



# St Andrew's Stewton Church Community

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

## WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S STEWTON CHURCH COMMUNITY POST 71

'What can I do with my life?' 'What is my life for?' 'What have I done with my life?' 'Where is my life going?' These, and many similar questions every human being asks themselves at some point. In the readings for today we learn that all human lives are precious. Every life has a purpose. It is a gift from God, a gift to be lived to the full, to glorify God in the service of God's kingdom, here and now and for eternity. Coming together in our continued separateness to worship today, we bring all that we are and are not, and all that our lives hold and don't hold, to our living God. Led by God's peace and seeking God's healing, we share God's love in worship.

Often, not through our own fault, sin or omission, our lives are not always easy, nor as we would like, nor as God intended. We come to renew our vision of new life in Jesus, as we need to do continually, we confess our failings and disappointments.

God, reveal your life with us: show us your presence.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, lead us in life: give us courage, strength and inspiration.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, living healer: bring us new life.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## The readings set for today from scripture:

**Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15. 2:23.24**

God creates all things to have life, and to live that life well and resisting the temptations that limit and threaten to harm that life.

**2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

St Paul offers guidance on responding to the many kinds of gifts that come from living life well.

**Mark 5:21-43**

Through the miracles Jesus works in today's Gospel, we are reminded once more of the healing, comfort, and new life that are ours, if we but trust in the gift of faith.

## Today's reflection:

Human nature is a strange and complex phenomenon--a mixture of feelings and emotions, thoughts and ideas. And in one sense it forms our personalities, while at the same time it is influenced by it.

And Jesus was only too aware of that too. But then, more than just having an awareness of the sheer perversity of our human nature, the way in which it is so frequently displayed, obviously saddened him, because he was able to see all too clearly how these contrasting positive and negative emotions were acted out, pulling people first one way and then another. And then whatever the outcome was, well they were able to find fault with it.

Jesus gave the example of his cousin, John the Baptist whose birthday we celebrated last Thursday and who lived a very frugal life. 'Look at him' people said, 'he must be mad to live like that, cut off from society in the desert'. But then when Jesus entered into people's lives, sharing in their joys and sorrows-eating with tax-collectors and the like, well then, the people accused him of being a party goer, a friend of sinners and outcasts of society. Someone not really fit to mix with 'ordinary' people. Clearly it was a no-win situation.

There is an old saying about pleasing all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time but it reminds us of the impossibility of pleasing all the people all of the time. But Jesus was only too aware of people's weariness and so invited them to come to him and be given rest. Not that life then or our life in the 21st century is easy or even made easier at times just because we would claim to be Christ's followers. Over the past 18 months the whole world has been turned upside down. Not just our Community of St. Andrews or the Team Parish of Louth and not even our Diocese. We have been struggling with a global pandemic the like of which none of us have faced before in our lifetime. And no matter how badly we feel we have been impacted as individuals locally, in reality in our country we have actually been incredibly lucky with the rapid roll out of the vaccine, which is still continuing down the age range. But the truth is that we will not get control over this terrible infection until everyone has been vaccinated, not just in our country but around the world and this will be a tremendous undertaking, but with will and commitment it can be done.

But to return to St. Andrews, people keep asking where we have got to in terms of reopening. The honest truth is that we still do not know. We have signed up for the Churches Festival for later in the year. We were involved with it two years ago and then it was cancelled last year. At the moment we are unsure if it will still go ahead. I have just heard that the Wragby Show in September has been cancelled because of the uncertainty with social distancing there which does not auger well for us at the moment. But the positives are that by and large our community has escaped Covid and that has been our main aim throughout. St. Andrew's church is over 1000 years old. Think about all the plagues and pandemics it has seen without the benefits of modern medicine. While I am not the most patient person in the world, I can see the sense of just waiting a little longer so we can all come back together in a safe and secure way.

Having said all of that, Church life still has to go on and we are required to hold our Annual Meeting to appoint officers and to receive reports in some form. ZOOM is out for most of us because of the technical difficulty with our Internet speed. An outdoor gathering would allow us nowhere to go if the weather was inclement. It therefore looks likely that an indoor meeting will have to be held in a larger venue such as St. James' Church. We are currently awaiting a decision on this from our new Interim Rector, Rev. Cameron Watt, and we will let you all know just as soon as we hear from him with a decision.

But until then, God bless you all.

*Robert*



In the knowledge of God's Spirit around and with us, we pray for ourselves, each other, our local communities and our world, for God's transforming power and vision.

We pray for our world's leaders, that they might bring hope through their position, and use their power for the weakest and most marginalised in our neighbourhoods and world and ensure that the voices of those who struggle for survival may finally be heard. We remember those parts of the world hardest hit by Covid and least able to afford or access vaccines.

We pray for all the bishops, priests, deacons and lay leaders of our churches, that they know healing and courage to be, in their turn, healers and encouragers of those in their care. We pray that our church communities may be known as places of healing and discipleship, support and solace and where others might come to find new life and love. May the Church never tire of standing with those who suffer pain and have lost hope. We remember the parishes of this deanery and diocese reflecting on their part in the Resourcing Sustainable Church process. Our Anglican Cycle of Prayer we focus this weekend on our brothers and sisters of the United Church of Pakistan.

We lift in prayer all people who are weak and who seek our prayers whatever their need especially : *Joyce Terrett, David Barker, Ed Cox, Paul Clifford, Phyllis Clifford, Denise and Caroline, Mary, Lisa, Connie Robinson and June Blackburn*, and all who grieve or are near death.

And we pray for ourselves – whether we are hurting or happy today, may we follow more closely in the path of Jesus and grow more aware of the Spirit's love for those on the edges of our lives and our neighbourhoods, for God's glory.

May the healing love of God, the life of Christ, and the hope of the Spirit bring us to a new vision of life for this world. Amen.

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.

Gracious Father,  
by the obedience of Jesus  
you brought salvation to our  
wayward world:  
draw us into harmony with your will,  
that we may find all things restored  
in him,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.





Lord Jesus, you are the Bread of Life,  
may we always hunger for your word,  
for your presence in our lives,  
for the peace you alone can give,  
and for the courage and confidence you inspire  
without which in these times  
we cannot live as your disciples in the world.  
May we never forget you,  
never walk away from you,  
but always trust in you and remain close by you,  
and may we be united with you for ever. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for  
ever. Amen.

## Readings for next Sunday

July 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after TRINITY

Ezekiel 2:1-5

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13





A very changeable week on the land. A lot of rain, which was welcome in some ways, but as usual it didn't know when to stop. We are lucky not to have sown any winter barley this year, but I noticed on a drive by, that in some fields the rain has flattened it. It is amusing really that when we go out, all we ever do is look at other people's crop and see how they are getting on! The linseed is flowering slowly, but we have not had the full sun days to really get it out yet, hopefully the field we have that is full of black grass we will get sprayed later today so fingers crossed. Already busy ordering for next year's crops, but found out Nitrogen has gone up by 40% so that upset all the budgets!



Have a lovely week all of you and God Bless. Cloudy skies over the wheat this morning.

*Jane x*



**CONGRATULATIONS AND EVERY BLESSING TO JANE AND MALC AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEKEND.**



**From Roy and Celia Taylor...**

Celia and I are very fortunate to have a second home/retreat in a Log Cabin here in Kenwick Woods, where we are able to appreciate the trees, wild flowers, birds, deer and even the squirrels.

In May 2018 I was diagnosed with Advanced Prostate Cancer and opted for extensive treatment at Lincoln Hospital. At the same time as I was having my treatment Celia had an accident and dislocated her right hip and was hospitalised.



We were introduced to the lovely St. Andrews Church at Stewton by a friend and were warmly welcomed by Robert, Alan, Dorothy and Jane, and all the members of the Congregation. A few days after my diagnosis we were at the Church Service and Alan in his sermon used the phrase 'Do not be afraid of the unknown.' Those words were very significant to me at that time and gave me confidence to face the future weeks of treatment which are so feared by many of us. However, three years have passed and at the moment I am clear of the dreaded disease and Celia is fully active on her repaired hip.

Our home is now for the present time here in Louth and having endured all the problems associated with Covid we look forward to returning to a more normal life, and the pleasures of our church of St, Andrew opening its doors for its special regular Sunday Services and Tuesday Coffee Mornings.

We say a big thank you to you all for welcoming us to your Congregation.

Our Best Wishes.

*Roy and Celia*

The picture of the foxglove (*above*) is a great example of the quality of plants sold from Dorothy's wheelbarrow at 'The House On The Corner' in Stewton we heard about last week.

If you have come to appreciate and enjoy 'Down Your Way' and feel you too would like to contribute for one week, then please let me know at [windhover22@live.co.uk](mailto:windhover22@live.co.uk). I would love to hear from you.

*Alan*

# THINGS WE SAY TODAY, WHICH WE OWE TO SHAKESPEARE:

"KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?"  
"IN A PICKLE" "SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE" "HEART OF GOLD"  
"FAINT HEARTED" "SO-SO" "GOOD RIDDANCE"  
"LIE LOW" "FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE" "BAITED BREATH" "SEND HIM PACKING"  
"COME WHAT MAY"  
"WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE"  
"NOT SLEPT ONE WINK" "FULL CIRCLE" "OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH"  
"WHAT'S DONE IS DONE" "NAKED TRUTH" "TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING"  
"LAUGHING STOCK" "BREADED HIS LAST" "BREAK THE ICE" "WILD GOOSE CHASE"  
"HEART OF HEARTS" "VANISH INTO THIN AIR" "LOVE IS BLIND"  
"SEEN BETTER DAYS" "MAKES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END"  
"DEAD AS A DOORNAIL" "FOR GOODNESS' SAKE"  
"GREEN EYED MONSTER" "FAIR / FOUL PLAY / PLAY" "OFF WITH HIS HEAD"  
"THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER" "BRAVE NEW WORLD"  
"BE ALL / END ALL" "A SORRY SIGHT"

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Before religion made it  
all about what we believe,  
Jesus was all about how we love.

SUSAN COTTRELL, FREEDHEARTS.ORG

