



Parish of St. Mary's Swynnerton & St. James' Cotes Heath
July 4th 2021 (Fifth 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>



This weekend the NHS will begin celebrations to mark its 73rd Anniversary. On Saturday there'll be a service in east London to remember colleagues who have died during the pandemic, and landmark buildings across the country will be lit up. On Monday St. Paul's cathedral is the venue for commemoration and thanksgiving. The Bishop of Exeter writes: "During the current pandemic, there has been immense national and local support for the NHS and its frontline

workers. Thanksgiving binds communities together, turning 'I' into 'we'.

The contribution of carers and key workers who have given of themselves sacrificially needs to be honoured. Sharing stories of people and events during the crisis is likely to form the kernel of any community celebration. Unsung heroes need to be applauded."



In this same spirit, the national Thank you Day gives us a chance to show our appreciation to those in our local communities who have kept us going through this current crisis. This Sunday there will be an opportunity to do this during our worship, and several church members share their thoughts in this week's newsletter.

- Don't forget to join in a picnic after the 10am service at St. Mary's this weekend. Bring along some sandwiches and a drink (and a comfy chair if you would like) and join a socially distanced celebration on national "Thankyou Day".



The Prince of Wales has been given an important award for his inter-faith work.

The Right Reverend Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield, who is chair of the Council of Christians and Jews, presented him with the "Bridge Award", which recognises an individual who has made an exceptional and leading contribution to building bridges between people in a Christian-Jewish or wider setting.

The Prince said, "Trying to build bridges between faith communities and to deepen mutual understanding, has been a major part of my life's work.

So, I cannot tell you how profoundly grateful I am for such a very special accolade,"

In a 2015 interview, he said: "I mind about the inclusion of other people's faiths and their freedom to worship in this country, and it's always seemed to me that while at the same time being Defender of the Faith you can also be protector of faiths."

The prince is pictured at the event with Bishop Michael and Chief Rabbi Mirvis.



Lynne Williams sends updates about Yemen where a huge humanitarian disaster is unfolding. Tearfund is working to bring hope:

“Light and heat. Two things often taken for granted, but for many people in Yemen, the six-year conflict has devastated these essentials. So, what is the solution – how can people light and heat their homes and cook meals for their families?”

Many Yemenis are wanting to turn to solar energy to fix this problem. It is cheap to run, sustainable and, once installed, is not affected by supply chain delays. But there is limited training to repair solar power systems. This is why Tearfund’s local partner is running solar training courses across the country. Students receive ten days of hands-on training in design, installation and maintenance. It is training up a generation of people forgotten by the conflict, giving them the skills to earn an income and run their family home. ‘Thanks so much for bringing light to our darkness,’ shares Rana, who took part in the course. Rana and her family often spent several nights in darkness. But now this has changed. And, since the course, she has also designed a solar cooker for her home, which uses direct sunlight to cook.”

Please continue to keep the people of Yemen in your prayers.

This week we heard of the death of Margaret Cherry, a long-standing resident of Cotes Heath and for many years an active member of the church and community. Please remember her friends and family in your prayers.

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

We continue to remember in prayer Doreen Green, George Edwards, Richard Wenger, Margaret Farr, Valerie Stokes, Sylvia Loughhead, Nick and Jonquil Goacher, and all those who care for them.

We think of friends we are not able to see so often -

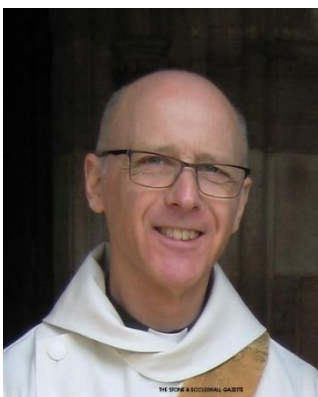
Pat Lawrence, Carol and Martyn Turner - and those who have continuing challenges:

Fr. Paul Chavasse, Elaine Dulson, Geoff and Linda Foster, Helen Ladell, Margaret McKnight and June Steed.



Please continue to pray for Nicola’s friend Jessica, Jonathan’s girlfriend Maddie and Ann Ramsey’s daughter-in-law, Carol.

And this week we have been specially asked to pray for Geoff Thompstone.



Thanks to the Revd. James Graham for leading our worship this Sunday.

Thanks also to Alex Baines for writing our prayers.



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=ZlNvRVcxZHZ1VWRaUzhGS1Vqcy9QZz09>



I have so many people to thank, hopefully most I have thanked in one way or another throughout the year so I am going to select three.

Firstly, thank you to the congregation for staying loyal to us throughout this interregnum. Reportedly, it is not unusual for a number of regular worshippers to drift away to other churches whilst they are without a clergy, so thank you to everybody for being loyal and continuing to support your church,

Secondly, like so many others, I have the NHS to thank for their prompt and skilful actions following my slight heart hiccup in January.

And thirdly, and most importantly, I give my thanks to Julie for all the support, understanding and assistance she gives me week after week, after week. Without her help everything would be in complete chaos as she keeps me on the right track most of the time.... Ray.

I would personally like to thank all of our ministry team for their sterling work in keeping our church functioning ever since Stephen left and all through the pandemic. Big thank you to Doreen and Alex for setting up the zoom meetings for all of us to enjoy and participate in when we couldn't physically go to church. Special thanks for the newsletter every week and for Nicky and June in bringing us the sermons, and last but not least to you Ray as church warden for stepping up above and beyond your duties. God bless all the other people who have contributed to the bible readings and prayers each week. Denise.

I owe lots of thanks to so many people I should really write a book!

NESTA AND GWYN for putting me up at their house in Swynnerton for nearly a week. NESTA for helping me pack up and move out of my Burgage flat in Eccleshall to a brand-new flat in Stone

MR RIGBY (Stafford & Rural Homes) who let me in and out for 6 weeks
JACKIE was on hand whenever I had a problem changing a bill from The Burgage to my new flat in Stone ... but it took weeks. She also did the Church monthly hymn sheets.

CHRIS measured the furniture that I had chosen to take with me, and it all fitted like a glove and looked really good in its new setting.
JAMES from Ranton was on call for anything, especially the blinds. Every time I needed help, he rushed here to do the necessary.
ALISON AND DAVID returned from France and David immediately trudged up and down the horrible scaffolding steps at The Burgage to help with clearing.....

Then the first Lockdown came and visitors had to leave. I was much on my own – until to my surprise



GEOFF AND LINDA FOSTER called in nearly every week with a food treat for all the time I was in Stone (nearly a year) with a message from Smudge!

I did enjoy opening the door on those special occasions.

LOTS MORE THANKS TO EVERYONE AND APOLOGIES TO THOSE I HAVE MISSED
Love to you all, Heather.



Thank you Jonathan van Tam for your reassuring manner and clear explanations

Thank you Birchill and Watsons Pharmacy for keeping going ...

Thank you to the University of Oxford and Astra Zeneca and to all who made the vaccines possible.

There are lots of people I could thank but the person who has gone over and above looking after me is Thomas, my 20-year-old grandson. From the very start of the pandemic, he has done so much for me. We've sat outside even in the rain with lunch he has brought, I've sat in the car and he's taken me to Costa for a coffee and always turned up with a treat. At Christmas when I couldn't go to my daughters, Tom was there straight away to give me a hug and wipe the tears away. We have laughed all the time and had adventures together which we wouldn't have done if we hadn't had a pandemic. Thankyou Tom for our laughs, hugs, understanding my lows and my highs. I couldn't have got through this without you by my side. Love, your crazy lady X (Ann Ramsey)

Thank you to the staff who worked tirelessly in intensive care units ...

Thank you to the supermarkets for stepping up their delivery service ...

Thank you for the sacrifices that hospital staff made...

Thank you Swynnerton Stores and Post Office for helping the whole village

Thank you to all our brilliant research scientists....

Thank you to the journalists who brought us the news...

HOLY COMMUNION ORDER 1

Prayer of Preparation: **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

As we gather at the Lord's table, we must recall the promises and warnings given to us in the Scriptures and so examine ourselves and repent of our sins. We should give thanks to God for his redemption of the world through his Son Jesus Christ and, as we remember Christ's death for us and receive the pledge of his love, resolve to serve him in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us and write all these your laws in our hearts.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Confession: Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *you*, pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins, confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Bible Readings

Mark 6:1-13, 2 Cor 12:2-10

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Creed: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers including the Collect for 5th Sunday after Trinity:

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we
offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Dear Lord,
We come to you today a thankful people, thankful for
the new day and that we can rejoice and be glad in it,
thankful that we have been given the opportunity to
live this new day in the knowledge of your love and
faithfulness.

We pray for all who serve in your kingdom, locally, for
diocesan advisors and workers, for clergy and lay
ministers and for those who are seeking to fulfil their
calling especially for Nesta and Doreen as they begin
their journey of training. We give thanks for the newly
ordained and pray for the reader trainees as they
approach their licensing.

We pray for our new minister and his family, may you
sustain him as he prepares for his ministry in our
benefice, may you help us to adjust to the change in
whatever way you know we each personally need.
May you be at the centre of our thoughts and our
words as we enter this time which we approach with
excitement and apprehension in equal measure.

We lift to you all who are unwell, whether that be
physically, emotionally or mentally. We come to you
with the confidence of your healing power like Jairus
did; help us to hold on to that faith, through the
troubled times of life. Help us to keep our eyes fixed
on you, like Peter did as he walked on the water, like
the woman did when she touched your cloak. You are
the one that holds our hopes and our fears in the
same hand.

We pray for the government as we move forward to
the next stage of decision making and actions, may
you guide them in the process ensuring the safety of
all your people. We lift the Queen to you, praying your
blessings on her and asking for you to keep her safe
and well.

We thank you that restrictions are allowing people to
celebrate together both in Wimbledon and the
football grounds as some eagerly follow the world cup

journey, we pray protection and safety for all your
people as many gather together for these events.

We give thanks for answered prayer and we lift to you
our personal requests for those dear to us on the
prayer list, we pray with boldness to your throne of
grace in expectance that if our requests be in line with
your will you will answer. Help us to deal with the
prayers that seem to be ignored, the prayers that we
are desperate to receive answers for, grant us
patience in the wait and in that wait grow us closer to
you as we make the request again and again.

We as the lost come to you, knowing we are found.
We as the bereaved come to you, knowing we are
comforted,
We as the joyful ones come to you, knowing we are
blessed,
We as the troubled come to you, knowing that you
know,
We as the shackled come to you knowing we are free,
We as your people come to you knowing we are
loved.

Thank you for your sacrifice on the cross, A man who
died for all, but a man who would have died for just
one, the shepherd who would leave the 99 sheep to
find the lost sheep, the one who chose the least likely,
the one who continually showed us what equality
was. Help us to live like you did. Praise you Jesus.
Amen.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our
Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the
crumbs under your table.**

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The peace: The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Prayer of thanksgiving: The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise. Almighty God and Father, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song.:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.
This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayer after Communion:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

