

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

Virtual Church News

**17 October 2021
20th Sunday after Trinity
3rd Sunday**



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 Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month

- 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 of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints
6.00pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's

3rd Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints**
9.30am Holy Communion Service at St James's
7.00pm Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship

4th Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints

5th Sunday of the month (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.

Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

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Bishop of Bedford's Visit

This Sunday the Bishop of Bedford will be visiting. As many of you know, Sue Richards was licensed as a Lay Reader during the Covid pandemic. As a result of restrictions in place at the time, it was not possible for members of our parishes to support her at her licensing service. The Bishop will therefore spend some time during the 9.30am service at St James's acknowledging Sue's licensing and praying for her. We hope that as many people as possible will come to the service to support Sue.

A Reading for the Week

Mark 10.35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'


When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

Jesus turns everything upside down.

We looked at an almost identical version of this story in one of the other gospels, just a few weeks ago. In the alternative version (Matthew 20), it is the mother of James and John who came to Jesus on their behalf. Here in Mark's Gospel, it is the two sons of thunder themselves who come to Jesus, both seeking glory in heaven, and it casts a light on ourselves and on our own sense of worthiness. There is something in us that feels that we should be, or would rather be, at the front of the queue, whether it is in one of the recent queues for a few drops of unleaded petrol, the upcoming queues we are likely to find in our supply-stretched supermarkets over the lead up to Christmas, or in the proverbial, post-mortem queue for the pearly gates.

Unlike the version in Matthew's Gospel, we are reminded here that the 'selfish gene' causes us to want the best for ourselves, and not only to fulfil the expectations of our families.



AT THE HEART OF THE
CHRISTIAN MESSAGE
IS THE CROSS OF
JESUS CHRIST...

All Saints Church
Kempston

St James's Church
Biddenham

I guess that behind this as well is the assumption that God's Kingdom is somehow a reflection of this world, that the values that give worth to finance and status are somehow reflected in heaven. The Gospels, however, tell us something completely different. At the heart of the Christian message is the cross of Jesus Christ, a crown of thorns and a blood stained robe being torn apart by the social cultures of this world (Matthew 27:35). Even at the point of death we, the human race, seem to cry out, 'what is in it for me?'

The Gospel stories, which emerged out of the Christian mission which extended in the heart of Greek and Roman culture, subverted the glorious conclusions of Roman narrative by having the Hero strip himself to his waist and bow down in humility to wash the feet of his disciples.

We see, in the Bible, the conflicts of power within the mindsets of the apostles, which seem to impose patriarchal principles on the imposition of power on the early church, but at the heart of scripture we have Paul's declaration that in Christ, there is neither rich nor poor, slave nor free, Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, because all are equal in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). In the same way, Jesus demands that the rich man must give up his wealth to enter God's Kingdom, because not to do so would be like a camel trying to pass through the eye of a needle, and that Mary proclaimed the greatness of the Lord because, in Christ, he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly (Luke 1:46-55). Paul, in 1 Corinthians 12 and 13, is very clear that in the ministry of the Church there should be no self proclaimed crowns of Charismatic gifts, but actually what gives power and greatness to his people is the simple, self giving of God's sacrificial love (Agape). This love, humility and servanthood is the perfect, complete reflection of his Kingdom (1 Corinthians 13:12), and we only have the capacity for love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19).

This is the pure counter-culture of God's Kingdom. He turns everything upside down. Our culture of wealth, of power and of control. The Gospels tell us that Jesus wants people to be the complete opposite of this. He wants us to centre our lives around the cross; lovers, and servants who proclaim his message with a bowl and a towel around the waist, mirroring Christ himself, for the son of man came not to be served but to serve, and give himself as a ransom for many.

God Bless
Eric

Let us pray...

God and Father,
Every cell of our body seeks to take
the very best for ourselves,
while you, Christ,
laid down your life for the very least of us.
Give us grace and humility
to put aside ourselves to serve you.
Show us true greatness
in our willingness to serve,
through Christ,
Our Lord,
Amen



The All Age Bit

We are again reading the same Bible passage as the adults this week - you can find it on the front page or you can read it from your own Bible.

In this reading, Jesus spoke about leaders who used their power to control people rather than to serve. What do you think it means to serve others? How can someone be a good leader, but serve those they lead? How can we serve our friends and family?

There is a verse in Leviticus 19 v18 which says that when we serve others we put their needs first, we can serve them by making sure they have what they need.

Activities

Love cheques: Make a book of promises that you can rip out and give to other people with ways that you can serve them. You could perhaps promise to help with cleaning your bedroom, or making someone a cup of tea, helping with the shopping, or doing your homework without having to be asked. You could decorate the front of your 'cheque book' and also decorate each 'cheque'.

Scavenger hunt: hold a scavenger hunt where one person calls out an object and everyone has to race to bring that object the fastest, e.g. a pencil, Bible, shoe, sock, cuddly toy. The winner at the end of the game is the person who has brought the most items the fastest.

Song

The servant King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4FtZ9XzZag>

Prayers

When we pray for others we call it intercession (you may have heard this word used in church). We help to connect their needs with God. This week, why not spend some time each day praying for someone else that you know, or for a difficult situation in the world that you know about. We can serve others by praying for them as well as by meeting their practical or physical needs.

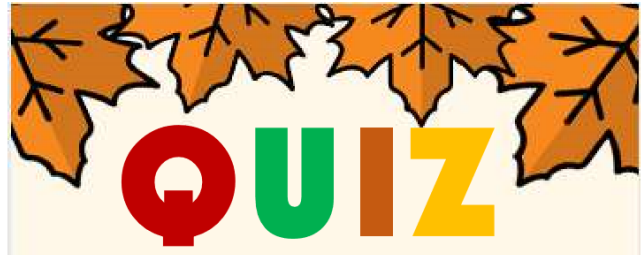
Above resources (and more) can be found at Together at Home. www.tath.co.uk.

Poppies

If you are making poppies (knitted, crocheted or pompom) for Remembrance Day could you please drop them off in St James's Church Porch or at 27 St Mellion Drive by 31 October. Thank you.



The Friends of St James. Biddenham



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)

The FOSJ is a registered charity raising funds for the fabric of St James' Church and barn



ALL SOULS SERVICES

Sunday 31 October

4.00pm at All Saints Church, Kempston
6.00pm at St James's Church, Biddenham

All Welcome!



Remembering our loved ones
who have died

Suggested Music for this week

All people that on earth do dwell

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42_kOGDTpKg

Now thank we all our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk>

You laid aside your majesty

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

On Eagle's wings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y22IG4Z49Lo>

You Say

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZvKJl1kK8g>

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

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.



All Saints' Table Top Sale

All Saints are re-introducing the Missions Table Top Sale on Sunday 24 October and Sunday 21 November. All donations of home grown and home made produce would be welcome.

The cash proceeds from the sale of the produce will go to the PCC's chosen Charities.



Volunteers Needed!

St James's are in need of additional volunteers to help out with the sound system during the Sunday services. If you can help (training will be given), please let us know!

Revive - Starts this Sunday!

A short act of worship over a coffee, then unfolding the scriptures together. 7.00pm in St James's Church Barn. Everyone invited.



ST JAMES'S CHURCH

AUTUMN LUNCH

including raffle

31 OCTOBER
1.00PM
CHURCH BARN

Tickets: £12.50
Bring your own drinks

Sign up on the list at the back of church or
contact Anne (214805) or Sue (342373)