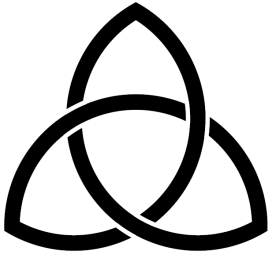


St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton



**Sunday 7th June 2020**

Trinity Sunday

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

***Approaching Worship***

*Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples  
'I am with you always'.*

*Be with us today, as we offer ourselves to you.*

*Hear our prayer for others and for ourselves*

*And keep us in your care.*

*Amen.*

***Collect***

*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.*

*Amen.*

***Post Communion***

*.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.*

*Amen.*

## **How do we live as the Church now? Can the Bible help us?**

I've been wondering a lot recently about what the church is here for and what we should be doing. I don't mean the building of course, but the people – the gathered community of people who share a Christian faith and who live in a particular place.

My wondering has obviously been prompted by the fact that we can't use our buildings and we can't even meet – what then is church actually all about?! I'm not alone in going back to the very first churches for some help.

Last week we celebrated Pentecost – the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in power and forged the first church from a disparate and varied band of men and women, of all nationalities, languages, social classes and ethnic backgrounds. This first group of Christians met in Jerusalem, in their own houses – the Book of Acts tells us that 3000 were added to their number on that day, so they must have quickly sorted themselves into smaller groups as well as meeting in public places that were large enough for them all. The end of Acts chapter 2 then outlines exactly what they did:

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*



## **UPDATE on the lockdown restrictions for churches**

Our lockdown restrictions continue to change gradually — but there are no changes for churches yet. The Vicar and authorised others (such as construction and maintenance engineers) can enter the building for essential tasks, but only with all the appropriate precautions. Sadly there are no immediate plans to allow the people of the church to gather, and these restrictions apply to all public worship so we cannot meet *outside* either.

Weddings and funerals still cannot take place in church, although funerals continue in crematoria and at the graveside, albeit with social distancing and no singing. When church buildings are re-opened again it is likely that this will happen in gradual, small steps. Small weddings might be first, alongside the opportunity for personal prayer. However, in order to keep the risk of virus transmission as low as possible, we would need to provide sanitiser for all and undertake to clean the church after each opening.

When congregational worship does resume we will still need to maintain social distancing, refrain from singing and from using paper or books, take a register of all present, guarantee hand cleaning on arrival and departure, and deep clean the building afterwards. This means that we may need several services, each with a small number of people present. It is hard to see when we might celebrate the Eucharist together again.

The Pre-School group (Your Cherubs) has started to meet in the Parish Centre once more, but with all the precautions you would now expect.

All of this means it is more important than ever to sustain our faith with an individual pattern of prayer and Bible reading, as well as to maintain contact with others of the church family. Previous newsletters have included some tips on doing this, but if you've missed them please do let me know.

*Adrian*

**Benefice Magazine—May Edition** : If you haven't received your copy of the magazine, either by email or post, and can't see it on our Church website, then do please let me know and I'll make sure it gets through.  
*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 join our regular online Coffee Morning on Thursdays, anytime between 10am and 11am.**

To join by phone only call this number 0131 460 1196 and when prompted input Meeting ID: 997 6372 8548

To join by Zoom on the internet go to this address and click 'Open Zoom'  
<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/99763728548>

# Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for this Sunday are:

Isaiah 40. 12-17 and 27-end, and **Matthew 28.16-20**

## *The great commission*

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

## ***Reflection for Trinity Sunday : the Revd Janet Gasper***

On Trinity Sunday the church celebrates the mystery of God. Other festivals in the church's year recall events on which our faith is founded. On Trinity Sunday we enfold ourselves in God whose essence is that of a threefold unity of persons – three persons bound in a unity of love.

The Trinity describes our experience of God: three in oneness is something we can all relate to in nature and in daily life as we see in this traditional Irish poem:

*' Three folds of cloth yet one napkin is there.*

*Three joints of the finger but only one finger fair.*

*Three leaves of the shamrock yet no more than one shamrock to wear.*

*Frost, snowflakes, ice all in water their origin share.*

*Three persons in God, to one God alone we make prayer.'*

We are also familiar with Trinitarian language – before the beginning of a sermon the preacher may say that he/she speaks “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. Many of us are familiar with a prayer known as The Grace, words from 2 Corinthians, 13, “The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”. There is often a Trinitarian blessing at the end of a service and we baptize: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”, as described in today’s Gospel reading from Matthew 28: 19. We receive all this as part of our worship, part of our prayer.

The *oneness* of God is constant, timeless. The *threeness* reflects our experience of God. Sometimes when we are out in the countryside or when we are thinking about the world of nature and the infinite possibilities of plant and animal life or of the human body, then we know God as Creator-Father. At other times, our experience of God is focused on Jesus. We see his love and forgiveness, read about his life and teaching in the Gospels. We see Jesus like a window into God – healing, teaching, loving everyone in the world and we know God as Saviour-Son. Most of us sometimes feel God at work deep within ourselves or within a particular situation, guiding, strengthening – often at times of loss and crisis, where somehow we have drawn on resources and inner strength which came from God – sustainer - Holy Spirit. Perhaps this has been especially true during the Covid crisis which we continue to face.

So this Trinity Sunday let us be aware of all we have experienced of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and let us not forget that when we talk about God we are on Holy Ground, we tread on the edge of Eternity. In speaking of God as Christians, we see that in Jesus Christ God is revealed and we become involved with God through the Spirit which is everywhere enabling us to respond to all revelations of truth, the life giving spirit who moves us to move the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three in one, the Holy Trinity bound in one eternity of love. Amen.

**Thank you for caring at home and in our community”** : this is the message of appreciation that, as St Mary’s and St Guthlac’s churches, we want to send loud and clear to the staff of our local care homes and to all those carers who have been supporting clients, friends and relatives in their own homes during the pandemic. We are particularly conscious that we have at least nine care homes in our benefice, and that the staff will have been under extraordinary strain and pressure over the last two months—often, it seems, unappreciated by those who make key decisions, and perhaps also by ourselves, until now.

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 £1,200—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!).

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

*Adrian*





The latest **Knighton Benefice Online Quiz** will be taking place on Thursday June 11 at 7.30pm! Everyone is welcome to join us for some fun and exercise or 'the little grey cells'!

You can take part through *Zoom* or just phone in to join the conversation. To provide your answers you will need a smartphone alongside your main computer, lap top or tablet. The quiz is provided by *Kahoot*, and Matthew will give instructions about how to log in at the start of the evening.

Why not play as a household and pit your wits against fellow church members? There'll be questions on General Knowledge, 'Do you know Knighton?', history, politics, music sport, and more.

It'd be great to see you and don't worry about the technology-it adds to the entertainment value! Contact Matthew for more details

[revgough@gmail.com](mailto:revgough@gmail.com), 07754961997

*Join through Zoom by clicking this link <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>*

*Meeting ID: 746 767 4408*

*or phone 0131 460 1196 and use the same Meeting ID.*

**“Accommodation wanted:** Hilary is an ordained C of E minister but currently without a parish. She is urgently looking to rent or buy a two bedroom house in this part of the city. If you know of anything that might be suitable please get in touch with Adrian.

### **Church Family News:**

**Sad news:** It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that our friend Veronica Small died late on Tuesday night with her family, having been ill for some time but recently moved back home from hospital. Veronica was a life-long member of St Mary’s, her father Colin Holyoake being organist and choirmaster here for sixty years. Her kindness and interest in others were just two of Veronica’s special qualities and she will be sorely missed by all of us. Our love and prayers go out to Brian and all the family. Details about a future memorial service will be published in due course.

**Greetings from Wendy Magee (née Smith)** - Wendy used to attend St Mary’s as a child and teenager, with Mum Joyce, and then moved to Birmingham. She writes *“For 30 years I did not attend church and I lost sight of God but now I look back I know he never lost sight of me and he guided me back to faith and church. I now worship at Lyndon Methodist Church in Solihull where I am senior steward.*

*Anyway the point of my email is to say ‘thank you’ for your weekly video service which I have started watching each week. It is wonderful to be able to be a part of St Mary’s again and share in your worship. It brings so many memories back and it was St Marys where I learnt all the gospel stories and many times I felt the love of Jesus. So while lockdown has changed my life in many ways this is a wonderful positive enrichment! Thank you to everyone involved in the production of your services. God Bless you all.”*

**Happy Birthday!** Many happy returns to Keith Dewsbury who will be 90 years young this coming Saturday, 13th. Have a super day Keith.

### Contact details:

**Vicar: Adrian Jones** 0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414

Email: [adrian.jones@zoho.com](mailto:adrian.jones@zoho.com) (day off normally Friday)

**Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough** 07754 961997

Email: [revgough@gmail.com](mailto:revgough@gmail.com) (day off normally Friday)

**Revd Aphro McCullough:** 0116 283 7887

Email: [aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com](mailto:aphro.mccullough@btinternet.com)

**Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster**

Email: [safpta6@gmail.com](mailto:safpta6@gmail.com) 07966 376905

**Revd Janet Gasper**

Email: [janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janet.gasper@hotmail.co.uk) 0116 288 9646

**Reader: Fiona Wingate**

Email: [Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net](mailto:Fiona.wingate@talktalk.net) 07515 752954

**Churchwarden: Rosalind Matthew**

**Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge** 0116 270 2705

Email: [office@knightonparish.co.uk](mailto:office@knightonparish.co.uk)

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*)

**Give thanks:** for everyone who is working hard to use technology to provide worship and encouragement through the internet, websites and live-streaming of services.

### **A prayer for the Coronavirus outbreak**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy,  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
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 **Ed Groves** and all his family.

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: **Pam Whinnett, Brian Pinder., Bill Webster, Veronica Small.**

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