Parish of St. Mary’s Swynnerton & St. James’ Cotes Heath

June 27th 2021 (Fourth Sunday after Trinity)

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Sunday worship will be at 10.00 in St. Mary’s or you can join in from home using the link below.

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82172796502?pwd=dm9PandVL1l6YTgzOFFTQzQ1L0NqQT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82172796502?pwd=dm9PandVL1l6YTgzOFFTQzQ1L0NqQT09)

* The Church Times reports this week that Justin Welby, the [Archbishop of Canterbury](https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/topics/archbishop-of-canterbury), has gone undercover whilst on study leave. He wanted to find out what it’s like to be on the streets selling *The* *Big Issue*, the magazine that supports the homeless. He managed five sales on his 40-minute shift and said:

 “*The* *Big Issue* changes lives and changes society. Each time you stop for a chat with a vendor and buy a copy of the magazine, you are part of that change. I’m hugely grateful to have had the chance to go on a shift with Lee, (who has a pitch outside the Round Church in Cambridge), and get a glimpse of what it’s like selling *The* *Big Issue*.”

“When we look at the life and ministry of Jesus — who famously said he had no place to lay his head — it’s clear that homelessness is an issue that matters profoundly to God. And that tackling poverty together is the essential work of a society where every person is truly valued.”

The Archbishop is photographed with Lee Welham, Big Issue Co-ordinator for Cambridgeshire.

 *Photo: Bill Lawton*



* Many congratulations to David Smith, Chair of St. James’ DCC,

who has won the Staffordshire County Council Volunteer of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award for 44 years of service at Stafford Samaritans!

David now lives in Eccleshall but was formerly a resident of

Cotes Heath and has a long association with the church there.

Well done and best wishes from all of us, together with thanks

for many years of faithful commitment.



**Next Sunday** is the national “Thank You Day” which will provide us all with the opportunity to express our thanks for those who have helped us through the past months. During our Holy Communion service, we shall be pausing to do this. If you would like to say a few words or include a prayer, please speak to Doreen. If you would prefer to write a line or name someone to include in the newsletter, then please email Jackie before Weds 30th June.

We are so sad to announce the death of Paul Bell, Wendy Jackson’s partner, who died at home last Sunday.

We send our condolences and love to Wendy and all of Paul’s family.

Wendy recalls that Paul appreciated the times he shared in worship at St. Mary’s and enjoyed the warmth and friendship of the church family. We shall miss him.

Please pray for Nick and Jonquil Goacher and their son Eddie, and for Jonquil’s mother.

Wendy Jackson is in our thoughts, in this time of bereavement, as is the family of Pat Barley.

Margaret Cherry remains in hospital for assessment and

we continue to remember in prayer Doreen Green and her family, George Edwards, Richard Wenger, Margaret Farr, and Valerie Stokes.

We think of friends more isolated than usual –

Pat Lawrence, Carol and Martyn Turner - and those who have continuing challenges:

Fr. Paul Chavasse, Elaine Dulson, Geoff and Linda Foster, Helen Ladell

and Margaret McKnight.

Please continue to pray for Nicola’s friend Jessica, Jonathan’s girlfriend Maddie

and Ann Ramsey’s daughter-in-law, Carol.

This week can we pray for Sylvia Loughhead from “HeBrews” and for June Steed.



* This week our churchwarden Ray has been pleased to welcome a colleague to help in the duties of caring for the parish and for the church buildings. Terry English has stepped up to the post again and the two wardens have been “sworn in” at a “Visitation” in St. Michael’s church, Stone.

In days gone by, the Visitations were a court where all Clergy and Churchwardens were cited to attend. More recently the format has changed so they take the form of a service, the key part of which is the official admittance of Churchwardens as office holders of the Diocesan Bishop. During the service, the Archdeacon also delivers a sermon called the Archdeacon’s Charge, the aim of which is to offer advice, encouragement and support to parishes in general and Churchwardens in particular.

We have been thankful for Terry’s expertise in our recent worship, especially with the preparation of material for the overhead screen in church, and together with Doreen, managing the “Zoom” links.

St. Luke’s continue Thursday morning worship at 10am and Friday Bible Study at 7.30. The link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3558390555?pwd=ZlNvRVcxbHZ1VWRaUzhGS1Vqcy9QZz09>

# NEWREVS 2021

Sixteen new deacons are to be ordained at Lichfield Cathedral this weekend- eight men and eight women – with backgrounds in mental health nursing, local government, education and agricultural engineering.

Meanwhile, last year’s intake of curates is being “priested” at services across the diocese this month.

Storm damaged windows at the cathedral have been replaced and secured for the future thanks to a £10,000 grant from the Government’s Culture Recover Fund. “Wallwalkers”, a rope access company specialising in historic and listed buildings conservation, scaled the walls of the cathedral to reinstall the glass in the trefoil windows on the south side.



 Thanks to Gwyn Williams for the prayers this week.

MORNING SERVICE FOR TRINITY 4

*Introduction:* **We have come together as the family of God in our Father’s presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his holy word,**

**to bring before him the needs of the world,to ask his forgiveness of our sins,and to seek his grace,**

**that through his Son Jesus Christ,**

**we may give ourselves to his service.**

*Confession*:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Or

I will arise and go to my father and say to him:

**Father we have sinned against you, and are not worthy to be called your children.**

Jesus says, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and

faith**.**

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image, to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Creed*: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. From there he shall come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Bible Reading: Mark 5:21-43

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon*

*Collect*: 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. **Amen.**

*Intercessions*: Almighty God our Heavenly Father,

Guide the nations of the world and their leaders into the way of justice and truth.

Establish among them the peace which is the fruit of righteousness.

Peace in the Middle East. Freedom in the Balkans and no intimidation within China.

Grant us Lord God a vision of our land as your love would make it.

A land where the weak are protected, without poverty or homelesness.

 A land where the benefits of civilisation and wealth creation are shared. Give us the inspiration and courage to challenge and influence our politicians to make it so.

Lord, let us not forget the abused, especially children and older people living amongst us in this country. Lord, guide our leaders to be proactive in eliminating such abuse through better education and alleviating poverty. Encourage the charities and volunteers working diligently to end suffering.

Let us pray for the unemployed and as the country comes to the end of lock-down they may quickly secure meaningful employment.

Lord keep supporting our parish team who have kept us all in touch with you and the church during the interregnum and the Covid crises.

Let us all pray for a positive outcome from the interviews carried out last week to find a new minister.

Pray for all who require support within our parish and especially Nick Goacher having come through an operation to remove a brain tumour.

**Our Father in heaven…**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**and the love of God and the fellowship**

**of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.**

Sermon for 4th Sunday after Trinity. Mark 5:21-43.

In our reading from Mark today, we see Jesus facing a dilemma.

There is an urgent need from a desperate father - "come quickly, my daughter is dying".

And also a woman who has had a problem for 12 years. Perhaps another hour spent waiting wouldn't make much difference in the long run. What would you have done if faced with the same situation? How would you prioritise the needs of these two people?

We live in an age when instant gratification is expected; I think that if we were in Jesus’ position we would have gone straight to the young girl and not ignored the woman but aim to come back to her later.

 Both parties show real faith in Jesus' ability to heal.

Let us look at the situation more closely. Jairus was one of the leaders of the synagogue, which was a role rather similar to a Church warden today. He would be well known locally and as a leader of the synagogue would have been expected to be rather suspicious of Jesus and his methods. But Jairus was desperate and he had faith in Jesus' ability to heal. So he was prepared to humble himself and plead with Jesus to visit his home and heal his daughter.

There was a large crowd around Jesus, waiting to see what he would do next. Even perhaps waiting to be fed. However, healing took precedence over the needs of the crowd.

As he set off with Jairus, Jesus "felt power going out of him". In such a large crowd it was inevitable that people would touch Jesus, but this was more than that. It was a woman who had come to him in faith, hoping that he could cure her. We are told that she had been bleeding for 12 years and that she had spent all her money on doctors, to no avail. No NHS then!

She had faith, even if it was more like superstition. She felt that if she touched the hem of Jesus' garment she would be healed. It was a common belief at that time that clothing carried the power of the person. She didn't want to speak to Jesus, she just wanted to touch his robe. In fact she was in a difficult situation. Because of the bleeding she was an outcast, unclean under Jewish law. Also, because she was a woman she couldn't mix with men outside her family. So her actions were non-confrontational, she knew that she couldn't speak to Jesus and yet she wanted to be healed. She didn't realise that Jesus would feel power leaving him.

Why did Jesus add to her fear and embarrassment by singling her out? He knew that she needed more than physical healing: she needed wholeness and peace too. For 12 years her relationship with others had been coloured by her illness. She needed to learn how to relate to others in a normal way. She also needed to be brought into a right relationship with God. She had come with fear and trepidation and Jesus helped her to find peace and he blessed her.

 We are not told how long this encounter took. We know that Jesus was on the way to Jairus' house and any delay on the journey must have been very exasperating for Jairus. He was desperate for Jesus to get to his daughter before it was too late- and yet it was too late.

Jairus was told that his daughter had died and the mourners were angry with Jesus because he had come too late to save her.

 Jesus knew better. He went into the house with just 3 of his disciples and he told the mourners that she was merely sleeping. They laughed at him. In his encounter with the young girl, we see the tenderness and sovereignty of Jesus. How gently he speaks to her, his words in Arabic are given, "Talitha cum", little girl get up.

Immediately she got up and walked around and was able to eat something. Is it a coincidence that the little girl was 12, the same number of years that the woman had been bleeding? We don't know, but sometimes numbers are used in the Bible to emphasise a point.

This is clearly an eyewitness account, there is so much detail included, the people present and Jesus' words must have been recorded at the time. Bringing someone back from the dead is the highlight of the series of miracles that Mark relates in this part of his gospel. Last week we saw Jesus calming the storm, giving him power over nature;

 now we see that he has power over death itself. Yet Jesus didn't want people to believe in him because of his miracles, because that would be a shallow form of faith, not true faith.

What is true faith? Parables and miracles don't ensure it, education and background don't automatically lead to it. Family ties are not enough to create it. Faith is a self-risking trust in Jesus himself. The disciples were followers of Jesus but they were not completely there yet, hence Peter and the mistakes he made. It wasn't until Pentecost that their faith was completed by the coming of the Holy Spirit. The criteria for being part of God's kingdom is a serious, personal, continuing commitment to Jesus.

The Lord's pattern is to bring the power of love into all that is wrong in the world today, setting people free from their fears and doubts. In a world where many have or are suffering from illness, isolation and bereavement we can help by continuing to spread the love of Jesus in our words, our actions and our prayers. We don't have to be on street corners shouting " the end is nigh" but working gently as Jesus did.

We don't need to try and impress the world with our actions, but we need to listen, discern need and do the best we can to help and to lead people to a better understanding of Jesus and all that he has to offer us.

 Amen.

June Steed.



Thanks to all involved in our services:

David Harman for leading worship this Sunday and June Steed for preparing the sermon.