



## SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

### Sunday 2nd 8<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY

Genesis 32:22-31, Romans 9:1-5, Matth 14:12-21

#### COLLECT:

*Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### Sunday 9th 9<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28, Romans 10:5-15, Matth 14:22-33

#### COLLECT:

*Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day,  
and make her holy, strong and faithful,  
for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### Sunday 16th 10<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY

Genesis 45: 1-15, Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32, Matth 15:21-28

#### COLLECT:

*Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his  
disciples to be persistent in prayer,  
give us patience and courage never to lose  
hope, but always to bring our prayers before  
you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### Sunday 23rd 11<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY

Exodus 18: 8—2: 10, Romans 12:1-8, Matth 16: 13-20

#### COLLECT:

*God of glory, the end of our searching,  
help us to lay aside all that prevents us from  
seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we  
have to gain the pearl beyond all price,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

### Sunday 30th 12<sup>TH</sup> AFTER TRINITY

Exodus 3: 1-15, Romans 12: 9-end, Matth 16: 21-end

## FROM THE VICAR

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant  
looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great  
value, he went away and sold everything he had  
and bought it.*

Matthew 13:45,46)

During July, the lectionary Bible readings led us through some of the kingdom parables found in Matthew 13. In one, the kingdom of God seems to be something that people stumble across, almost by accident. In another, the kingdom is something for which people search. In both cases though having found the kingdom there is a realisation that it is the very thing that causes all other treasures, dreams, possessions, etc. to pale almost into insignificance. Why else would the man sell all he had to buy the pearl? Seek ye first the kingdom of God...

Some of the illustrations give the impression that the kingdom of God can be overlooked; perhaps we can miss it if we're not open or attentive, or if we are distracted by other things, possibly by other things of value that may need to take a back seat.

Bishop Steven Croft, writing about these parables says 'Sometimes people read these parables as if they are about sacrifice. [...] The parables are about value not sacrifice.' I found that a helpful explanation. I think I have been inclined to put an emphasis on sacrifice when speaking of some of the parables and there certainly may be an element of that in our journey of faith. However these parables remind me when we know Jesus and participate in the kingdom, it puts other things into perspective. Those things that previously seemed important or precious are revealed as less valuable because we have found something of greater value.

We make value judgements all of the time. I am conscious of it in terms of my time. I value spending a day off with my godchildren more than a day off doing the gardening or housework! It's a value judgement. As a youth worker years ago I used to get frustrated with parents who signed their children up for sports groups on a Sunday morning; not because that was a bad thing to do but because the underlying message to the children was that this was of more value than being part of the church and all that offered in terms of growth in faith.

My question to us all is whether what we fill our time with more generally is of kingdom value and helps us to be led more by Jesus.

I'm not suggesting that filling our lives with churchy activities necessarily equates to honouring God in our lives nor having a kingdom focus, however if the nurture of our spiritual health, our participation in worship, mission or discipleship, takes the position of just another hobby, what does that say about the value we place on Jesus and our faith in him? How do we ensure that living out our faith does not get relegated to a Sunday activity in a special building but rather our lives demonstrate love for Jesus and kingdom values in all we do? **KB**

## Pause, Ponder...

### MEDITATION

My life is far from a living sermon  
 And in this world of haste I seldom search  
 For the peace to be found in prayer,  
 As my thoughts chatter aloud and surge inside  
 My mind,  
 Sending cloud of radiated emotion into space  
 Between the unheard sound,  
 Where unspoken word reveals the urge  
 To verbalise the silence as my senses are conveyed  
 To the exit of knowledge.  
 But in a moment of silent meditation,  
 Where body and soul breathe on a pause in time,  
 Prayer is laid against a solemn Cross to find  
 The oneness of God,  
 And the Christ I deny everyday in my living  
 Becomes the centre of my being,  
 To touch my sinfulness  
 With finger of forgiveness,  
 And all thought is brought to sacred stillness  
 In nameless sanctuary of seeing,  
 And through stained glass window of conscience,  
 I see double shadow of man on the grass,  
 And know one shadow  
 Must pass into eternity.

PAT BIDMEAD

## Pray

Lord Jesus Christ,  
 Son of the Father,  
 full of the Spirit,  
 hear our prayer,  
 receive our praises,  
 fill our lives.

Faithful and steadfast God,  
 nourish your people in this  
 wicked world,  
 and, through prayer and the Scriptures,  
 give us our daily bread;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, you are ever watchful  
 and bless us with your gifts;  
 as you provide for all our needs,  
 so help us to build only what pleases you,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.



### OBITUARY

#### Jane Tearnan 1934-2020

Jane Tearnan (née Peters) was born in Surbiton on 24 July 1934, the eldest of three children. Jane very early on fell in love with the sound of the Cello, and became a pupil of the Junior department of the Royal Academy, regularly commuting to London from her Surrey home. After getting her degree she taught at a Catholic girl's school in Clevedon. Later, in an attempt perhaps to escape the staid atmosphere of a genteel 1950s seaside resort, she sailed to South Africa to teach at St. Cyprians Girls School in Cape Town. It was there that she met Peter, fittingly, at a St. Cecilia's Day party for members of the Melodic choir in which they were both to sing Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony. And I well remember Peter telling us at our House Group that as soon as he saw Jane, he decided that she was the girl he was going to marry. They were duly married on 19 December 1959 in South Africa, and it was there that Gregory was born a year later. The family then lived in Holland while Peter studied there before moving to Surrey where Harry and Erica were born. The family then came up to Nuneaton in the early 70s where Peter was to teach at the School of Art. Jane then taught at various Warwickshire schools as a peripatetic Cello teacher.

After attending several churches in Nuneaton the family then made St. Nicolas their spiritual home. Jane was an active member of the church, participating in a retreat at home organised by Graham Hardwick, involved with marriage preparation, reading lessons, and with Peter was a long-standing member of our House Group. She also regularly played the Cello in the Merevale ensemble when they performed before the annual Carol Service. It was after Peter's death, and giving up playing the Cello, that she was persuaded to join the choir where she was much supported and looked after as she became frailer. Outside of church Jane was a member of the French Group going regularly to Nuneaton's twin town of Roanne, a member of the Nuneaton branch of the Historical Association, as well as a member of the Bardi Orchestra, and the Merevale Ensemble. She was also a staunch member of the Phoenix group, formed to give support to those with dementia and their carers, and remained one after Peter's death. To her family she showed great love concern and gave support where she could.

In all of her activities Jane tried to stay positive whatever troubles life threw at her, and there were many, and she was determined to make the most of any opportunity to get out and about and enjoy life. One of the things that she began to be quite enthusiastic about recently was going to the live-streamed Opera performances at the Odeon (Alas no more screened in Nuneaton), keeping us on our toes by asking when the next one was on. All this despite professing not to be very interested in singers being an instrumentalist herself! But to all of these activities Jane contributed in a wise and considered way, always asking the pertinent questions when needed. Her going was a shock to her family and those of us who knew her but it was in many ways a merciful release from her worries and increasing frailty. So may she rest in peace.

MARIE PATERSON

### WELCOME!

After months of uncertainty we're pleased to announce that the Rev Adrian Guthrie will be arriving in Weddington towards the end of August. He and wife, Juliette will be moving into the newly renovated rectory in Church Lane.



Adrian is currently the rector of Alcester Minister on the other side of Coventry Diocese.

Adrian will be licensed as Associate Minister of Weddington and Caldecote on Monday 7th September at 7.30pm. It seems likely that this will be an online service!

After the service Adrian and Juliette will be taking some time off and not be available until their first official service with us on 4th October.

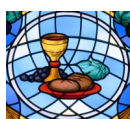
In the meantime if anyone is able to assist in tidying the rectory garden before the Guthrie's arrival please let me or Paul Ingram know.

### WELCOME AGAIN!

Another piece of news that was delayed by COVID-19 is that Marina Betteridge has been appointed as part-time administrator for St James. The interviews took place in February and were overseen by a member of the diocesan office staff to ensure fairness and transparency with a candidate who was already known to us. Marina was duly offered the position which she will work alongside of her administrative duties at St Nicolas. Her St James work pattern has yet to be decided but it is likely that it will involve two sessions each week at the church office in Church Lane.

### AUGUST SERVICES

Both churches will be open for services in August. A risk assessment has been completed for each church and new measures are in place to ensure that we are able to keep people as safe as possible.



Numbers will be restricted for the time being in order that we can maintain social distancing. In August numbers at St James' services are limited to 18 and at St Nicolas it is in the region of 30. If you would like to attend a service you are welcome to turn up on the day however we recommend 'booking a place' with Kelly (St Nicolas) or Paul (St James) beforehand to ensure that there is space.

When you do arrive for a service you will be asked to read and comply with some important safety guidelines. We are also strongly urging encouraging people to wear masks or another suitable face covering, remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

All Sunday services are at 10am for the time being and we are only able to offer one service each Sunday. We will continue to live-stream the service from St Nicolas for the foreseeable future.

#### Sunday 2nd August

10am Holy Communion at St Nicolas  
10m Morning Prayer at St James

#### Sunday 9th August

10am Morning Worship at St Nicolas  
10am Holy Communion at St James

#### Sunday 16th August

10am Holy Communion at St Nicolas  
10m Morning Prayer at St James

#### Sunday 23rd August

10am Morning Worship at St Nicolas  
10am Holy Communion at St James

#### Sunday 30th August

10am Holy Communion at St Nicolas  
10m Morning Prayer at St James

### GIVING

Thank you to everyone who has continued to faithfully give to the churches throughout recent months. The finances of both churches have suffered considerably during lockdown, not least because we have lost the income from church halls. Therefore the gifts of church members have been even more important.

We're still encouraging people to

give via direct bank transfer, standing order or the Parish Giving Scheme if possible. This is the most efficient method. At St Nicolas you can also give using the contactless machine. If you do attend for worship and are included to part with cash that is very welcome too!

However it is worth pointing out that if you give via the contactless machine we can only claim gift aid on payments up to £30; give more by all means but please give it in several amounts rather than one. E.g. if you want to donate £50 please do it as two payments of £25 so that we can claim gift aid on each! I think that is the definition of wise stewardship!

### KESWICK ONLINE

This year's Keswick Convention is taking place online, 27th-31st July. You can find out more information here <https://keswickministries.org/convention-2020/>

### FOODBANK

Please do continue to support the Foodbank during this challenging time. A 'most needed' shopping list can be found on the Foodbank website.

### NEW ZOOM

From 1st August we will be moving to a new Zoom number and code. To access church activities on Zoom the ID is **247 634 4553**

The password is **Shekinah**

If Zoom means nothing to you, it is like an online conferencing platform or video conferencing call that enables lots of people to 'meet' online, to see and hear each other and discuss together. We are using Zoom for Monday Morning Prayer, Wednesday Word & Worship, Saturday Quiz as well as church business meetings. We have people available to help people new to modern technology to learn how to access and use Zoom so please get in touch if you would like a tutorial

### CONGRATULATIONS

... to Suzzie and Jamie on the birth of Matilda Louisa on 24th July!

# the Saints Staycation



- CIRCUS GAMES
- MUSIC WORKSHOPS
- CRAFTS STALLS
- MANY FOOD HAMPERS TO GIVE AWAY TO CELEBRATE OUR NEW 'YOUR FARMER MEALS' STALL
- NEW CAFE TABLES OUTSIDE FOR DELICIOUS FOOD FROM OUR CAFE



Free outdoor event from 11-2pm

NEWDEGATE STREET, CV11 4ED



EVERY WEDNESDAY IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

## THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(Author unknown but thanks to Margaret Dean for submitting it here.)

English is such a grate language  
And that is plane to sea  
But it can get quite complicated  
Both for ewe and me.

We have sew many different words  
That sound or luck the same  
But often mean such different things  
And who is their to blame?

It's ok when we're speaking  
'Cos the words all sound the same  
But when we start to right it down  
It all gets quite mundane.

Sew why are their so many words  
That appear thyme and thyme again  
Eye sea their can bee lots of wheys  
Two drive us all insane.

Sow does it really matter  
If sometimes wee get it wrong  
As long as we can understand  
I'm shore wheel get a long!



## Sundays 10am - SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

On Facebook at 10am.

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

## Sundays 11am-12noon - CHURCH LOUNGE

Post-service chat via Zoom. Zoom meeting ID is 247 634 4533. Password is Shekinah.

## Mondays 8am - MORNING PRAYER on Zoom.

Zoom ID is 247 634 4533. Password is Shekinah.

SWANS is having a break during August.

## Wednesdays 7-8pm - WORD & WORSHIP

Online Bible study and chatter.

Zoom ID is 247 634 4533. Password is Shekinah.

## Thursdays 11.30am - SONGS FOR LITTLE ONES

Linked with Baby Hub Sally-Ann will be leading a short session of songs.

## Fridays 11am - SNAPS

A musical programme for people special needs.

Email Sally-Ann [saveasey@postmaster.co.uk](mailto: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.

## DEADLINE

The deadline for the July newsletter is Monday 24th August Please email contributions to Kelly. There is not a lot of church news at the moment (for obvious reasons) so please do help us fill the pages! We'd especially like church members to contribute personal news, poems, book reviews, prayers and information for the newsletter. Please also give your feedback and whether you would be happy with a joint monthly newsletter for St Nicolas and St James going forward; up until the start of lockdown each church did it's own thing!

## STAYING IN TOUCH

**Website:** [www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk](http://www.stnicolaschurch.org.uk)

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