

All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham

Virtual Church News

4 July 2021

5th Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please call Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or email her at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

This Week's Services

- Sunday 9.30am: Service at All Saints, Kempston
- Sunday 11.00am: Virtch (Zoom)

There will be no midweek services during the period 2-12 July.

A Reading for the Week

Matthew 10:16-20

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

Church Services etc. on TV/Radio

If you don't have access to the internet, try tuning in to the following:

Sunday 4 July

- 8.00am Three Counties Radio - weekly service.
- 8.10am BBC Radio 4 - Sunday Worship.
- 1.15pm BBC 1 - Songs of Praise.
- 3.00pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.

Wednesday 7 July

- 3.30pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.



Message from Revd Eric Lomax

This week's lectionary reading is Mark's version of the passage on the left. Both Gospels instruct the disciples to go out with no preparation, with no resources, and the beginning of this passage reminds the disciples that they will have no power also.

I used to work as a parish priest in a collection of rural communities in Lincolnshire. It was there that I encountered a genuine hatred of foxes. Foxes are predators who rely for their survival on capturing small mammals. Most farmers, even arable ones, keep chickens. These are generally kept, not for killing, but for eggs. From my memory it seemed that most of the eggs were given away to friends and neighbours, and when we lived there we never really had to buy any. One farmer I knew described foxes as 'evil'. If they reached the chickens, they would generally only take one, but they would work themselves into a frenzy and kill all of them for no apparent reason. Although I strongly oppose fox hunting for sport, I completely understand the psychology that drives such blood sports. The killing of foxes by dogs is a ritual that is still observed even though it is forbidden by law, and those who practice it believe they are doing a genuinely good thing.

Continued on next page...

Virtch

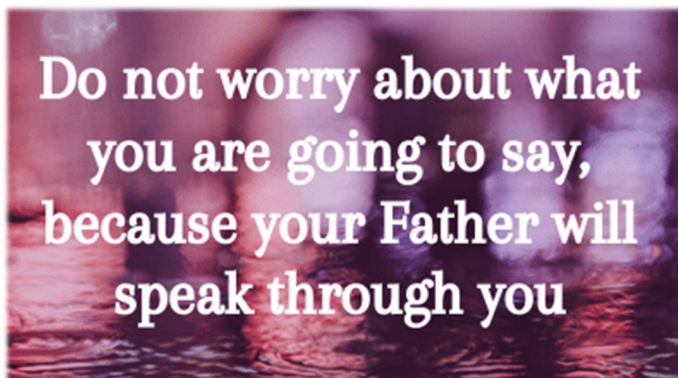
Zoom services are normally held at 11am on Sunday, 9am on Monday and 6pm on Wednesday. Simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

The Love of Christ is not locked down
Virtual
Virtch
Church
St James, Biddenham, All Saints, Kempston

Message from Revd Eric Lomax

We live in a 'can do' culture; 'You have the power,' we are told. The confirmation of this is the experience of powerlessness that so many people experience in life, though this is not often expressed in people's social-media profiles. There are a lot of broken people out there who are filled with fear and self-doubt. Just as an experiment, walk into your late-night Sainsbury on a Friday evening, and see how many bottles of cheap wine and beer have disappeared from the shelves. Dutch courage is not actually courage at all.

Jesus sends his disciples out to a hostile world with the good news of his Kingdom, and then he sends us out in the same way. His call, however, is counter to the culture of the present age. He does not say; 'You have the power,' or, 'you have the muscle to succeed.' Jesus, instead, tells the disciples that they are like chickens amongst foxes, or sheep amongst wolves. You have no power to succeed, the world will devour you.



In the Gospels however, that is not the end of the story. In Matthew chapter 5, we are told that those who know their need of God are blessed ('Blessed are the poor in Spirit,' means just that). In the story of the calming of the storm we read a couple of weeks ago, in chapter 5, it is God's power in Christ that calms the storm. The disciples had struggled to control the boat, but it was the waking Jesus that stilled the waves. In the same way, the medical professionals who had struggled to mend Jairus' twelve-year-old daughter, and the woman who had been haemorrhaging for twelve years had all, despite their intellectual muscle, failed abysmally. The woman just reached out and touched Jesus, and it was his power that healed her.

Prayer/Bible Study Groups

Join our prayer group at 8pm on the 1st/3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Everyone welcome. We also have Bible study groups which are open to everyone.

Contact John Lambert for further details, or with any prayer requests. john.c.lambert@gmail.com



Jesus was always honest. He told the disciples that when they faced persecution, and difficulties in the world, they would not be able to cope in their own strength. Instead, they had to rely on God's strength and to have faith in him.

'Do not worry about what you are going to say, because your Father will speak through you.' Also, he says to Peter on another occasion; 'And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' (Matthew 16:18). That is such a play on words. The Peter is the same word we use for 'petrified,' and often we use it to describe somebody who is frozen with fear, but Jesus was saying, 'You will be filled with my power, you will stand like a rock.'

Jesus is saying that to you; 'Do not trust in your own strength, but with the strength of Christ in you, you can do anything.'

'In the world you will have tribulation, but have courage, I have overcome the world.' (John 16:33). It is all to do with God's power, and you cannot buy that in a bottle.

God Bless

Eric

Let us pray...

God our Father,
Sometimes it is hard coping
with the pressures of this world.
Holy God,
Holy and Strong,
Holy and immortal,
Give us faith in your
power to save,
Amen.



Bedford Foodbank

Items currently needed:
UHT MILK, Cup-a-Soup, Fruit Juice (Longlife), Jumbo Hotdogs, Tinned Tuna, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables, Rice 250g/500g/1kg, Ham (Small Tins), Washing-Up Liquid, Anti-Bac Spray, Deodorant (Unisex), Tin Openers.



Please continue to support this valuable charity and help them prevent hunger in our community.

Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452

Mob: 07805 879537

Email: Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com

All Age Reading

2 Samuel 5: 1-5 and 9-10

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. They said to him, "Look, we are your own family. In the past Saul was king over us. But you were the one leading us in battle for Israel. The Lord said to you, 'You will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites. You will become their ruler.'"

All the elders of Israel came to King David at Hebron. Then he made an agreement with them in Hebron in front of the Lord. Then they poured oil on David to make him king over Israel.

David was 30 years old when he became king. He ruled 40 years. He was king over Judah in Hebron for 7 years and 6 months. And he was king over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem for 33 years.

So David lived in the city with its strong walls. He called it the City of David. David built more buildings around it. He began where the land was filled in on the east side of the city. He also built more buildings inside the city. He became stronger and stronger, because the Lord of heaven's armies was with him.

Suggested Music for this week

Crown Him with Many Crowns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiJYgC_6AFc

God our Father (Let Your Kingdom Come)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyD-QD3P9T0>

10,000 Reasons

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRI0E

May the Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INPoOfjFJ5s>

Invitation from Tearfund

God is calling all of us to play our part and bring an end to extreme poverty and injustice. Our vision at Tearfund is far bigger than we can achieve alone. So, whether it is direction for our everyday lives or praying into huge issues like climate change, we do so on our knees, looking to God for direction and intervention, as we abide in Him.

Join us for an exclusive prayer breakfast as we gather to pray expectantly for countries where coronavirus and climate change continue to have a devastating impact. We will celebrate stories of hope rising from the global church and reflect on what it means to abide in Christ, as justice seekers, playing our part in bringing an end to extreme poverty.

Thursday 8 July, 8am – 9am

For a zoom invitation please email Tearfund at partnerships@tearfund.org or speak to John Lambert

The All Age Bit!

We continue this week with the story of David. You may remember last week's reading about the death of King Saul. Following his death, the people of Israel chose a new King - David. The Bible describes David as a man 'after God's own heart'. David had shown he was a good leader who really cared for others. Many years before, when Saul was King, Samuel had come to visit David and his family. He had anointed David with oil. David knew that a time would come when he would be King - that it was part of God's plan.

Activities

David built a palace inside the city of Jerusalem and many strong buildings for people to live in. Could you build a palace out of empty cardboard boxes, lego or other construction toys? If you don't have anything suitable, could you design a palace on paper? What do you think it would look like? You could also try building a fort out of furniture, blankets or other household items.

Jerusalem is a real place that can still be visited today. Why not go on a virtual tour together using Google Street View and see what the City of David looks like today. While you explore the streets take time to pray for the people and places you see. • Pray for protection and safety for those living in Israel and the middle East. • Pray for an end to ongoing conflicts, for peace and reconciliation. • Pray for those in leadership that they would be good and loving shepherds to the people in their care.

Song

David the Shepherd Boy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMqk0DgzSSs>

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for the story of David becoming King. Thank you that this had been your plan for David for a long time. Help us to trust in your timing and plans for our own lives. Help us to be good leaders like David, seeking to love and care for others like a shepherd cares for their sheep. We pray for all those who are leaders in our country and world that they would be wise and caring like David. Amen

Above resources (and more) can be found at Together at Home. www.tath.co.uk.

Covid-19 Support Networks

If you need support with shopping, loneliness or anything else at this time please do get in touch!

Biddenham: Ring 01234 815393 (daytime only) or email help@biddenham.org.uk with your name/phone number/address.

Kempston: Contact Rev Eric Lomax (328452) or Alan/Anita Lowe (857212).