law had become an end in itself.

Jesus offered a different 'yoke', a simpler one. Jesus simply offers Himself as the model to follow. He alone is the way to God.

And in today's multi faith society that may not seem the politically correct thing to say. But it is an absolute truth; Jesus alone is the way to God

Follow Him and we will find God. Like a good teacher, the lasting impression He makes resides more in who He is, rather than anything He says.

He asks us to be like Him, to be gentle, to acknowledge our need for God. It is only when, like the tax collectors and sinners, we are open to the words of God, only when we admit our dependence on God, that we are able to receive God's mercy.

And, like them, we experience God's love and mercy, not by mindless obedience, but by meeting a person: Jesus, God's own Son, face to face.

Jesus says His burden is light. We can be burdened with all kinds of things; the opinions of the moral watchdogs who claim superior knowledge of God, telling others how to live, what to do and what to think, even when and how to pray.

We have burdens from our consumerist society, the burdens of others' unreasonable expectations and demands, overbearing parents, overbearing spouses, the demanding boss, the inquisitive neighbour.

And then there is our own guilt, our low self-esteem, our own self-imposed unobtainable goals. We can become overwhelmed by burdens.

Jesus' yoke is easy. It is well fitting, tailor-made to the individual. Because the task that He sets us is easy – be yourself!

Be the person that God wants you to be, using Jesus as your teacher. Be gentle, with yourself and others. Be humble, acknowledge your need for God, don't assume that you have to do it all by yourself.

Resist becoming overburdened by any unreasonable demands. Resist any 'system' or 'rule book'. Simply get to know Jesus, the person.

Learn from Him; and you will find rest.

Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

CHURCH: God's church throughout the land as services are resumed and His people return to public worship.

WORLD: With businesses preparing for post-furlough times we pray for all those who have lost their jobs.

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

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@dunsofold.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.

