

St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold,  
Sunday, Aug 1st, 2021

# ePEWS NEWS

## 9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



Is that the cathedral library? Sorry for the late return of your book..it's only 200 years overdue!

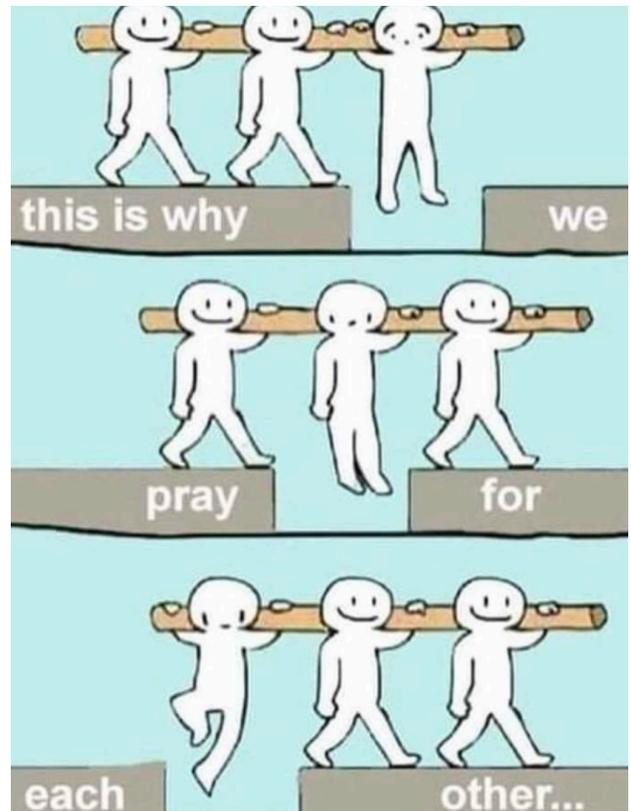
SOME of us panic when our library book is a few days overdue, but a volume recently returned to Sheffield Cathedral is more than two centuries past its return date.

"I did joke with the owner that we wouldn't be demanding any charges," the Vice-Dean, Canon Keith Farrow (see photo), told the Church Times, "but then someone said we could have got a new roof."

The cathedral library closed about 200 years ago; so Canon Farrow was surprised to receive an email from the goddaughter of a recently deceased woman in south Wales who had left instructions in her will for the book to be returned.

The book, *The Faith and Practice of a Church of England Man*, a treatise for the laity, was first published in 1688. The Sheffield copy is a seventh edition dating from 1704. Inside is the handwritten inscription: "This Book belongs to ye Lending Library in Sheffield Church 1709."

### THE POWER OF PRAYER CAN STOP US FROM FALLING THROUGH THE GAPS



With thanks to Judith Lahey-Bean for supplying the cartoon.

10am JOINT PARISH HOLY COMMUNION at  
St. Peter's Church, Hascombe

Celebrant: Revd Rutton Viccajee

[Readings and collect for Trinity 9:](#)

OT: 2 Samuel 11: 26-12, 13a

NT: Ephesians 4: 1-16

GOSPEL: John 6: 24-35

Collect for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity: Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church, open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



## REVEREND RUTTON: TIME FLIES BUT DON'T SETTLE FOR QUICK FIXES, PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE LORD

**Hello everyone. Sunday is August 1st – my goodness, time has flown by fast, and I have been with you over a month now.**

I have to say, it's been a real joy. Everyone has been very helpful and welcoming during this time of 'standing in'. Thank you! And thanks for all you do – for the church, for others – and of course therefore, for Jesus Christ - at this strange and disorientating time.

Oh dear! I do try ever so hard to pick Lectionary passages that will bring a little reassurance at least, if not comfort and joy, in these highly uncertain and testing times. But, alas, in this week's passages, the non-bed of roses continues not only for us, but also for Jesus and his small band, as they travel through the hot, dusty hills and plains, meeting with considerably mixed fortunes and reactions to the mission, the miracles and the teaching of Christ.

This week, Jesus teaches us not to go for short-term pleasures, but seek the Bread of Life, Jesus Himself, for in relationship and friendship with Him only, can we find real contentment and heart's desire.

But alas! Easier said – or heard – than done:  
***"I see the sights that dazzle –  
• The tempting sounds I hear..."***

The call and the temptations of this secular and troubled world are never far from us. Indeed, the higher we climb – in terms of social or material success for example – I think we all know deep down – the harder we will probably fall. Because no matter how much we have, both in this world, and in Christ, alas, our natures sometimes want more – more of the wrong things. And that always costs us, and others – and God – a very great deal.

It never ends well. As in the apocryphal frog and scorpion story – self-destruction seems woven into our very natures, ever since the Fall. What to do?

Well, confession is good for the soul and is, I think, the simple answer. It is the very mechanism whereby God heals us. He first allows us a time of self-awareness and sorrow. This leaves a vacuum within us which – by the wonderful grace of God – is immediately filled by His compassion and grace. God almost immediately forgives our sins – if and when we 'truly repent'. And that's a remarkable thing.

But alas – can we quite so easily forgive ourselves? If we have any degree of self-awareness, and decency, then that may be a more difficult and ongoing task. Because actions have consequences, which need to be played out.

King David and Bathsheba. She who is studiously not to be named in Matthew's Gospel – her name is unspeakable to some Jews – even though she was, in fact, the innocent party to this appalling story of naked lust, desire, lies, manipulation, murder, deception and moral destruction.

'Against you and against you only have I sinned' says David in the famous psalm 51. This is so very patently untrue! When the blood of a pure and innocent man, and the ruined life of a faithful wife – scream out from the page for greater justice than that.

What are we to do, then, with King David? He who could have had – and did have – the pick of women, sin-free, guilt-free, if only he had asked God? How the mighty are fallen.

Is there a way back? Absolutely yes. God can fix this. But it will be a hard road. There is no 'free' grace here. Lust and murder and lies and manipulation will have their consequences – for David, and for many others. But there will also be redemption and resolution. The repentance of 2 Samuel chapter 12 is at least a good start.

And so, we say our confession every week – and every day in many cases - and seek our own personal way back to God, who forgives all who truly repent. How will things play out from there? Come along on Sunday, so we can explore this powerful passage further!

May God forgive us all for our bad choices, and grant us His grace and His peace.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**CHURCH:**The work of the Bible Reading Fellowship.

**WORLD:** Our diocesan overseas links in Nigeria, Denmark and Pakistan.

**THE SICK:** Reverend Ian and Susie Maslin, Amanda and Hugh, Jamie and Claire, Sandra Baxter-Brown, Michael Burt, Mark Knott, Sally Rivett, Jacky Williams, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Lizzy Laverty, Julian Richardson.

## IN REVEREND IAN'S ABSENCE...

Reverend Ian Maslin is on sick leave. We welcome Revd Rutton Viccajee to lead our worship at Dunsfold and Hascombe. Rutton can be contacted on 07770750248 or via email at [rutton@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:rutton@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

For matters concerning the running of our parish, please contact our churchwardens: Sheila Jones 01483 200204 or [sheilajones4@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilajones4@btinternet.com) and Jan Richardson on 01483-200519 or [janmrichardson@gmail.com](mailto:janmrichardson@gmail.com)

## IT'S COMING HOME...MESSY CHURCH

Don't forget to enrol to be part of a wonderful Messy Church day on August 25th, between 3 and 5pm at Hascombe Village Hall.



Please call or email to cook your place(s).

Sandy 208329 [hascombechurchsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hascombechurchsecretary@gmail.com) or Sheila 200204 [sheilajones4@btinternet.com](mailto:sheilajones4@btinternet.com)

## THE LAST WORD...

**MOTHER TERESA (1910–97): Roman Catholic nun and missionary.**



**"Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day. He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to adoration."**

