

Last chance to complete the questionnaire

Your story during lockdown

1. How have you felt supported in your faith?

2. What has been the most difficult aspects of life and faith?

Church and worshipping life

1. What should we keep from lockdown?

2. What should we NOT keep from lockdown?

3. What have you most missed from before lockdown?

4. What have you not missed from before lockdown and would be happy not to do anymore?



All Saints'
at the heart of the
community

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2020

TRINITY 16

Creation 4

Back to Church Sunday (I wish)



Collect for Trinity 16

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with
reverence
and know your peace at our lives'
end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our
whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for 27th September 2020

Philippians 2:1-13

Imitating Christ's Humility

² Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature^[a] God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Do Everything Without Grumbling

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Matthew 21:23-32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Please note that the time of the phone-in prayer service will change to 6pm on Sunday evenings from Sunday 4 October.

Dear all

Saturday 26th September 2020

Tomorrow’s readings are two great passages of scripture. The epistle is a hymn of praise to Jesus as the self-offering king who gave up everything to suffer and save humanity, and for that deserves our praise and obedience. The Gospel tells the parable of two sons: one who says the right things, the other who does the right things, with Jesus making it clear that it’s not good enough to just say the right things.

Over the past few weeks I’ve been mulling over what the right thing to do is in terms of worship services, both physical and virtual. Continuing with a nearly full complement of physical services as well as virtual services is not sustainable in the long run, particularly when Bob leaves us, which he will have to do in the coming months and definitely before next summer.

Live-streaming the physical service as it happens in church is an option that requires minimal effort once it has been set up and is something that is a long-term solution to continued online presence long after the pandemic has passed. As a result, I have asked Bob to explore the practicalities and pitfalls of live-streaming over the next month or two in order for us to properly be able to assess how best to make this a long-term answer. From 11th October for at least a month, therefore, the normal Sunday service will be live-streamed from wherever Bob is leading a service that Sunday.

It is important that this is a conversation that you are part of, so if you have any suggestions, questions or thoughts on this issue, please email Bob or myself at the addresses below. (And do complete the questionnaire (at <https://forms.gle/dSowq7RFpk1XgWNh6>) if you haven’t already, as tomorrow is the last day before we start analysing the answers.)

While Bob is exploring live-streaming, I will be busy looking at a number of special services that are coming up in the next three months, namely All Souls, Remembrance Sunday and Carols by Candlelight, in order to make sure that each service is as well done in these different and difficult circumstances as they can be. The Philippians passage invites us to ‘be of the same mind’ as Christ, ‘having the same love’. Christ, it goes on, ‘emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.’ Christ’s willingness to offer himself, not putting his own wants first but emptying himself of all in order to serve frail humanity, is a message for all of us to take to heart.

Blessings,

Andy

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