

Good News Sheet



ST PETER, SLINFOLD and ST NICOLAS, ITCHINGFIELD

15th NOVEMBER THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible readings

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.'

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Reflection

In Jesus' parable of the talents, servants are given talents by the master and when he returns they are expected to show what they've done with his talents. Jesus' parable reminds us that God is testing our desire to use what He gives us. And that's a question of Christian integrity.

The dictionary defines integrity as "the state of being whole." Your actions and your words are one. You are faithful. The parable of the talents is about our integrity. It's about stewardship. It's about growing, developing, and using for God's glory whatever we've been given by Him. He's given us things to do, things to care for, things to develop and grow as part of the way that we enjoy the wonderful Christian life that He has won for us. So let's look at the parable and try to understand it a bit better.

The three servants each receive talents from the master. And we, the servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, the members of His Church, have also received talents from Jesus, some kind of gift. The talents the master gives out are a trust. When you put money into a trust account at the bank, they keep it for you, but you expect to see interest returned to you on that money. And that's what Jesus is getting at here as well. God gives us talents in various forms so that we can be fruitful and multiply them for His kingdom and His glory.

A simple definition of the talent: "is whatever the Lord gives us now and will ask us about later." We all receive talents from our Master. Which ones has He given you that He'll be asking about later?

We might read this passage and think: "He gave 5 talents to one servant, 2 to another and only 1 to the third. He must not have loved that third man as much."

Well, the value of the talent Jesus refers to is not something to sneeze at. It's around a lifetime of wages for an average worker. A talent was the largest unit of Greek money. One denarius was about one day's wages. And there were 10,000 denarii in one talent. And that's about 35 years of wages for one person!

So in some way the gift of the talents begins with showing us that Jesus' gifts to us are lavish. The talents our Lord provides to us are gifts that He has determined we can handle, according to our ability, and if we use them properly they will be a blessing to us and to others, as well as to God.

Suppose that you are one of those servants. What would you do if someone gave you, entrusted you, with 35 years worth of your wages?

If someone comes up to you and says, "My dear friend, here's 1.5 million pounds for you to invest while I'm gone." What would you do? That's 35 years' pay at around £40,000 a year. That's the rough 21st century equivalent of one talent.

The first two servants respond to the master in the same way. They accept what he gives them. They don't do any comparing. There's no hint of jealousy or greed. There's simply a happy acknowledgement of the master's talents followed by putting those talents to work in order to grow them.

Part of the joy of our life as Christians is discovering what God has given us; discovering our unique abilities, privileges and opportunities and then learning to use them in the service of the Lord's kingdom.

God calls us to be faithful in caring for what is entrusted to us. The amount we bring back is not the issue. The fact that we respond eagerly and joyfully to the Lord's gifts is the important thing.

God is the Creator and Master of us all and He has given us all talents. And He is calling us to use the talents, resources, time, and opportunities He gives us to grow His kingdom. So let us live and work every day in the certainty that Jesus will say to us: 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things... Come and share your master's happiness!' Amen.

Intercessions by Wendy Dorkings

Lord, we thank you because you chose us. You wrote each of our names in the palm of your hand. You treasure us. We thank you that we are sanctified, saved and being made ready to share in the glory of Christ because of the sacrifice of Christ. We ask your protection from the darkness, the evil in disguise around us.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

We pray for the Church throughout the world, remembering those Christians in countries where their beliefs make them vulnerable and in danger. Uphold and strengthen all who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for hostages and their families. We pray for refugees and loved ones from whom they are separated.

We give thanks for our churches of St Nicolas and St Peter's. May we point the way to God's Kingdom in our communities and encourage all seeking to know more of you.
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Bless Elizabeth our Queen and her family. We pray for Charles as he prepares for the future. Instil in him wisdom and diplomacy. Most of all we ask you draw near to him in his quiet times so he may know you and trust in you.
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Merciful God, we pray for the many people who have contracted the coronavirus here and all over the world. Bring comfort to those grieving loved ones that have died and peace to those worried, fearful and uncertain as the virus spreads. We pray for the good news of a vaccine to help us all, for those scientists who have been working so hard to develop them. We pray for the vaccines safety as they are rolled out for general use. We also pray for governments and authorities who are developing strategies to contain and deal with the virus and those in the health services who may be risking their own lives to care for sick patients.
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

In our villages we ask your blessing on the families of those who have passed on. May they be comforted and assured their loved ones are in a higher more beautiful place with you and those who have gone before.
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

As we think of people suffering sickness, loneliness or heartbreak we pray you will meet them at their point of suffering. Help us to encourage them to lighten their concerns and help us to shine the light of your love.
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Bless us all. Keep us from being overcome by darkness. Give us faith, love and the hope of salvation as we are children of the light.
Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour. Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**All who have recently been bereaved, and especially:
the families and friends of Pauline Gordon Clark and John Parry.**

Those who are sick, and all who care for them, remembering:

Pamela Campbell	Peggy Johnson	Lucy Dalrymple	Adrian Skeates
Matt	Ian McBean	Jacqueline Dacey	Heather
Alex	Anna Holmes	Jane Busby	Becky
Linda Howard	Barbara	Sarah	Molly Bonsor
Louis Venni	Christine Lister	Martin	Diana Metson
Frances Aldridge	David Glaister	Michael Barling	David Bourn
Ashlyn	Ann Godfrey	Geoff Fuller	Madge
Chris Godfrey	Hazel	Jenny	Sally
Helen	Molly Finch Hatton	Daniel	Peter Busby
Julia	Robin		

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Blessing

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst us and remain with us and those we love, now and always. Amen.

Notices

During this second Lockdown, our churches will be open for private prayer as follows:

St Nicolas – Sunday's 9am-1pm and Wednesday's 1-4.30pm

St Peter's – Sunday's 12.30-4pm and Thursday's 9am-12.30pm

If you or someone you know of is in need of help, please contact a member of the ministry team, who will do their very best to get this organised.

A call to prayer for the nation The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and a number of senior church leaders are inviting Christians across the nation to participate in the month of prayer as a second lockdown in England comes into force. Further information from: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>

Foodbank contributions are much needed, at present they are asking particularly for instant mashed potato, sponge puddings, custard, rice pudding, tea and toothpaste. Please drop donations to the churches or The Rectory and they will be picked up from there.

Shoebboxes for Operation Christmas Child - St Peter's will be supporting this charity again this year. Please deliver filled shoebboxes to the church on Thursdays and Sundays, up to and including Thursday, 10th December. Empty shoebboxes and leaflets detailing suitable donations are available in St Peter's. An alternative is to pack a shoebox online or give a donation; www.shoebboxonline.org.uk Further details from Gill Collier-Morgan 791241.

Toys for onward distribution to needy children of the Horsham area by **The Salvation Army**, may be brought to the churches by the 29th November. Toys should be new, unwrapped but placed in bags with labels to indicate whether for a boy or a girl, and the age group of the intended recipient. Amazon gift vouchers are suggested as an alternative for teenagers, if you prefer. Further details from Gill Collier-Morgan 791241.

Daily Hope National phone line for hymns and prayers. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus. Daily Hope, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. Call on: **0800 804 8044**

While we are unable to worship in church there are other alternatives for prayer: the following link will direct you to services of Morning Prayer, Prayer During the Day, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer in which you will be joining with people all over the world.
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Churches together in England are offering prayers for this ongoing situation, along with Christians all over our nation and our world at this time. A range of prayer resources are being collated within this article:

[https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=568755&utm_source=CTBI+Newsletter+S
ubscribers&utm_campaign=204985aeae-
CTBI Monthly Newsletter March2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e94acb8d57-
204985aeae-508071405&ct=t\(CTBI Monthly Newsletter-March2020\)](https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=568755&utm_source=CTBI+Newsletter+S ubscribers&utm_campaign=204985aeae-CTBI+Monthly+Newsletter+March2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e94acb8d57-204985aeae-508071405&ct=t(CTBI+Monthly+Newsletter-March2020))

Please do contact Revd. Sandra if you need to talk or require assistance.
Tel: 01403 790197 or email sandra.richard@tiscali.co.uk
Sandra's day off is Tuesday

Revd. Rosemary can be contacted on 01403 264396
or email r.a.cattell@btinternet.com
Rosemary's day off is Monday

Carol Shepherd can be contacted on 01403 730001
or email carol_shepherd46@hotmail.co.uk

This document is also available on the websites, if you know anyone who might want a copy, please print one off and drop it through their door, or let Revd. Sandra know.

With love in Christ and continued prayers,
Revd Sandra
