



Parish of St. Mary's Swynnerton & St. James' Cotes Heath
September 26th 2021 (Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity)



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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82172796502?pwd=dm9PandVL1l6YTgzOFFTQzQ1L0NqQT09>

Service at 10am in St. Mary's or join in by Zoom.



Harvest Service, St James' Church, 3rd October 2021 at 10:00am

The village church in Cotes Heath was reclassified as a 'Festival' church a few years ago, meaning that there is no longer a regular Sunday Service held each week, but that festival services happen at the appropriate points in the calendar.

This time of year is busy in our rural communities, as crops are being gathered in and the ground is prepared to receive the seed in anticipation of next year's harvest.

We would like to encourage you and your families to come along to our Harvest Service, to give thanks for all the good things we enjoy throughout the year and if possible, to donate items to the local charity 'House of Bread'. It's an

organisation that supports vulnerable and homeless people in Stafford and the surrounding area. Throughout the week they hold activities and drop-in sessions providing food, friendship, support and advice.

Their target is to collect 10,000 toiletry items for those struggling to cope with the challenges life throws up each day. Typical items include: toothbrushes and toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo and conditioner, bubble bath, shaving items, etc. If you can't come to our service, a collection point for gifts is available within St. James' church porch.



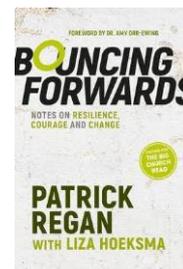
- We're approaching the festival of Michael and All Angels on 29th September. Michael the Archangel is mentioned three times in the book of Daniel and again in the New Testament, in the book of Revelation. He is described as leading God's armies against the force of Satan and his role in the church has become one of protector.
- D.H. Lawrence wrote about flowers which bloomed "in soft September at slow sad Michaelmas", and this year, it's the month of the Chelsea flower show. The exhibits pick up on the mood of the nation: there's an NHS Tribute Garden celebrating the relentless work of staff during the pandemic. A stark timber canopy represents the descent into fear at the outset of the pandemic, there's water representing the collective efforts of those working together in the health service and universities, and areas for reflection and contemplation, bringing optimism and hope. The Royal Horticultural Society has a COP 26 Garden demonstrating how plants and green spaces protect our planet and make a more resilient future for us and also the Queen's Green Canopy Garden which is full of trees, encouraging people to "plant a tree for the jubilee".

Sarah Eberle has interpreted Psalm 23 in the Bible Society Garden which is "a place to breathe, re-engage with nature and feel mentally, physically and spiritually restored." You can see pictures of the gardens at www.rhs.org.uk or watch the coverage on BBC iPlayer.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Parish Bible Study on Monday evenings begins **October 4th**. Join in on “Zoom” at 7pm using the link above. There will be 10 sessions, each one looking at a section of the latest Big Church Read, “Bouncing Forwards” by Patrick Regan. Contact Doreen or Nicky (details above) if you would like to know more or order a copy of the book.



Harvest celebrations and thanksgiving at St. Mary's Swynnerton take place on Sunday 10th October at 10am. Gifts for the Food Bank will be gratefully received. Lynne Williams has provided a list of current shortages:

Tinned ham, pork, corned beef, tinned fruit, long life milk, long life juice, mashed potatoes, sugar, sponge puddings, chocolates and sweets, biscuits, jam, shampoo, shower gel, deodorants - male and female - shaving gel and foam, washing powder / tablets, washing up liquid.

- Next Holy Communion services at St. Mary's – **17th October and 24th October**, 10 am.

Anna's prayers last Sunday reminded us of the challenges faced by youngsters as they start a new term: *“Pray for all those that have started at new schools, that by now they are making friends and are feeling more confident in finding their way around. We ask that those still feeling on the outside will soon settle in. For all those back in education we ask that after a year marked by a lot of isolation those in all years will have a chance to make deeper friendships and replace the feeling of having lost out with one of enjoyment of the present. Seeing the news and hearing many stories of young people struggling with anxiety and uncertainty, we pray for minds and hearts to be opened to you, to support whatever other help is offered so that they can build on a base of knowing they are loved and have a purpose.”*

Collect for 17th Sunday after Trinity
Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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.
Readings: Mark 9:38-50, James 5:13-20

“TURN ALL YOUR TROUBLES OVER TO HIM, BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU AND IS WATCHING OVER YOU”.
1 Peter 5:7

This week we heard the very sad news that Kathryn Coull, who was married in St. Mary's last November, has died. Our love and prayers go out to her husband James, her parents and to all of their family.

We continue to pray for George Edwards in hospital and his family who are concerned for him. Also Rev. Roger Vaughan, Jean and Ken Frearson and Geoff and Linda, Yvonne Pynenburg, HeBrews friends, Fr. Paul Chavasse, Elaine Dulson, Helen Ladell,

Margaret McKnight, June Steed, Richard Wenger, Nick Goacher, Pat Lawrence, Carol and Martyn Turner, Tom and Barbara Ewart, Margaret and David Farr, Heather Eyre, Dot Sergeant and Doreen Green, Jonathan's girlfriend Maddie and Ann Ramsey's daughter-in-law, Carol.