

Sunday 20th September 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
10.00 a.m.	Morning Worship
4.00 p.m.	Tea-Time Church

Collect for Today

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Service Readings

2 Corinthians 4:1-12, 16 -end *Treasure in jars of clay*, Psalm 27:1-6, 13-14;
John 1:1-14

Please pray for

... those in need of our prayers: Sheila Banks, Julie Banks, Rosemary Bailey, Pauline Coulter, Doris Greenacre, Joy Hunter, Pat Williams and Mike Woodcock.

... the family and friends of Reginald Orr, Robert Baker, Constance Sweet, Dick Woodcock, George Dean, Martin Hawkins and Roger May whose anniversary of death is at this time

... those who live and work in Irwin Road, Iveagh Road, Litchfield Way and Lynwood.

... our Mission partners, the Koens Family in Papua New Guinea

Post Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Dear Friends

I'm delighted to be able to worship with you this week. Of particular joy is worshipping (for the third time now since March) 'in real life'; enabling Beverly to have a well-deserved and much needed holiday, and experiencing the 'new normal' at All Saints – and I don't just mean worship post-pandemic, but worship post-pews! I'm sure this re-ordering will give All Saints Church much greater flexibility – not least in enabling worship in these strange times.

Living through strange times is the very appropriate theme that All Saints is reflecting upon during September of this year. And there couldn't be a more encouraging message for us than that contained in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. Whilst Paul and the Corinthians lived in a very different context from our own, they also knew strange and challenging times. Paul, however, writes that 'we are afflicted in every way but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed' (2 Cor 4:8-9). This is, he says, because we have 'treasure in jars of clay'.

I love that image. The jars of clay represent you and me: formed of the earth and unto the earth we shall return; we are fragile, flawed and fearful. The treasure represents God: Lord of heaven and earth, who is almighty, victorious, and whose strength is made perfect in our weakness. As we live through strange times (and for those who are 'in the world but not of the world' the world should always seem a little strange!), let us with new resolve pray that the Holy Spirit would help us mine deeply for the treasure within, allowing it to strengthen and sustain us, and to shine through the blemishes of the pots to the glory of God.

With warmest wishes, your servant in Christ

Archdeacon Paul

Mission Focus for September: A Rocha International

A Rocha is a Christian organization engaging communities in nature conservation, and responding to the global crisis of biodiversity loss by carrying out community-based conservation projects. A Rocha is present in 21 countries around the world, including the UK. Through a variety of means, A Rocha carries out ecological monitoring and research in areas of high value for wildlife; spearheads practical measures for conserving and restoring habitats; encourages appreciation of nature and participation in its conservation, through environmental education and community outreach.

Notices

Welcome to Archdeacon Paul Davies who will be presiding at the 8am and 10am services today. Thank you, Paul, for covering today while Beverly is away.

Online services – Today's service will also be available by Zoom and later on YouTube.

NHS Test & Trace - We are recording the names of people attending morning prayer, Thursday Communion and all our services on a Sunday. We are recording names so that we can assist with the NHS Test & Trace service if necessary. The attendance information is being held in our church management system (iKnow) which is GDPR compliant. We will delete this attendance information 21 days after the event in accordance with Government guidelines. If, for any reason, you do not wish us to record your attendance, please tell Beverly or the warden at the service.

Harvest Quiz, Saturday 3rd October, 7pm – No supper this time, but the Harvest Quiz continues via Zoom! Team of around 8 people. Please let Eve know if you'd like to take part (evelynne.gunn@gmail.com). Entry donations to raise money for A Rocha.

Beverly on holiday: Please pray for Beverly and Andrew as they spend some time in Scotland this month (14th-28th). We pray that they both have a well-earned rest and a rejuvenating time away.

Trish on holiday: The office will be closed this coming week as Trish takes a break. Any issues or enquiries, please contact Carolyn or Henrietta.

Next Sunday Steve Summer will be presiding at our morning services. Steve oversees the Local Ministry Programme and will be letting us know more about opportunities to learn and grow in our faith. Martyn and Jeanette will be leading the Tea-time church service.

Financial giving at All Saints - Many thanks to all who have continued to make regular financial donations to All Saints during lock-down, either by standing order or via the envelope scheme. Other income has dropped this year, both in terms of donations at Sunday Services, and in rental income from the Hall. If you don't give regularly to our church, you can now do so online through our website. Please give generously to our church this year if you can. Please visit bit.ly/allsaints-donate or use this QR code with your smartphone camera:



Bucket pond bonanza! Read about our plans for bucket ponds in the Vicarage and how you can help:

<https://allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk/news/eco-news/bucket-pond-bonanza/>

Diary for the Coming Week

**Morning prayer 9.15am Mon-Weds in church, Holy Communion 9.15am
Thurs in church**

Mon 21st Pastoral Team Meeting, Zoom, 10.00am
Youth Group, Zoom, 5.00pm

Weds 23rd Pilgrim Course Two: week 4, Zoom, 7.30pm

Thurs 24th Holy Communion, Church, 9.15am (Paul Fenner presiding)

Sun 27th Holy Communion, 8.00am (Steve Summer presiding)
Holy Communion, 10.00am (Steve Summer presiding)
Zoom 'Coffee after Church' 11.30am
Tea-time service, church, 4.00pm (Martyn and Jeanette leading)

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 21st Ps. 49, 1 Kings 19:15-end, 2 Timothy 3:14-end

Tues 22nd Ps. 36, 1 Kings 8:63-9:9; Acts 16:25-end

Weds 23rd Ps. 34, 1 Kings 10:1-25, Acts 17:1-15

Thurs 24th Ps. 37, 1 Kings 11:1-13, Acts 17:16-end

Fri 25th Ps. 31, 1 Kings 11:26-end, Acts 18:1-21

Sat 26th Ps. 42, 1 Kings 12:1-24, Acts 18:22-19:7

Service Readings for Sunday 27th September:

16th Sunday after Trinity

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 *Our heavenly dwelling*; Psalm 23; John 14:1-6

Contacts

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