

In & around the Benefice....

2nd August | Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Our Acting Rector is The Reverend Janet Tebby

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Our Curate is The Reverend Amanda Oliver

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****** This week's Benefice Morning Praise service is live online at 10am on Sunday 2nd August******

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87292524192> Meeting ID: 872 9252 4192 Passcode: 164953

Holy Communion services in our churches this month

2nd August 10am Yardley Hastings
9th August 10am Grendon
16th August 10am Denton
23rd August 10am Castle Ashby
30th August 10am Whiston

Harvest Festival services in September

6th Sept 10am Yardley Hastings
13th Sept 10am Castle Ashby
20th Sept 10am Grendon
27th Sept 10am Denton
27th Sept 3pm Whiston

For the time being, we are asking that you only attend the services in your usual church, as numbers are limited due to the social distancing rules. Online services will continue each Sunday for those not able to come to one of the "live" services. As always please visit our website for further details and service rotas.

It is strongly advised that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship

Reflection: Don't weep! Rejoice!

Reflection this week not on our Gospel, but from Nehemiah (read his story – Old Testament, one of the short books just before the Psalms).

It's a wonderful story of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. The details are fascinating. A goldsmith works on one section (with his hands which normally do delicate work!). A father and his daughters do another section (daughters building walls? My father built walls. I'm not sure he would have trusted me to build one properly.....)

If you look after children or grandchildren it is a great story to read with them. Eventually the walls are finished and the people gather to listen the word of the Lord being read. And they start crying.

By the end of this month we will have celebrated Holy Communion in each of our churches. Socially distanced. Just the body of Christ. No hymns. No coffee. Enough to make you weep.

Nehemiah has no patience with the weepers mourning the loss of the glory that once was Jerusalem. He calls on them to rejoice – 'the joy of the Lord is your strength!'

We have two simple choices as, and when we return to our buildings. To mourn what we have lost or to rejoice in the presence of God.

Our God, Lord of heaven and earth, is not contained by a building. Or a hymn. Or even the sacraments. Our God is beyond us. But also, within us. **Emmanuel. God with us. Wherever. Whatever.**

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- ◇ Christine Dryden and Andy Baker, being married at St Andrew's Yardley Hastings on 14th August, and for those couples in our benefice who have had to defer their weddings to next year: Aimee Hogan and Joseph Noble; Joanna Tomkins and Daman Stredwick; Heidi Benham and Toby Marshman
- ◇ All those missing loved ones who live far away
- ◇ All involved in the process of finding our new Rector
- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Mairi Boyd, Anne Blackmore, Fabienne Godfrey
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Evelyn Williams, Jean Williams and all who grieve at this time

Jean's funeral is at St Andrew's Yardley Hastings at 2pm, on Thursday 6th August. The funeral will be family only. The hearse will leave from the family home in Chase Park Rd and travel to the Church via Chase Park Road and High Street This will be an opportunity for those who wish to pay their last respects to Jean on her journey to St Andrew's.

The 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.

Amen

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55: 1-5

The Lord says this:
Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and
without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is
not bread, and your labour for that which does
not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader
and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of
Israel, for he has glorified you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14: 13-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**

When Jesus heard that Herod had beheaded John
the Baptist, he withdrew from there in a boat to a
deserted place by himself. But when the crowds
heard it, they followed him on foot from the
towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great
crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured
their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came
to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the
hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they
may go into the villages and buy food for
themselves.'

Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you
give them something to eat.'

They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves
and two fish.'

And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he
ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked
up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves,
and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples
gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were
filled; and they took up what was left over of the
broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who
ate were about five thousand men, besides women
and children.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have
taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word be deaf
to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be
free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your
love shine with the light of hope

Amen

A prayer of blessing for us all

May God bless us,

May God keep us in the Spirit's care
and lead our lives with love.

May Christ's warm welcome shine from our hearts
and Christ's own peace prevail, through this and
every day till greater life shall call.

Amen