



June

Sunday readings for June plus a few thoughts.

Sunday 7th TRINITY SUNDAY

Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end, 2 Corinthians 13:11-end, Matthew 28:16-20

The passage from Matthew gospel is known as the Great Commission. The disciples have seen the risen Christ but some still are still wrestling with doubt. Isn't it amazing that Jesus still commissions them? He tells them to go, with his authority, and make disciples of all nations. We can assume that we need to have dispensed with doubt and have a bold faith before we're called to serve. Not so—we too are sent by Jesus to go and tell others what we have seen.

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.

Sunday 14th 1ST AFTER TRINITY

Exodus 19:2-8a, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8

There is more 'sending out' in this reading from Matthew's gospel. This takes us back into the ministry of Jesus and a time when the disciples begin to get involved practically in mission. They have observed Jesus at work and he points out the need likening it to a ripe harvest field. Then the work begins with prayer (v38) and the disciples willingness to go and be people of word and deed. What can we learn about this pattern for mission today?

COLLECT: *God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son.*

Sunday 21st 2ND AFTER TRINITY

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

Matthew's gospel gives us more words about mission that remind us that we should not expect things to be easy just because we're following Jesus. Why do you think we are sometimes fearful about sharing our faith? Are we more inclined to dismiss the challenges or over-emphasise them? What can we do to gain a more measured perspective?

COLLECT: *Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Sunday 28th 3RD AFTER TRINITY

Jeremiah 28:5-9, Romans 6:12-end, Matthew 10:40-end

COLLECT: *God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

FROM THE VICAR



Green has long been my favourite colour and the season we're entering as churches is marked by the colour green. It adorns our banners, altars and my stoles. It's there as a reminder of our journey through the year and the themes we encounter in scripture.

Purple is for Lent, Advent, for penitence and preparation, **white** or **gold** is for Christmas and Easter, joy and celebration, **red** is for the Holy Spirit, passion, fire and blood and **green** for what is known as 'ordinary time'.

This green season stretches from Trinity Sunday all the way through to near the end of October, hence our Sundays are known as 'after Trinity'.

Because this season is so long and because it coincides (for us) with summer, in Godly Play scripts it is called 'the great, green growing season'. Largely uninterrupted by feasts and festivals it gives us space to focus on growth and that makes it anything but 'ordinary'.

And that brings me to lockdown! That too seems long and is now coinciding with summer. I don't know about you but I started off with good intentions, bursting with energy, full of creative ideas for what we could do as churches in these challenging times and eager to tackle a few personal goals as well—the writing I never seem to do, the garden that seems out-of-hand, knitting, paintwork, etc.

Whilst the reason for the enforced isolation is clearly not welcome and the virus itself has caused widespread suffering and fear, I also

wanted to be able to see the potential for this time to be used also as a gift. Many good things have sprung up in recent weeks and I am sure you will be aware of the shoots of new life in our communities.

But, to be honest, it is easy to lose motivation, to lose focus and grow weary. Individually and collectively we can be inclined to give up or give in. When that happens our potential growing season can turn into a time of lethargy and stagnation, worse still decay and dis-ease.

I am reminded of the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13) and how only some seeds went on to produce a harvest. Some were unable to Put down strong roots, others got choked by weeds and others still were snatched away by birds.

I also think about Pauls' letter to the church in Galatia and how he asks them 'Who cut in on you?' (Galatians 5:7) The Christians were 'running a good race but then something happened to stop them obeying the truth. Something stunted their growth.

What I have learned from my garden in recent years is that it needs constant care and attention. Clearing a veritable wasteland behind the garage several years ago was a mammoth task but it looks equally unloved now because weeds are pernicious and inclined to take over.

Our spiritual health (as well as our physical and mental wellbeing) needs similar attention. An energetic bout of exertion might assuage the guilt but real growth and health requires commitment throughout the seasons of the year.

This great green growing season stretches ahead of us, full of potential for our growth in Christ. What shall we do with it? What will we have to show for it when lockdown is over?

KB



Pause, ponder...

BLAME GAME

A virus doesn't wear
Blue or red shoes
When it sprints to overtake
Humanity.
It doesn't claim to speak
In God's name,
Transferring blame to an angry
Deity
For the stupidity of men
Misusing resources of God's earth
Which gave them birth,
The bug just says thanks man
For giving space so I can
Reveal my evil face.

PAT BIDMEAD

Pray

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs

For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Pray for ourselves

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

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.

Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

A prayer written by the Dean of Southwark

Ever present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may, with the zeal of Pentecost,
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake. Amen.

You can join in Monday Morning Prayer at 8am
via Zoom and Night Prayer every day at 8.30pm
on Facebook. If you would like those gathering
to pray for something specific please send a
message by email or post on Facebook.

Between 19th April and 13th May Nuneaton Foodbank distributed to 332 people (including 104 children). The warehouse team have processed 9.26 tons of food since the last update.



TESCO have been supporting Foodbanks throughout the country during the Covid-19 crisis, delivering large quantities of food, without charge, to foodbanks. Nuneaton Foodbank has gratefully received 3.3 tons of food since this initiative began.

However, foodbanks have no control over what food is being sent to them, and despite these deliveries Nuneaton Foodbank has significant shortfalls in number of essential items. Therefore your help is still as important as ever.

Please continue to donate food items from the 'Shopping list' below, at local supermarkets such as ASDA, Sainsburys, Coop and Lidl. You may also take donations to the Foodbank warehouse; leave the donations outside and alert the warehouse team by knocking on the door, and then moving back two metres to maintain social distancing.

FOODBANK SHOPPING LIST:

Tinned food: potatoes, carrots, spaghetti, macaroni, ravioli, spaghetti bolognese, sausage & beans, stews, meatballs, hot dogs, curry, fruit, puddings.

Packets: instant mashed potato, plain uncooked rice, angel delight, jellies.

Jars: pasta sauce, vegetarian items.

Bottles: squash and/or cordial.

Household & Toiletries: soap, deodorants, shower gel, shaving gel/foam, shampoo, safety razors, washing powder, washing pods, washing up liquid, kitchen roll, tin openers. *Thank you!*

Knitted Angels

We're looking for a band of knitters to start work on some little angels that we'll be using near to Christmas. Carol Ward has devised the pattern and Jane Clarke tested it to ensure it can be understood by us all. If you have some double-knit white wool, a pair of 3.25mm (No.10) knitting needles, a darning needle and a small amount of stuffing you are ready to begin. Please email Kelly for the pattern: revkells@gmail.com



DISCIPLESHIP READING



Wouldn't it be great to emerge from lockdown having learned a new skill or grown in some way... other than an expanding waistline?!

We have a small library of Christian books

at St Nicolas Church, some short study course on particular subjects in the church office and a sizeable collection of theology books at the vicarage!

If you would like to borrow a book from the church or Kelly then please send an email to Kelly giving an idea of the subject (e.g. 'Have you got anything about prayer?') and perhaps we can pair you up with a good read.

PASTORAL CARE

We have a network of pastoral care and support for this time when we are unable to meet. In addition we encourage church members to stay in touch with each other by telephone and alert the vicar or wardens if you are concerned about anyone or if you would value being contacted. If you find yourself in need of supplies or practical help please get in touch.



GIVING

During this time when we cannot gather for worship it is still vital that we support our churches financially if they are to survive. For those who give via envelopes or by putting money in the plate please consider how you can maintain your support of church mission and ministry at this time.



Daily Hope is a free phone line, available 24 hours a day, offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone.

DEADLINES

The deadline for the July newsletter is Monday 22nd June. Please email contributions to Kelly. We'd especially like it if church members would contribute personal news and information that we could add to the newsletter.

ST NICOLAS' OFFICE

The parish office is not open at the moment and mail and emails are only checked once a week. Therefore if you need an urgent response it is best to contact the vicar or one of the church wardens.

WHAT DO WE DO THAT FOR?



THE LITURGY (Part 1)

(Derived from *Common Worship Today: A guide to Common Worship*, Mark Earey and Gilly Myers.)

When we use the word 'liturgy' we often mean the parts of a worship service that are written for us. It comes from a Greek word meaning 'the work of (or for) the people'. Liturgy serves several purposes in worship:

- 1) It ensures that our services are **public** and express **corporate** nature of worship. Our worship services are not meant to just represent the preferences or views of a few people. The liturgy expresses what the Church believes not just what the leader happens to think that day. We're not making up our theology 'on the hoof'! It also reminds us that are people united by what we believe, belonging together and learning to give and take. On any given day the words we say may not be how you are feeling but they are nevertheless true for us as 'the people'.
- 2) It reminds us that we are part of something bigger. Through the liturgy we are **connected** to the Church in every time, place and age. Our liturgy is like our shared story.
- 3) It is **symbolic** yet **holistic**. It is not trying to do and say everything that we would want to express in worship as individuals however it represents the bigger picture of worship that is our life's calling. It also invites us to use more than words—it is about actions and movements, emotions and thoughts.
- 4) It is **formational**. It doesn't just express what we happen to be feeling now. It is also not just about what we get out of it as an individual. Over time the words are meant to resonate with us, teach us about our faith and shape us and the way we live. The repetition of words and phrases reminds us of things that are important and helps us to become more acquainted with passages of scripture and core tenets of our faith.

The liturgy of the Church of England is really like a family of resources. Some of the decisions about what is used are made centrally and those elements link us to the worldwide Anglican Communion—there is a likeness in what we believe and how we express that in worship. Some of the decisions are made at a more local level as those planning and leading services decide what will work best for a particular context. However we are not trying to please people or turn worship into a self-seeking exercise. Instead we are trying to enable a community to express something in worship that is bigger than the sum of the parts and be shaped by it too.

CHURCH BEYOND BUILDINGS

Below is our programme of online activities.



Sundays 10am - **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

On Facebook at 10am. You don't need to be a registered Facebook user to access this - put the link into your browser

<https://www.facebook.com/stnicolaschurchnuneaton/>

Sundays 11am-12noon - **CHURCH LOUNGE**

Post-service chat (with refreshments from your own kitchen) via Zoom. Use this link

<https://zoom.us/j/136028810>

Mondays 8am - **MORNING PRAYER** on Zoom.

Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/136028810>

Tuesdays 10am - SWANS session with Sally-Ann live streamed on Facebook. You do need to be a Facebook user and a member of the SWANS Facebook group.

Wednesdays 7-8pm - **WORD & WORSHIP**

An online version of our Wednesday programme with some Bible study and chatter. The current theme is the Beatitudes. Zoom link

<https://zoom.us/j/136028810>

Thursdays 11.30am - **SONGS FOR LITTLE ONES**

Linked with Baby Hub Sally-Ann will be leading a short session of songs. Thursday is also pastoral care catch-up day!

Thursdays 7.30pm- **TALKING JESUS**

A course providing encouragement and advice on sharing our faith. It is suitable for those of all knowledge and experience levels.

Fridays 11am - **SNAPS**

A programme for adults and young people with special needs. Email Sally-Ann

saveasey@postmaster.co.uk

Saturdays 4-5pm - **CHURCH QUIZ**

A quiz suitable for all ages via Zoom.

Plus **NIGHT PRAYER** every evening at 8.30pm on Facebook.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Website: www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk

Facebook: [stnicolaschurchnuneaton](https://www.facebook.com/stnicolaschurchnuneaton)

Email: office@stnicolaschurch.org.uk

Telephone: 02476344553 or 02476346900

Post: St Nicolas Church, Parish Office, Vicarage Street, Nuneaton, CV11 4AZ