

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

Virtual Church News

19 September 2021

16th Sunday after Trinity

3rd Sunday

Harvest Festival at St James's



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

Our Services

1st Sunday

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints
9.30am All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

2nd Sunday

- 9.30am* Holy Communion Service at All Saints
9.30am Lay led Service at St James's
6.30pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's

3rd Sunday

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints
9.30am Holy Communion Service at St James's

4th Sunday

- 9.30am* Holy Communion Service at All Saints
9.30am Lay led Service at St James's

5th Sunday (when there is one)

- 9.30am Service at St James's
6.30pm Sung Evensong at St James's

We also hold online services during the week via Zoom at 9.00am on Monday and 6.00pm on Wednesday. To join these Zoom services, simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

We hope you will join us at our services as we explore a mixture of both traditional and new ways of worship.

* The 9.30am services at All Saints will move to 10.00am from 1 October. Services at St James's will remain at 9.30am.

Harvest Festivals

19 September 9.30am

St James's Church

If you are able to give,
we will be collecting donations of non-perishable
foods for the Bedford Foodbank
and monetary donations towards the
Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal
"Water is Life"
bringing clean, safe water to communities in the
Democratic Republic of Congo

Everyone welcome!

26 September 9.30am

All Saints Church



A Reading for the Week

Mark 9.30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

This is probably bar-room logic at best, and I really cannot present you with any adequately gathered statistics, but it really does seem that during lockdown children were treated as more of a burden than anything else. They were pushed from pillar to post, with nobody quite knowing what to do with them. Despite the politicians being adamant that children were not really affected by the older variants, whenever they opened the schools, the Covid figures went up, and when they closed again, the infections fell. Equally, people seemed very hush-hush about the dangers of children passing on the bug to vulnerable adults and carers at home. The biggest issue seemed to be not that children had any immediate economic significance, but rather that teachers were looking after children so that parents could go to work and kickstart the economy.

We did have to abandon the old system of assessment for kids, which for its success, has to effectively fail sixty percent of young people. This is because we require an educational under-class, otherwise who would there be to do all the cheap, but essential, low paid jobs, and how will you avoid filling universities with lots of bright kids when you need to populate these institutions with high-fee paying foreign students. I know that a number of politicians took it badly this year when teacher assessment gave so many more young people higher grades for A-levels, resulting in university places being handed out like sweets, but that worked out okay because the foreign students simply could not be here to fill those places.

Society needs winners and losers, because all of us deep down want to be winners, wealthier, more in control, and more able to grasp the things we need for ourselves and our families.

Of course, the disciples of Jesus had already tagged the question of self-importance. As I said last week, they were all on a power trip with the Messiah to Jerusalem, and him being crowned as the King. Some of them had to be the best, and that meant that the others had to be the losers, so that when the Messiah appointed his cabinet, they would know who had the best paid, and best-fed jobs.

They would have failed teacher assessment right away because, although on the journey, Jesus had spent the whole time talking about Golgotha, and the suffering, crucified Messiah, to the disciples such talk was not even in the equation, so they had not understood a word of it. He had talked about suffering, they had talked about wealth, he had talked about weakness, they had talked about power, he talked about a crown of thorns, they were chatting amongst themselves about top-jobs, and crowns of gold.

When they arrived at Capernaum they stopped at a local hostelry for, no doubt, a beer and a chat, and it was there that Jesus asked them what they had been talking about; Power? Who was the greatest? These were the complete antithesis of what Jesus had been saying.

Over their pint, Jesus reminded them what it was all about; 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all,' In other words, they must seek to be servants and not masters of one another.

Jesus then plucked up a child, a little girl. 'Really, Jesus said, this is the way you should be as my disciples; not obsessed with your own self-importance, but prepared to be like a child, the weakest, the most vulnerable, and sitting on the smallest seat.' Anybody who has ever been a school governor in a primary school would understand completely what I mean by sitting on the smallest seat. Certainly sitting through a meeting on a child's seat is an incentive to get the meeting over with in the shortest time possible.

'Genuinely' Jesus continued, 'Your place is not on a throne in Jerusalem, but rather on a cross, overlooking Gehenna, a stinking rubbish tip outside the city walls of Jerusalem.' As he stood up, he would have reminded them of their task; 'Follow me!'

The disciples did not hear the last bit, because the Inn-keeper rang his bell; 'Time please gentleman.'

Jesus would have stood up and walked towards the door. Then turned round to look into their eyes, 'What are you waiting for? I want you to follow me now' The disciples turned to face him, noticing that the little girl had already taken her place at the side of Jesus. We have to be as responsive as that child, to leave the table of half empty beer and wine glasses, rise up obediently, and follow him.

God Bless
Eric

Let us pray...

Dear Lord,
You call us in humility
to follow you;
to recognise that You wish us
to be like children.
Help us to respond to Your call,
to rise up and follow You.
Amen



All Age Reading

James 3:13 to 4:8

¹³ Is there anyone among you who is truly wise and understanding? Then he should show his wisdom by living right. He should do good things without being proud. A wise person does not brag. ¹⁴ But if you are selfish and have bitter jealousy in your hearts, you have no reason to brag. Your bragging is a lie that hides the truth. ¹⁵ That kind of "wisdom" does not come from God. That "wisdom" comes from the world. It is not spiritual. It is from the devil. ¹⁶ Where there is jealousy and selfishness, there will be confusion and every kind of evil. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from God is like this: First, it is pure. Then it is also peaceful, gentle, and easy to please. This wisdom is always ready to help those who are troubled and to do good for others. This wisdom is always fair and honest. ¹⁸ When people work for peace in a peaceful way, they receive the good result of their right living.

⁴ Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that make war inside you. ² You want things, but you do not have them. So you are ready to kill and are jealous of other people. But you still cannot get what you want. So you argue and fight. You do not get what you want because you do not ask God. ³ Or when you ask, you do not receive because the reason you ask is wrong. You want things only so that you can use them for your own pleasures.

⁴ So, you people are not loyal to God! You should know that loving the world is the same as hating God. So if a person wants to be a friend of the world, he makes himself God's enemy. ⁵ Do you think the Scripture means nothing? It says, "The Spirit that God made to live in us wants us for himself alone." ⁶ But God gives us even more grace, as the Scripture says,

"God is against the proud,

but he gives grace to the humble." *Proverbs 3:34*

⁷ So give yourselves to God. Stand against the devil, and the devil will run away from you. ⁸ Come near to God, and God will come near to you. You are sinners. So clean sin out of your lives. You are trying to follow God and the world at the same time. Make your thinking pure.

(International Children's Bible)

The All Age Bit

This week we continue looking at the book of James. James 4v3 warns about having the wrong motives, when we live selfishly it can be easier to slip into arguments or behaviours that don't please God. We can learn from the Bible and the example of Jesus how God wants us to live in the world.

Have you ever argued with someone and then wished you hadn't? How did you manage to resolve the argument? Is there anything from your past that still makes you angry?

Activities

Emotions Game: You will need two baskets, one with pieces of paper with activities on e.g. brushing my teeth, cooking a pancake etc. The other basket should contain emotions e.g. happy, sad, excited, angry etc. Pick a piece of paper from each basket and try to act out the action in the style of the emotion. Everyone else should try to guess what you are doing and how you are feeling.

Anger Volcano: You will need a small pot in a larger dish or plate, some toy figures, baking powder and vinegar. Place some figures e.g. toy soldiers or lego men around the small pot. Add some baking powder to the small pot. Then add the vinegar to the small pot. We are like the small pot. When we get angry, our anger rises up and spills over those around us - our friends or family. Instead, God wants us to overflow with good things that reflect who He is.

Song:

Your grace is enough

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYT6OkaSrZQ>

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help us to think about how our words and emotions can hurt other people. If someone or something makes us feel angry, help us to control our anger so it doesn't rise up like a volcano and affect everyone around us. James tells us that God gives us grace. Help us to reflect God's grace when we are with our friends, family and others in our community. Amen.

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

Tea and Coffee After Services

As restrictions have now eased, tea and coffee will now be served after the 9.30am services at both All Saints and St James's. Everyone is welcome to stay for a drink and a chat.



Bishop's Harvest Appeal

Life in the Democratic Republic of Congo is tough with a history of civil war, widespread poverty and a cycle of conflict and displacement. 70% of the population use unsafe drinking water leading to a high risk of cholera. The Bishop's Harvest Appeal, Water is Life, will bring clean water to many more communities, bringing with it transformation to daily lives and hope for the future. For more details go to <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/bishop-s-annual-harvest-appeal/>

Suggested Music for this week

God of mercy, God of grace
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvn4OEq9ezU>

All hail the power of Jesu's name
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hmtxrFgrEA

Lord of the Harvest
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Omeea0HPx18>

Our God (is greater)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-6YdT1DEO8>

Supporting Afghan Refugees

The Bishop of Hertford has encouraged people in our Diocese wishing to help support Afghan Refugees to donate to three particular charities who work with refugees in our area. The charity most local to us is Bedford Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support.

Donations can be made via their website at <https://www.brassbedford.org.uk/>

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

Coffee Morning

Join us for coffee, cake and a chat!

FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER
10.30 AM TO 12.00 NOON
ST JAMES'S CHURCH BARN

No charge (but donations to charity welcome)
Transport Available - Call Sue on 342373



Organised by
St James's Church
for the
Biddenham Community

The Friends of St James, Biddenham

QUIZ

Saturday 16th October 2021, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Zoom Quiz
Suitable for all the family

Help raise some funds for the upkeep of our local church in a fun way - please join us!

Free entry - but donations welcome to The Friends of St James at
GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/de1ce53d>

To register and for participation details,
email John Barkas at:
stjamesquiz@mail.com (alternatively
phone Peter Leverkus on 01234 353662)

Bedford Foodbank

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

Items currently needed include: UHT Milk, Fruit Juice (Longlife), Tinned Tuna, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Jam, Rice 250g/500g/1kg, Ham (Small Tins), Coffee (small), Biscuits, Shampoo, Washing-Up Liquid, Deodorant (Unisex), Tin Openers, Old Saucepans.



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