

St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold,
Sunday, October 25th, 2020

ePEWS NEWS



BIBLE SUNDAY

8am Holy Communion, Dunsfold

**10am: JOINT PARISH COMMUNION AT
ST PETER'S CHURCH, HASCOMBE**

4pm FUNDAY@4, DUNSFOLD CHURCH

OT: Nehemiah 8: 1-4a and 8-12

NT: Colossians 3: 12-17

GOSPEL: Matthew 24: 30-35

Collect for Bible Sunday: Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given to us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

TWENTY THOUSAND...AND CLIMBING

We passed a significant milestone recently in our parish church's outreach via our website, www.achurchnearyou/dunsfold

Our website has had more than 20,000 hits during the past 12 months. Across the nation the coronavirus pandemic has sparked a greater interest in information about Christianity, church life and events.

So far the spike in interest in our church has not been translated into a dramatic increase in numbers attending our services but the seeds have been sown and the attendance at our Pet Service showed many people in Dunsfold and beyond will join us for special occasions and when the message goes out to them.

At the beginning of this month the PCC agreed to install WiFi at our church which will have multiple benefits in what we have to offer particularly in delivering online live services if there is a future lockdown as we're now seeing in Welsh churches.

DUNSFOLD AND HASCOMBE CHURCHES TOGETHER..FUNDAY@4 IS BACK

We've made a few changes to help keep everyone safe. We are not allowed singing and there won't be tea but we can make lanterns and join in a service to celebrate God's light in the world.

Come to our All Age Family Service this Sunday at 4.00pm at Dunsfold Church.

ROMANIAN CHILDREN'S SHOEBOX APPEAL

We are delighted to be able to help with the Shoebox Appeal this year. You can help by donating a filled shoebox as normal OR give financially towards gifts collected and distributed in Romania.

If you enjoy making up a shoebox, but have difficulty shopping and wrapping your box, Susie Maslin will be happy to do this for you.

Leaflets are available in church or from Sheila Jones (200204) and Susie. For more information please have a look at the parish magazine or call Susie at The Rectory on 200048.

SAFEGUARDING IN YOUR CHURCH

We take safeguarding seriously in Dunsfold Church. If you have any concerns or information you wish to pass on please contact our safeguarding officer, Hazel Wiltshire on 01403 753847 or email her at hazelwiltshire@talktalk.net



**REVEREND IAN MASLIN'S
REFLECTIONS ON
BIBLE SUNDAY**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that until heaven and earth passed away the Law would remain.

In today's passage He says His own words will outlast even heaven and earth. The Law will pass away with the rest of Creation, but Jesus' own words will remain.

Today we celebrate Bible Sunday and I have two questions: How do Jesus' words sit within the rest of the Bible and can we trust that our Bibles really contain His words?

Jesus held the Old Testament in the highest regard, these sacred books were Jesus' scriptures. He revered them, lived by them and taught from them. He regarded them as God's word.

But He also interpreted these scriptures, He fulfilled the Prophets and reshaped the Law. This doesn't mean the Old Testament is redundant, far from it, but for Christians it must be read through the lens of Christ and His teaching.

How about the New Testament?

These books comprise authoritative insights on Jesus and His teaching, written by some of His earliest followers. We believe they're inspired by the Holy Spirit and, along with the rest of the Bible, seal up in a written message all we need to know about God's will for our lives.

Notice then: Jesus is the centre. The Old Testament flows to Him and the New Testament flows from Him. Jesus's words interpret the old and they inspire the new.

But were His words preserved and recorded reliably?

Over the past 50 years, an enormous amount of academic work has shown how accurately people in non-book cultures preserve precious teachings through memory and repetition. But Jesus' disciples would also have made written notes, which were also used in the writing of the Gospels. We know that the Gospels are records of eyewitness accounts of the life of Jesus.

So what happens if you trust these written words of Jesus?

Usually they speak to our hearts and lives; we want to pray; we feel called to live by these words. And we find that, as we pray, the one we're meeting in prayer is the same person we encounter on the Bible's written page. The Holy Spirit has brought Jesus to us by inspiring the original writers and brought us to Jesus as we seek Him in prayer.

Reading the whole Bible trustingly, with Jesus at the centre, praying from it, and applying it, really is

essential to Christian living. It's how we come to know Jesus better, and how we allow Jesus' words to permeate our souls.

As St Paul said, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly".

Jesus' words are remembered because His hearers were struck by a truth they could trust. They wrote down the words of today's Gospel reading.

With majesty and grace the words interpret both scripture and the world.

Read them!

Pay attention to them, let them comfort you when you're disturbed and disturb you when you are comfortable.

But, above all, find the joy in them.

Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

CHURCH: The work of the Mothers' Union in the Guildford Diocese in all it does to strengthen and preserve marriage and Christian family life.

WORLD: We pray for peace and stability in Nigeria where police and security forces are accused of shooting and killing protestors who are demonstrating against extortion, inequality and corruption.

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

And please go to our parish website
www.achurchnearyou/dunsfold for our prayer for the day.

DUNSFOLD CHURCH COMMUNITY

The lockdown rules have changed yet again. We are well aware that some people will need enhanced support over the coming weeks and life may get even more complicated. And there are others who are fearful of venturing too far from home.

If you need help, feel lonely or are 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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