



Connection

Sunday 13th June 2021
Second Sunday after Trinity



Collect

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son 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

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, (11-13), 14-17

Brothers and sisters, we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Mark 4: 26-34

Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables. Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.' Jesus also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Post Communion Prayer

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reflection



This week's reflection is by Adam Legge, Calling Young Disciples Mission Enabler. You can listen to the podcast at:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-faith/prayer-worship/sermon-podcasts>

In our Old Testament and New Testament readings there is the underlying theme of waiting.

In the Old Testament, Samuel waits to be prompted by the Lord to anoint the right future King of Israel...David

In the New Testament, Jesus tells us that the kingdom grows like a mustard tree, slowly but strongly.

Often we can be in a hurry, meaning that waiting is a nuisance.

We are wired to want quick results, as technology progressing we lose that ability to wait, music can be downloaded in seconds, myself as a teenager would wait over an hour to download a music track. My parents as teenagers used to wait fingers poised over the 'record' button to record music from the radio to cassette. My grandparents as teenagers use to wait for the band to learn the latest song to play down the local social club.

Maybe this is partly to blame for the reason we want quick results without putting in the time to wait and be patient and we can be in such a hurry we forget to prepare properly.

Before I was a Mission Enabler at the Diocese of Worcester, I trained people to be lifeguards, at the start of each training session I would remind people that the training wasn't just creating head knowledge but to cultivate a set of instinctive skills. When someone is drowning you don't want a lifeguard to be thinking about what they should do, you want them to react, respond and save. A lot of training, preparation, patience goes into the 20 seconds of instinctive action.

A key tool that all of the Mission Enabler team use to establish a church's future vision or goals. From these goals of visions we can work backwards with manageable and achievable steps, it takes strategy, time and patience.

But to have a mustard tree that the birds of air can rest in, first must come the planting of seeds.

For the new king of Israel to replace Saul, first, David must be anointed.

To further the kingdom, we must prepare ourselves, plant seeds and invite the Holy Spirit to anoint the service we perform. We need His patience in the process of growth but also discernment of when to act.

Prayer:

Lord, help us to be patient in the waiting, but may your holy spirit prompt us into action. Amen

Requests for Prayers



We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers: Roy and Margaret Putnam, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam, Wendy Dufty, Yvonne Seward, Andy Caddell, Pat Farey, Gayle Richards, Laurence Alexander and Jill Chapman.

We continue to pray for: Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt.

We pray for those who are in residential care: Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy and David Wilkinson.

We pray for those who have died everywhere: For Tim Druce and Jonathan Saunders and their families. And also for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.



Church Services

The church services this week will be at:

10.30am St Barbara's, Ashton under Hill - Bishop Martin Gorick

10.30am St Giles', Bredon - Reverend Allison Davies

June Services 2021

Date	Church	Time	Minister
20 th June	St Peter's Chapelry, Besford	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies
	St Michael's, Great Comberton	10.30am	Archdeacon Robert Jones
27 th June	Chapel of Ease, Bredon's Norton	9.00am	Reverend Catherine Lack
	St Margaret's, Alstone	10.30am	Reverend Allison Davies



Kingdom People

love • compassion • justice • freedom

Pershore & Evesham Deanery

Leading Worship in Church

Lay ministry in the Pershore and Evesham Deanery is thriving in many different ways. Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) further enables and affirms this. ALM Worship Leaders are one form of authorised lay ministry.

Do you know someone in your parish or benefice who you think might be called to serve as an ALM Worship Leader? Might it be you who God is asking to take this step?

With encouragement from the Diocese, the Pershore and Evesham Deanery is intending to offer the diocesan ALM Worship Leaders training course in our local area. We want to develop and encourage those who may be called to serve their communities and churches by this ministry.

The training consists of a one-year course. An outline of the modules and an introductory video to the diocesan 2020 course can be found here:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-church-role/alm/>

The intention of running the same course locally within our Deanery is to facilitate local support between those training, both through and beyond the duration of the course, and it is hoped, current ALM Worship Leaders will share in ongoing supportive relationships.

Once we know how many are interested, we will plan where the training will be provided, the dates, and for the core days in the programme whether it is preferable to team up with another deanery offering a similar course, to broaden the contexts of ministry.

Please consider if God is calling you to lead worship. Please think if you know someone in your benefice who might be called to serve in this way. Then, speak with your Vicar. Your vicar will be pleased to help you discern a calling, and they will be able to support your next step. For the first course, please have this conversation **before 28th June 2021**.

Ordained ministry, licensed lay ministry, and authorised lay ministry all work together to support the shared witness and service of all who are called into Christ's fellowship.

Sarah

Revd Sarah Dangerfield
Area Dean of Pershore and Evesham



News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at

www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group

