



## St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton

**Sunday 28th June 2020**

Third Sunday after Trinity

**Join us in prayer this Sunday  
and through the week,**

*as we remember the Apostles  
Peter and Paul on Monday 29th  
and Thomas on Friday 3rd.*



Almighty God,  
whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul  
glorified you in their death as in their life:  
grant that your Church,  
inspired by their teaching and example,  
and made one by your Spirit,  
may ever stand firm upon the one foundation,  
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.

Almighty and eternal God,  
who, for the firmer foundation of our faith,  
allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt  
the resurrection of your Son  
till word and sight convinced him:  
grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe  
and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

## **How do we live as the Church *now*? - Breaking Bread**

***'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.'*** (Acts 2.42)

As we continue to wonder about those things that are key to our life together as a church and that we need to make our priorities, we read that the first Christians were *'devoted... to the breaking of bread'*.

The early Christians found God in every aspect of life as they gathered together to share their lives as a community. They made mistakes, they continued to learn and they found something so special as they tried to follow the way of Jesus. It was in this context that we find them 'breaking bread'.

The breaking of bread is a distinctive term of Luke, the author of Acts. He uses it most powerfully when Cleopas and his companion describe how Jesus had been made known to them 'in the breaking of the bread' (Luke 24:35). Here in Acts 2:42 it is not clear from how Luke is using the term when describing the life of the first Christian communities. Is it describing the act which opened a common Jewish meal? Is it a new, specific liturgical and sacramental act? It might be reasonable to assume that at least sometimes when the first Christians met together they remembered the Last Supper, but Luke has not gone out of his way to make this clear for us.

It may be that Luke is trying to show us that, in their life together, the 'ordinary' and the 'spiritual' could not be separated for the early Christians. They, like Jesus, took bread, the ordinary and everyday; they gave thanks to God, they broke it, they shared it and they consumed it - an ordinary act transformed by the presence of Jesus in Spirit and their shared faith and life. The essence of their actions was to take, to give thanks, to break, to share and to receive.

This can give us too then a pattern for our services when we meet - whether we call it the Eucharist ("thanksgiving" in Greek) or Holy Communion ("forming community") or Mass (from the Latin "sending"). *But ...* there is also something very important here about the way in which we treat the 'ordinary' in our lives.

Christians have always been tempted to separate the 'spiritual' from the 'ordinary', to put the 'holy' and 'sacred' parts of our lives into a different compartment from the basic and very human business of living. The early Church shows us here how artificial that divide is. They recognised that God is present in *all* of life, and that to restrict our faith to special times only is to misrepresent him to the world and to stunt our own life of faith and growth. We might say that they knew how important it is to move from having a 'Sunday faith' to having an 'everyday faith.'

I hope that during our corona virus lockdown you have been able to find support from your faith—from praying and reading the Bible, through encouraging conversation with other Christians, and through practical help shared amongst us. As we look ahead now to a new stage of our common life and to the time when we may be able to meet together again, it would be good to remember how the first Christians allowed faith and hope to shape their *whole* lives.... the very ordinary as well as the special times.

If we have 'locked down' God into a Sunday box, then now is the time to ease our restrictions and let him be the God of our ordinary and everyday lives too.

In the meantime, keep safe and stay well.

*Adrian*

## **Sunday Faith becoming Everyday Faith....**

### **'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching ....'**

Our new discussion and Bible study group begins on Tuesday 7th July . We are meeting at 7.30pm fortnightly through Zoom, and you can join by telephone if you prefer. 'Christianity Explored' takes seven sessions together to look at the seven big themes of the Gospel of Mark—there are film clips and questions to consider before we meet and then plenty of time to discuss. It's not too late to join—please do contact me and I will give you more details. *Adrian*

## **NEW UPDATE: When will our churches be re-opening?**

You will no doubt have seen in the news the Government's announcement that places of worship may reopen from 4th July. This is what we have been waiting for! Behind the headline however, things are not as simple as they may sound.

In order to open safely every place of worship will be expected to stick to guidance on numbers, distancing, cleaning and what exactly we can and cannot do when we meet.—and as I write **we are still waiting for that guidance from the Government.** In time we will also receive further guidance from the national Church, but the Bishops also have to wait for the Government guidance. This makes it impossible to do much in the way of planning for re-opening at the moment.

However our PCC *has* met to consider a careful Risk Assessment of our church building in relation to re-opening for times of private prayer. We identified the hazards and risks involved, the control measures that we will need to put in place, and our collective capacity to put in place all those measures.

Our conclusion was that we *can* ensure our building is a safe context for private prayer and so we will now begin to make preparations for re-opening for specific times, when anyone can come and pray at St Mary's.

As we don't know how long this preparation will take, I can't yet give you any specific dates, but please be assured that as soon as I know I will pass on the information! In the meantime, if you are able to volunteer to 'supervise' the building when it is open, or perhaps to join the cleaning party that we will need to prepare the church, then do get in touch with me. Without enough volunteers it will be much harder to have the doors open.

At our meeting the PCC also decided that, pending guidance on public worship in church, we would *not* re-open the building for funerals yet.

I know that it is very frustrating for many of us to continue in this state of waiting, but I hope you can see that we are doing our best to work within a complicated situation, and with regulations that restrict what we might otherwise wish to do. Above all we want to ensure that everyone is kept as safe as possible. We are called to a life together and that means looking out for the well-being of everyone, especially those who might be more vulnerable than others.

Do please continue to pray for our PCC and Ministry Team as we try to find the best way ahead.

*Adrian*

### **Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.**

**On-line worship** Each Sunday we aim to have a short recorded, reflective act of worship by members of St Mary's congregation on both the website and our Facebook page—do have a look and join in worship together.

**Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer)** - Each week we are meeting virtually for Compline at 8pm on Wednesday. It has proven to be a meaningful way to have fellowship and prayer together as well as being quite good fun, especially as we find our feet with the technology and with more people joining us every week.

You can join by just phoning up and inputting the code or using 'Zoom' online. It has been democratic with several voices joining in with a line of liturgy each. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm on Wednesday.

To join by phone only, call this number **0131 460 1196** and when prompted input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

To join by Zoom on the internet, go to this address and click 'Open Zoom'  
<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

**Please note there is no Coffee Morning next Thursday, 2nd July.**

## **Listening to God's Word**

Our Bible readings for this Sunday are:

Jeremiah 28.5-9 and **Matthew 10.40-42**

### *Welcoming Jesus*

<sup>40</sup> "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

### **Reflection: the Revd Aphro McCullough** *'You're Welcome'*

Our Gospel reading for today is about love and kindness. The Revised Standard Version of the Bible translates the word 'reward' in this reading as 'welcome' and Jesus uses it six times in this context in just these three verses. Jesus calls us to think more deeply about what it means to welcome one another and we understand that our welcome, our acts of kindness are for all the time, any time no matter what circumstances or crises we find ourselves in.

We also understand that our welcoming need not be about big, heroic acts. According to Jesus, there is no such thing as a small gesture. A cup of cold water is all it takes but a cup of cold water is precious to a person who is really thirsty – sometimes it's the gift of life itself. And don't we all need that cup of water in these difficult days?

When Oscar Wilde was sent to prison in 1895, it was the ultimate humiliation for him. In his day, he was a real celebrity, but all that disappeared once he was convicted. Whenever the prison authorities moved him in public, he was spat at and people jeered at him. But one day when the crowd was particularly hostile, a friend of Wilde appeared and did a very simple thing that silenced the crowd. As Wilde passed by,

handcuffed and looking at the ground, the man simply raised his hat to him as a mark of friendship and respect.

Later, Wilde wrote, "The memory of that lowly silent act of Love has unsealed for me all the wells of pity, made the desert blossom like a rose, and brought me out of the bitterness of lonely exile into harmony with the wounded, broken and great heart of the world." The smallest of good deeds: a little thing done in love, a cup of cold water.

It doesn't take much to be hospitable, welcoming, and accepting of other people. A cup of cold water, a hug, a cup of tea and a cake, a listening ear, the hand of friendship. It doesn't take much; we can all do it and we can all make a difference.

But why should we? What's the point? Well, in our reading Jesus says that if we do these things we will receive our reward but I believe we should do these things first of all because we love Jesus and in his first letter John tells us that we love Jesus because he first loved us. Love begets love and in the parable of the sheep and the goats the king said 'whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'. Jesus is our King and we do it for Him.

Amen.

### **BENEFICE MAGAZINE : *from the Editor, Nigel Siesage***

The next issue of the magazine will be published in early July. Please submit any items for inclusion by Tuesday 30 June to [stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com). Please share your thoughts about anything of relevant to our Benefice community - including your reflections on and experiences of lockdown.

As many readers will be aware, I had hoped to organise a Knighton Open Gardens event for the spire appeal this summer. As that is clearly impossible, I would like to let people into our gardens through a photo feature in the magazine. Please send me photos of your summer gardens, with or without yourselves in the picture.



# InSPIRED

## The campaign to save our spire

### *UPDATE and GOOD NEWS!*

Thanks to the generosity and fund-raising efforts of so many people in the St Mary's and the wider benefice community, by the end of May we had raised £40,489 towards the cost of repairing the spire. This means that we have achieved our initial target, despite the very unusual circumstances, in only about 8 months! This certainly exceeds our expectations - but we cannot rest on our laurels.



Our plans have been based on the assumption of substantial contributions from charitable trusts and foundations. Applications have been submitted, but their success is not guaranteed, particularly in these very uncertain times, So if you have been meaning to donate but just haven't got round to it, please give now. Details are on the St Mary's website,

We look forward to emerging from the lockdown hibernation so that we can resume our programme of social and fund-raising events.

Best wishes and thanks,

Nigel Siesage, Chair of the Appeal Group

Adrian Jones, Vicar

**Many thank to** Tim O'Carroll for cutting the grass outside the Parish Centre—not an easy job, especially in the hot weather this week. It's good to look smart again.





**LAST CHANCE! Thank you for caring at home and in our community"** : this is the final week to make a contribution to our 'Carers Fund', as a way of expressing gratitude to all those who have taken such care of the most vulnerable in our society, particularly in our local care homes, during the lockdown period.

To express our appreciation to these care home workers we are aiming to give a gift to as many as possible - probably a gift token to be redeemed when times are easier and leisure seems possible again. We have a generous grant from our Ward Councillors to start things off, but if each gift is really to convey true appreciation then we want to add to it substantially through our own generosity. **LATEST TOTAL raised is £1,500—many thanks to everyone who has contributed so generously!**

Please do make a contribution to our Carers Fund to show your appreciation. We are collecting money through the St Guthlac's bank account, so please make a cheque payable to 'St Guthlacs PCC' (no cash please) . Alternatively you can pay by Direct Transfer:

Sort code 20-49-08

account 53861341

Reference "Carers"

You can send a donation by post or drop your envelope through the door of 62 Elms Road (Matthew), 5 Church Lane (Adrian) or the St Mary's Parish Centre, Church Lane (but *not* at St Guthlac's Church please!).

**Please make sure we have received your gift by the end of Wednesday 1st July.**

Thank *you*, in anticipation, for helping us thank our care staff.

*Adrian*

## Church Family News

**Greetings from Antigua!** Our Church Warden Ros Matthew has been in Antigua, her family's home, since the lockdown began back in March. This week she sent greetings to us all at St Mary's. Ros writes *"Thanks so much for all your thoughtfulness. Being here is like 'home away from home'... my cousins have provided well enough for me so there's no need to worry about anything. I am missing being at church and being at home. My fondest regards to all."*

**Brian Small** would like to express his gratitude for all the messages of sympathy that he and the family have received since Veronica's death.

**A Thought for the Week:** *the real questions ....*

"Did I offer peace today?  
Did I bring a smile to someone's face?  
Did I say words of healing?  
Did I let go of my anger and resentment?  
Did I forgive?  
Did I love?"

These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bits of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and in the life to come."

*Henri Nouwen, priest and theologian*



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

**0800 804 8044**

Are you in need of some daily  
hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone  
line for you to ring to hear  
comforting hymns, daily prayers  
and reflections.

**A new arrival:** Many of us will know the Rev Leigh Greenwood, the Minister of Stoneygate Baptist Church. Leigh and her husband are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter, sister to Eddie.

Miriam Henrietta Greenwood was born two weeks ago. Our best wishes to them all.

### Contact details:

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The Parish Office is currently closed to the public.

### PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 0116 2704272 or e mail: [stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com). If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

**During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.**

*giftaid it*

**Please pray.....** "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."  
( *1 Thessalonians 5.16-18*)

***Collect***

*Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
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.*

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit, and all those with troubling investigations and diagnoses. Please do continue to pray for **Anne Squires, Ed Groves** and their families.

We pray for all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

We give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends: **Michael Howkins**

*Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11.28.*