

St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold,
Sunday, September 20th, 2020

**EVEN LOCKDOWN CAN'T STOP BAPTISMS..
THE FIRST STOP ON AN AMAZING JOURNEY**

ePEWS NEWS



Baptism remains a mark of celebration and initiation to many people whether as an acknowledgement of Christian faith or as a tentative step towards deeper understanding.

During the christening your child will be baptised. It's the first step of an amazing journey with God, parents, godparents, friends, family and the church here in Dunsfold. Parents don't have to be christened themselves, and you don't have to have been a regular church-goer. And you don't have to be a child - adult baptisms are also welcome.

Here in Dunsfold we have a policy of baptisms predominantly taking place during public worship. But the coronavirus guidelines have put paid to that. To accommodate the maximum of 30 people at a baptism we need to stage separate services and there have been four since the lockdown commenced in March.

One of them saw a young guest (above) help Reverend Ian Maslin at the baptism. Coincidentally, Ian's first baptism (below) after joining us in Dunsfold was on March 15. This was the last Sunday before the lockdown commenced.

**SUNDAY 10am: HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
AT ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

**CELEBRANT: Rev Rutton Viccajee
(Curate, St Nicolas, Cranleigh)**

**OT: Exodus 16: 2-15
NT: Philippians 1: 21-end
GOSPEL: Matthew 20: 1-16**

Collect for 15th Sunday after Trinity: God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.





REVEREND IAN MASLIN'S REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL READING

I think we can all agree that 'fairness' is important to everyone. This human sense of fairness is what gives the parable of the workers in the vineyard its shock value.

The landowner hires some labourers at the beginning of the day, and agrees with them their pay, the normal daily wage. He hires some more at midday, some more in the afternoon and again towards the end of the working day.

When it's time to pay, those hired last are paid first and get the normal daily wage. The first to be hired see this and expect more. It's only fair that they be paid more as they have done more work. But, of course, they are disgusted to be paid only the normal daily rate, even though that was what they initially agreed.

I wonder whose side you are on when you read this story. Do you think that those first workers have a point?

Think of your workplace. Would it be fair if everyone was paid the same, regardless of the effort they put in?

The landowner's response to the objection seems pretty poor; he can do what he likes with his own money. This is true but it does not address the issue of fairness, and that seems to be the problem here.

How might Jesus' first listeners have reacted? We can perhaps imagine the audience expressing agreement with the first workers: "It's not fair" someone might say, "They should have got more for all the extra work".

But let us all consider this; how are the workers who were hired last able to feed their families if they have less money? Perhaps they should have been at work earlier; but what if they had to arrange childcare and were let down at the last minute?

Perhaps they were there, and they did their very best to be hired; but what if there wasn't enough work for everyone?

You see where our questions have taken us. It has shifted the grounds of debate from the issue of individual fairness, to broader issues of justice in society.

Perhaps this is a debate that we have with ourselves from time to time. The example of neighbourhood vigilantes shows how easy it is for our inbuilt sense of fairness to get out of hand or the current plight of refugees entering our country.

It is good to think beyond issues of individual rights, to pay attention to broader issues of justice in society. This is not just a simple story. The words "the kingdom of heaven is like..." tells us that this is a story about God, who we suppose is represented by the landowner.

"Are you envious because I am generous?" the landowner asks the workers, and via that analogy God is asking us also. And if we are truly honest might we reply "Yes, we want to get what is rightfully ours."

But I hope then that we would remember how little we deserve God's generosity towards us and be willing to share that generosity with others.

Amen.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

CHURCH: We pray for the success of the Transforming Generosity campaign soon to be launched in our diocese.

WORLD: We pray for the migrants on Lesbos left without shelter following a fire at their camp.

THE SICK: Amanda and Hugh, Barbara Crabb, Doreen Nunney, Sally Rivett, Jacky Williams, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Peter Hutley, Sally Davis, Lorna Thompson, Paul Wiltshire, Sami Bennewith, Dru Ridley.

THE DEPARTED: Des Crabb

DUNSFOLD CHURCH COMMUNITY

The lockdown rules have changed again. We are well aware that some people will need enhanced support over the coming weeks. 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.

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CHANGE OF VENUE FOR OUR APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place as planned on Thursday, October 8th, starting at 7.30pm.

But please note that the latest coronavirus guidelines mean we must stage the meeting in church and NOT at the Winn Hall. We apologise for the switch but it's important that the meeting takes place. The guidelines also insist that no refreshments are served at the meeting.

