

# UPDATE

## Wye Brooks Group UPDATE for 4 JUNE TRINITY SUNDAY WHITE

### TRINITY SUNDAY READINGS

Isaiah 40:12-17, 27 - end

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11- end

Matthew 28:16 - end

### FROM THE VICAR THE UNIMAGINABLE TRINITY



It's Trinity Sunday and we are thinking about God the Trinity, or God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which, if we are honest, gives us an issue. How on earth can we deal with one God in three personalities, all equal, all eternal, all 'made of the same stuff', all powerful, all knowing, all loving and everywhere?

Trying to take in the idea that God never had a beginning, that he was simply always there, is awkward - until you work out that if God wasn't always there then matter was, which is even more awkward! And what about referring to God as 'he'? If God is everywhere then he can't have a body, which means that referring to him as male is an issue.

In the Nicene Creed, which we say at every communion service, we say that God the Son was 'eternally begotten of the Father, which is the same as saying God is Jesus' Father but there was never a time when Jesus didn't exist.

We say that we believe in God the Holy Spirit, who 'proceeds from the Father and the Son'. And it trips off our tongue as we recite it, seemingly unaware that it begs the big question of the relationship between the three persons, and what it means to proceed. The phrase 'and the Son' drove a wedge between the Western and Eastern Churches for a thousand years.

What I'm getting at here is that this is all a big mystery.

### BISHOP'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

The Trinity

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RplEJ\\_qSslk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RplEJ_qSslk)

### OUR OWN LIGHT BITE

The Trinity

<https://youtu.be/zPucpNk601k>

### HOUSE GROUP/PRAYER GROUP

House Group Tuesday 10.00am

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88479172987?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88479172987?pwd=Wm1WVGgrQW8rYm56bFBxWnNSZzVYQT09)

[pwd=Wm1WVGgrQW8rYm56bFBxWnNSZzVYQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88479172987?pwd=Wm1WVGgrQW8rYm56bFBxWnNSZzVYQT09)

Prayer Group Tuesday 7.30pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89017077030?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89017077030?pwd=NmhYVzdTYkxQZGM5bzNIRE5reXJOdz09)

[pwd=NmhYVzdTYkxQZGM5bzNIRE5reXJOdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89017077030?pwd=NmhYVzdTYkxQZGM5bzNIRE5reXJOdz09)

### CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS

1st Saturday of the month      Welsh Newton 10.00

2nd Saturday of the Month      Llangarron. 10.30

2nd Wednesday of the month      Llangrove 10.30

We are specks in the universe and God, as it were holds us and the whole business in the hollow of his hand'. But then God doesn't have hands!

And what does it mean that God loves us? That Christ died for us? That the Spirit lives in us.

There is a sense in which God is totally beyond our comprehension, and that's ok. We are trying to use human language and human imagination to describe the infinite, and we are using human reasoning around what we are given in the Bible.

We have to relax a little, not beat ourselves. We can't understand everything. We are specks in the universe.

But the Christian claim is that God is made known to us in the person of Jesus Christ who lived and died for us, and on Trinity Sunday that's a good starting point.

# PRAYER PAGE

The Bishop has designated 2023 as a Diocesan Year of Prayer, and so I am going to try to put at least one new prayer item on this page each week.

## PRAYER FOR OTHERS

### World

Missiles are falling on Kyiv all the time, but now there seems to be a backlash in Russian border areas. Russia's missiles are being supplied by Iran and indeed, it is now building its own trade alliances. The war in Sudan continues. Israel and Palestine are still very tense. You may like to pray for the relatives of those who died in the train crash in Odessa, India.

### The UK

Pray for the King and the royal family of course. The King does need to make his mark, but he has a hard act to follow. The tensions are still evident in the Royal Family. Please do keep praying for the Government and the economy, for the health service, law and order, for education. Protest is constantly in the news at the moment, and should be the subject of prayer.

### Our churches and clergy

Pray about how we, in our individual churches, think and act in response to the diocesan shared priorities.

- Spiritual and numeric growth (without which we won't survive). How are we taking responsibility for our faith?
- Engaging in transforming communities (Christian work for and witness to others)
- Reimagining ministry (learning how to do church how it needs to be done, not simply how we have always done it)

Pray for the deanery and our attitude towards it, about our reluctance to be involved, about our insularity.

Pray for national and local leaders and especially our Bishop and Archdeacon. Also for clergy and our local worship leaders.

Pray for your own church **and its future. Try to recognise that it does not exist for its own sake, but to honour God in worship and prayer and introduce people to him in Christ.**

### Our villages

Our pubs, parish councils, local businesses and schools. Pray for all our communities in these difficult times.

### Pray for people

Please pray for all those you know who are sick or in particular need, and those facing big changes in life.

- Nigel - the continued fight against cancer.
- Craig - diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour, and Ian and Jacky his parents. Craig is having an operation soon.
- Pray for anyone amongst your family and friends who is anxious, or ill, or lonely, or who needs God's help in any way at all.
- A gentleman linked to our area has been diagnosed with a condition called meningioma, a tumour on the membrane covering the brain.

## THE (ALTERNATIVE) COLLECT FOR TRINITY

Holy God,  
faithful and unchanging:  
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,  
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,  
that we may truly worship you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## PRAYER LAMENT

We are humans and we live in a fallen world. We always have something to complain about, and often every reason to be upset.

You might be interested to know that lament is very prominent in the Old Testament, and especially in the Psalms. Here are some principles. Use Psalms 13, 22 and 88 to help.

### 1. Turn to God

Don't just grumble about your difficulties. Turn to God first of all.

### 2. Cry out your Complaint

So what you are doing is naming the problem being seen or experienced and expressing it vividly before God. That might sound untrusting, perhaps even ungodly. But this is far from unbelief or ungodliness—this is a righteous response to the wrongfulness of life's circumstances. It's a refusal to wish away suffering, stiffen our upper lip or "be strong" in the face of sin and suffering.

### 3. Appeal for God to Hear and Respond

Laments don't end with complaints. Their third movement is an appeal for God to hear and respond. This is because God promises to hear and respond (see the three psalms above).

As people living after Jesus' death and resurrection, our prayers of lament are now anchored in what we believe and know to be true about the character and promises of God revealed in Christ. We can know of God's faithfulness to save us and meet us in the depths of our cries even more than the psalmists.

### 4. Confess Your Trust

A confession of trust in God acknowledges that, even if the answer to our prayer is unknown, God is trustworthy, whatever the circumstances. And if you can't do this, pray for the strength to. God is our heavenly daddy and he loves to hear us.

# CHRISTIANITY IN THE NEWS

## BAPTISM OF THOUSANDS



Here is one from across the pond.

Churches from across California gathered on the beach to witness a mass baptism of over 4,000 people

on Pentecost Sunday.

Advertised as the 'biggest water baptism event in history', Baptize SoCal drew thousands to Pirates Cove, Corona Del Mar to mark the 50th anniversary of the Jesus Movement – an evangelical Christian awakening which began in California and saw hundreds of thousands of people come to Christ.

Over 280 churches and 8,000 attendees met to celebrate Pentecost and witness the baptisms of 4,166 believers in the Pacific Ocean.

## CHRISTIAN TEACHER BANNED



A Christian teacher, previously suspended for addressing a transgender boy as 'her' says he's 'devastated' to be banned from teaching indefinitely.

Joshua Sutcliffe was found guilty of unprofessional conduct and "bringing the profession into disrepute" by the Teaching Regulation Authority (TRA) after he failed to use a biological female pupil's preferred pronouns of 'he/him'. He plans to appeal the ruling.

Sutcliffe has apparently given his opinion online about such things as same-sex marriage, masculinity and Islam.

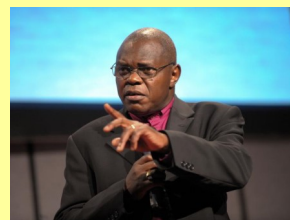
He commented on his ban:

"Based on this ruling, every teacher is at risk if they share their beliefs and views in the classroom. If a teacher had shown or recommended a video from a liberal YouTube platform, would they have been treated as I have?"

"I believe affirming children who are in gender distress in the classroom is psychologically damaging for them. I refuse to go against my conscience and cause a child harm and cannot apologise for that."

## LORD SENTAMU RESIGNS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Former Archbishop of York Rt Revd John Sentamu has resigned from his role at Christian Aid over fears recent controversies could be a "distraction".



Christian Aid released a statement on Thursday saying Sentamu, who had served an 18 month term, was concerned that recent headlines would "distract from the vital work of Christian Aid."

Sentamu's departure comes following a report found he failed to act on disclosures made following a historic case of sexual abuse against a young boy, committed by another priest. Last month, he was ordered to step back from active ministry.

Patrick Watt, Chief Executive of Christian Aid, said: "We are very grateful for the 18 months of faithful and energetic leadership that Sentamu has given to Christian Aid. Given recent events, we understand the reasons for his resignation."

## CHRISTIANS SHOULD SPEAK OUT

Christians are being encouraged to defend free speech and "speak out" on cultural issues, after feminist author Kathleen Stock faced opposition from trans activists for addressing the Oxford Union.



Approximately 200 trans activists protested outside against a talk by Dr Stock yesterday – claiming her views on gender identity are transphobic – something she denies.

Members of Oxford University's LGBTQ+ Society wore t-shirts that read "No More Dead Trans Kids", on a march in opposition to her invitation to speak at the Union.

Stock previously quit her post at the University of Sussex after being targeted by activists over her gender views - she argues that some trans ideology has negative implications for hard won women's rights.

*What price free speech?*

## SERVICES

### 4 June

8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Lay led
10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion	Brian
11.00	Goodrich	No service	x
11.00	Llangarron	Holy Communion	Ben

### 11 June

8.30	Welsh Newton	Holy Communion	Ben
10.00	Llangrove	All Age Praise	Lay led
10.00	Marstow	Holy Communion	Ben
11.00	Goodrich	Holy Communion	Simon

### 18 June

8.30	Welsh Newton	Meditation and Bible Study	Lay led
10.00	Llangrove	Holy Communion	Ben
11.00	Goodrich	All Age Praise	Lay led
6.00	Llangarron	Evening Prayer	Penny

### 25 June

10.00	Llangrove	Community Service	Lay led
10.00	Marstow	All Age Praise	Lay led
11.00	Llanrothal	Patrol festival, benefice service and picnic	Lay led
11.00	Goodrich	Holy Communion	Ben

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE— WILLS



Want to make a difference to your local church?

Why not leave it something in your will? It's easy to do, and helps what you care about.

## PARISH GIVING SCHEME

To give to your local church in easiest, most efficient way, telephone **0333 002 1271**

You will need a parish reference number, as follows:

Church	<u>Parish Ref</u>	Church	<u>Parish Ref</u>
Goodrich	180618231	Marstow	180618241
Llangarron	180618239	Llangrove	180618240
Welsh Newton	180618256		

## THE TRINITY QUOTES

Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the Triune God.

*John Wesley*

It was the whole Trinity, which at the beginning of creation said, "Let us make man". It was the whole Trinity again, which at the beginning of the Gospel seemed to say, "Let us save man".

*Bishop JC Ryle, first Bishop of Liverpool*

## CONTACTS

Vicar: Revd Philip 'Ben' Bentham  
Tel 01989 770454 Email  
benbentham@yahoo.co.uk

Associate Ministers  
Revd Simon Tarlton Tel 07462 893457  
Revd Penny Powdrill Tel 01600 714096

**If you have suggestions for improving this Update, please do let me know.  
To UNSUBSCRIBE, simply drop me a line.**

## VICAR HOLIDAYS

27 August - 5 September

27 October - 6 November

## CLERGY DAY OFF

My usual day off is MONDAY



# Baptism



Got a strong faith? Never been baptised?

We can baptise you as a witness to your friends and relatives, in church at the font, or elsewhere by total immersion (Monmouth Baptist Church have offered us their baptistry).

Interested? Talk to the Vicar.

(You cant be baptised in the Church of England if you have been baptised as a baby or child)

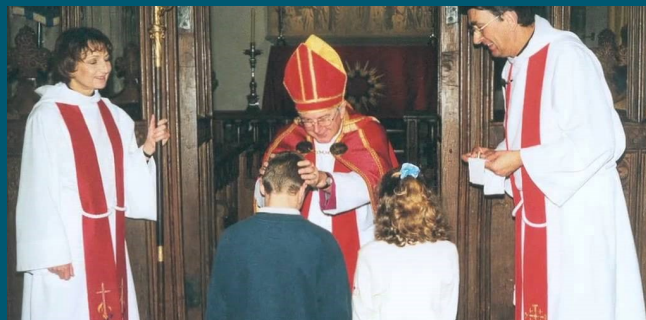
Got a child or grandchild whom you wish to have baptised?

We can do this at one of our services in church or, at a pinch, in a private ceremony.

We can also do a service of thanksgiving for the birth of a child, or dedication of a child.

Interested? Talk to the Vicar.

# Confirmation



Confirmation is a ceremony, carried out by the Bishop, in which you *confirm* the promises made by your parents at your (infant) baptism.

Any age from 11 upwards (no upper limit) is fine. The oldest person I have prepared for confirmation was 93.

It will involve a series of classes.

Interested? Talk to the Vicar. The service is likely to be next year.



Seen Lisa running up and down the lanes? Here is what it is about.

# Lisa's running for *Race for Life*

Sponsor her 5k run and help raise money for Cancer Research - Bath 5k 2nd July



Sponsor her on

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/lisabentham-race-for-life-3274688320>