

ALL SAINTS'



This week's Newsbulletin

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Services/events for this week

Seventh Sunday after Trinity 18th July

10.00 Family Eucharist "God's compassion" in All Saints, with choral and organ music by Byrd, Gjeilo, Knight & Whitlock.

16.00 Messy Church picnic in grounds of St John's Hall

Tuesday 20th July

11.00 Morning Prayer on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87458760537>
Meeting ID: 874 5876 0537

Thursday 22nd July

11.00 Holy Communion in Church

'Zoom'-ing by 'phone

Call 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240 or 0131460 1196 and use meeting id followed by #

God's Compassion

Dear Friends,

Have you ever made plans for your life? Have your plans ever been interrupted?

The chances are that you answered yes to both of those questions. We've all made plans. Maybe it was for an hour, a day, a weekend, a holiday, our work, our finances, our family. And we've all experienced the interruption of those plans by circumstances that changed or the unexpected that happened especially during this pandemic.

In this week's Gospel reading (Mark 6 :30-34, 53-56) the disciples have just returned from teaching and healing people, they're telling Jesus about everything they taught and did. He says to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." He's made plans and has some expectations of what will happen. A boat ride across the lake

will take them to a quiet place and give them some time to rest and eat. Or so he thought. His plans, however, are interrupted by the many people who run ahead to meet him and the disciples as soon as the boat lands. His expectations are unmet. There is no quiet and there is no rest. There is only the great crowd of people, lost like sheep without a shepherd, interrupting what he had planned.

We all live in the tension between our plans and interruptions, our expectations and the unexpected, life as we want it to be and life as it happens. Every one of us could tell a story about that. It happens in small ways and in large ways. It's the baby waking up early from what you thought would be a quiet hour, or a day that had nothing on the calendar that turns into a day of one thing after another. It's taking a new job and finding that you are not doing what you planned and you are doing what you never expected. It's the diagnosis that interrupts retirement plans. It's a shattered dream, a divorce, a death. Our life plans get interrupted in a thousand different ways and the unexpected happens all along the way of life.

Please join us this Sunday to hear how we can find God's compassion even in those interruptions, in those shattering moments, as he draws alongside us, to hold us and be with us.

Prayer based on Mark 6:34

*Compassionate God,
You have love enough for all.*

*In our interrupted plans be with us,
Jesus, out of your compassion for us,
you invite us to come away with you
to a place of rest and quiet.*

*Help us to say yes and then
to be able to come away with you.*

*Lord, out of your compassion you care for
All those who are harassed, helpless, and
lost.*

*Lord in your compassion teach us to follow
you,
to trust you, to love you and to love as you
love.*

*Lord in your compassion feed us who are
hungry;
Physically, emotionally, and spiritually.*

*And Lord in your having compassion for us
Teach us to have compassion for others as
you do.*

*To understand that their plans and hopes in
life may also have been interrupted,
Help us to show compassion in action the way
you did.*

*And remind us when it is time to come away
with you
for quiet and rest.*

Love and prayers. Jo

Messy Church

'Picnic' in the church hall grounds this Sunday 18th July 4.00- 5.00. We will have fun for all the family collecting small natural things in our scavenger hunt, making bug hotels and a collage and having a simple time of reflection. If you know of any families that may like to join us, please ring Jo on 01992 584899

PCC meeting

The PCC is meeting this coming week is looking at the way forward for All Saints to grow spiritually and numerically and serve the community, reflecting locally the Church of England's vision summed up in a speech made by the Archbishop of York to General Synod this week. This important reflection is printed in full below.

Starting in September.

As part of our outreach and recognising how important it is that children should feel welcomed into church and know more about the love of God, I would love to start up **Prayers and Bears** again in church, probably on a Monday morning every week. As you

can imagine I can't do this by myself and will need assistance. Please could you let me know whether you could help me with this as a storyteller or making the refreshments or as a welcomer? Would you consider helping out once a month? Could you pray about this new venture please?

Worship from next week

Press Release from the Church of England 12th July 2021

"The prospect of the lifting of legal restrictions will be both a relief and a cause of anxiety and we are aware that there is likely still to be significant guidance in place.

"We have already been considering our current guidance to churches and are awaiting updated Government guidance for places of worship.

"We will also be seeking further clarification through the Government's Places of Worship Taskforce, which meets later this week, on a range of areas affecting public worship and places of worship."

At the time of writing we are still awaiting the outcome of these discussions and deliberations. We expect to be able to publish detailed plans for the whole of August in next week's newsletter.

The Church of England's Vision and Strategy Address General Synod 12th July 2021

Archbishop Stephen today addressed General Synod on the Vision and Strategy for the Church of England in the 2020s.

Discerning a vision and strategy for the Church of England in the 2020s began with a simple question: what kind of Church is God calling us to become?

After a wide ranging series of conversations involving many Synod members, representatives of just about every

constituency that makes up the complex and varied ecology of the Church of England, and many voices that do not always find themselves invited to the decision-making table, we were led to a simple answer: to be a more Christ centred church.

I don't think we would have arrived at such a simple statement were it not for the experience of Covid. The restrictions and isolations we have lived with have been hard. Our world is suffering. But stripped of the familiar comforts of worship and common life we have discovered a new and clear vision of Christ, the one who stands at the centre of our faith, the one in whom we have access to God. This is ludicrously obvious. It is hardly a surprise to say that our life is centred in Christ. It is unceasingly profound. The new life we have in Christ is received in one 'gigantic gulp of grace', as St. Cyprian put it. It is also a never ending story. St John's Gospel ends with the declaration that if everything about Jesus was written down then "the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21. 25)

St John also tells us that we are called to beloved discipleship, 'dwelling close to the Father's heart'; and courageous discipleship: 'As the Father sent me, so now I send you'. As we recover and emerge from Covid, we believe that God is asking us to become a church of missionary disciples; a younger and more diverse church that looks like the communities it serves; a safe church and a church that is a place of welcome for everyone; a mixed ecology church where we reach and serve our nation in many different ways.

At the centre of this, and as the means whereby we will serve and reach our nation, is a parish system revitalised for mission. And I'm dismayed that anyone would think this work – work, by the way, that is still a work in progress - is aiming at anything else.

Of course we want to cherish and develop our ministry in chaplaincies, church schools, fresh expressions, church plants, and it is a long time since the Church of England was so positive about the importance of chaplaincy. And , yes, we are setting

ambitious targets of how we will reach and serve children and young people and develop new Christian communities. But we also know that these things - as the paper makes clear - will flow from parish churches serving local communities forming communities of faith and enabling every member of the Church of England to discover their part in God's mission. Even where some services or mission initiatives are lay led, they remain under the oversight of the local incumbent whose cure of souls is shared by the bishops and governed by Canon Law. None of this changes.

There are three strategic priorities for the 2020s, but also the six bold outcomes (three of which are directly to do with the place of parish and local church) which begin to describe what the Church of England might look like in 2030 if our endeavours bear fruit. Moreover, we have also begun to focus on some key actions which will get us to where we believe God is calling.

One of these is a relatively easy win: to align the financial resource we offer from the centre with these priorities. But beyond this what we are discussing today are not initiatives emerging from head office but an invitation to the whole church in all its breadth and diversity and in all our parishes and dioceses to begin to see how its existing priorities and strategies might be shaped, changed and informed by these things. These are decisions that will be made locally over which PCCs and diocesan synods will have control. Just look at what we have achieved in the past year with so many services happening online and new communities being born.

Part 2 of the paper includes bringing simplicity and coherence to our governance structures and every aspect of our life together.

The Transforming Effectiveness agenda aims to ensure that all our resources of people, structures and historic wealth serve the mission of God more efficiently. This will cover every part of our national church, from buildings and faculties to how many bishops and dioceses we have. We need to assure those who give faithfully and sacrificially for the ministry of the Church that their money is

being used for a single purpose, which is to make Christ known and to build God's kingdom in the world.

What we are doing will enable more money and more resource to go towards frontline ministry in our parishes and other varied expressions of mission and Christian community that will emerge from our parishes, and this will include the services we need to ensure that that frontline ministry, and our ministers, ordained and lay, are properly trained, equipped, valued and supported.

Finally, I would like to say that I am enormously excited that, I think for the first time, the Church of England is putting children, young people, schools, families and households at the very heart of its strategy, that we are asking that our church becomes more diverse.

As you know, three words run through all this work and describe the virtues that God has laid on our hearts. It is to be a simpler, humbler, bolder church. These words have landed well. You know that when you hear them repeated back to you and when people make jokes about them. But simpler doesn't mean easier. And humbler doesn't mean tidier. And bolder certainly doesn't mean being predictable or overbearing.

On the contrary, it means a renewal of our life in Christ, returning to those deep, replenishing wellsprings of faith that we find around the Lord's table and when we open the Scriptures together. It will mean a meekness and obedience to God's agenda and penitent hearts, humbly recognising where we have got things wrong.

And, yes, it will mean courageous and daring discipleship and witness. But this will flow from hearts and lives changed and charged by God's goodness and God's mercy.

Doing all this will hurt. It will mean change. But it is not top-down. And neither is it bottom-up. It is the outworking of our discipleship. It comes from the centre. But the centre is not Lambeth Palace; nor Bishopthorpe; nor Church House

Westminster; nor the General Synod of the Church of England.

It is Christ.

The invitation of this work we discuss today with, I'm sure, its many flaws and shortcomings, is nothing less than an invitation for the spiritual and theological renewal of the Church of England as the company of believers formed by the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, working together in all our diversity, for the transformation of the world. It begins here in our own hearts as we commit ourselves afresh to the service of the gospel.

I want us to be a Christ-centred and Jesus Christ shaped church by the 5 marks of mission, making a difference in our world and effecting every community that we serve.

+Stephen

The full strategy paper is available on-line at <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/GS%202223%20Vision%20and%20Strategy.pdf>

Links to a number of videos and background papers are on the CofE website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/emerging-church-england/vision-church-england-2020s>

More comment and explanation can be found on the Church Times website at <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/topics/vision-and-strategy>

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