



Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone is keeping well on this beautiful frosty morning. The days are gradually getting a little longer and we are beginning to see the bulbs emerge. The family are now dispersed. Having completed their hotel quarantine, the family in Japan have now moved into home based quarantine. They are so enjoying hot meals again. Having totally over indulged at Christmas and New Year we are stepping up the exercise regimes, not always too successfully as yet!

This week two very different sorts of parties, but each with serious consequences for our nation's moral compass, have dominated the news. The Prime Minister may have been condoning parties at number 10 when parties were against the law. Prince Andrew may have been taking part in parties which were exploiting under age girls. There are many stories in the bible about parties which had serious consequences, such as Belshazzar's feast (Daniel 5).

#### HOW TO SET OUR MORAL COMPASS

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added unto you”  
(Matt 6.33 KJV)

The Bible also tells of parties with happy outcomes. In one, Jesus was invited to a wedding at Cana in Galilee (John 2.1-11). The wine ran out. A potential disaster loomed. Jesus saved the day by turning water into the equivalent of approaching a 1,000 bottles of some seriously palatable wine. In the story, Jesus was there, his mother asked him to help and the servants did what he asked them to do by bringing him the jars of water he requested.

#### CHORUS FROM A FAVOURITE HYMN

Here I Am, Lord. Is It I, Lord?  
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.  
I Will Go, Lord, If You Lead Me.  
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

Jesus has promised to be with us always. I always love to read the poem 'Footprints'. It reminds us that God is with us always and is especially close when we need him most, even if we are not always aware. Jesus' mother asked him for help. We can learn to pray when we are aware of difficult situations. The servants obeyed Jesus. We can learn to listen for and obey Jesus' instructions. We have a role to play. Unless the servants had brought the water to Jesus, there would not have been a happy ending.

#### PART OF THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCES

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.



We need God's help to live the way he wants us to, lives full of hope, peace, joy and love. Fortunately, we are not on our own. Jesus said, "Ask and it shall be given unto you". If we ask, God has promised, "to transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of his grace" and "to fill us with his Holy Spirit". As we study scripture, listen and share Holy Communion, God has promised to, "nourish us with his Word who is the bread of life".

## PRAYER

God of Hosts, rebuild your Church on lives of thankfulness and persistent prayer



## JANUARY SERVICES

### 2<sup>nd</sup> January

**Christ Church** 9:30am Sunday Communion  
**St Michael's, Foulridge** 11:00am Sunday Worship  
- Morning Prayer  
**St Mary's, Trawden** 11:00am Sunday Worship - Epiphany

### 9<sup>th</sup> January

**St Michael's, Foulridge** 9:30am Sunday Communion  
with Rev Canon Grant Ashton, Assistant Archdeacon  
**Christ Church,** 11:00am Sunday Worship - All age

### 16<sup>th</sup> January

**St Mary's, Trawden** 9:30am Sunday Communion  
**St Michael's, Foulridge** 11:00am Sunday Worship - All Age

### 23<sup>rd</sup> January

**St Michael's, Foulridge** 9:30am Sunday Communion  
**Christ Church** 11:00am Sunday Communion

### 30<sup>th</sup> January

**Christ Church, Colne** 9:30 Said Holy Communion

Baptism Services **Christ Church** 11:00 and 13:00,  
**St Michael's** 14:00 and 15:00 **St Mary's** 12:00 and 16:00

If you can, do please join us at one of our services this week, Sunday 16th January. You'll feel welcome and at home at either. As always, Sunday Communion, a traditional communion service with hymns, is at 9:30am and Sunday Worship, which offers an alternative way of worshipping God, is at 11 am. Sunday worship includes activities, worship led by the music group, 'bubble' prayers and a short talk.

This week's services:

9.30am Sunday Communion at St. Mary's, Trawden.

11.00am Sunday Worship at St Michael's, Foulridge.

As always I am thinking and praying for folk. If there is anything you need please call. If you have special prayer requests please let me know. I love to pray each day and if you are happy for us to do so, we pray for folk each week at compline.

With love and blessings, Rev John

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#### FOOTPRINTS

One night I dreamed a dream.  
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.  
After the last scene of my life flashed before me,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,  
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,  
there was only one set of footprints.  
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.  
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,  
You'd walk with me all the way.  
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,  
there was only one set of footprints.  
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."  
He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you  
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
It was then that I carried you."



## TRADITIONAL PRAYERS

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
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. Amen

God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

