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August 2020

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**The monthly magazine of the Emmanuel
Benefice of Newsome and Armitage
Bridge and South Crosland, Huddersfield**

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds



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Thoughts from Bishop Nick !



Recently we have celebrated St James the Apostle and it got me thinking again about the opportunity we face now to read the Scriptures differently and recognise that there is much to be encouraged as well as challenged by.

Briefly (and a bit basically): James and his brother were invited to walk with Jesus (and any other friends he might choose to invite) and this meant leaving behind on the beach their father, the family business and a familiar life. They could have opted not to go. (I sometimes wonder if Jesus did call other people who declined; so, we have the record only of those who said yes.) But James took the risk and went.

James and his brother had a nickname: Boanerges, the sons of thunder. Which means that others who knew them had few illusions about their hot-headedness or impetuosity. Did Jesus call James and John because of their character and personalities or despite them?

At one point the brothers ask Jesus on the quiet if, when he comes into his kingdom, they can sit with him in the places of prestige. (In Matthew's Gospel they get their mother to do it. That's big of them.) Jesus questions whether they can really go the distance with him, and they are confident they can. So, Jesus tells them that they will "drink from the cup" he will drink from but recognises that at this point they have no idea what this might mean. In other words, he accepts their limited vision and takes them seriously anyway. (The text also says that "when the others heard [about this request] they began to be angry". I wonder who told them – and I think it was probably Jesus being mischievous.)

Eventually, James ends up a senior leader in the expanding church – risking everything but fired up by the resurrection and its power even in the face of persecution. His execution is reported in almost a cursory way.

The relevance to us is threefold:

- We might be a little disorientated by the current context in which we live and serve, but, leaving the familiar securities, we can be assured that Jesus has called us – you and me – for this time and place. Because or despite who we are? I think it is because he knows us in all our roundedness and also knows that we need each other to compensate for our particular oddities or weaknesses.
- We have to choose to walk this way and to do so with fewer certainties than we had in the past. We might think we are either stronger than we think (sons and daughters of

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thunder), or weaker than we wish (struggling to face reality and the future). Jesus calls us anyway and knows that if we are prepared to risk it all we shall not be disappointed.

- The end of our story is unknown. But we are called simply to be faithful and do what we can where we can. We are in God's hands, and none of us can know the future anyway.

The “re-grinding of the lens behind our eyes” is a process and not an event. Our perspectives need to be re-shaped as we move towards the autumn and winter (he says, even before the summer holidays) in order to help us to live and serve others confidently, come what may.

Now is a good time to return to the lessons St James had to face when following Jesus. It is no coincidence that our diocesan values have been set out in the words ***Loving, Living, Learning***.

We are called to ***love*** God, his creation, one another, and our neighbour as ourself. We ***live*** in the real world with all its uncertainties and contingencies – committed to incarnational discipleship and service as the people we are. And we are ***learning*** as we go – so no fear of messing up.

God bless you in everything.

Rt Revd Nick Baines

Bishop of Leeds

Reflection as we come out of lockdown!

Bishop Nick and General Synod have used this reflection to help to see how we move forward following lockdown. I think it is a really useful tool and wanted to offer it to all of you too! I will be using it at our first PCC meetings and maybe at our Annual meeting when we are able to hold them. Please use it to help you reflect on what now!!

This short Scriptural Reflection will fall into three parts –

- a reading of the passage;
- a reflection on the text in the light of the current pandemic situation;
- questions about what next

Read Ephesians 2.19–end 19

¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Stop and have a moment of silence and then read the passage again!

Reflection on the text

Now having read the passage twice give some thought to:

- What strikes you in this passage?
- Did anything immediately stand out, and why?
- How can we hold in tension the feeling of ‘strangers and aliens’ brought about by physical distancing, with being members of the household of God?

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Once you have given time to reflecting on the text itself you might like to consider the following questions!

- What has been lost during the last three or four months in your practice of faith and that of your faith community that you are keen to find again?
- What has been lost during the last three or four months in your practice of faith and that of your faith community that you are keen not find again?
- What new things have you found in your practice of faith and that of your faith community that you are keen to keep hold of?
- What new things have you found in your practice of faith and that of your faith community that you are keen not to keep hold of?

I hope this helps and gives you time and space to think about the “new normal”!

Julie



Our churches are re-opening

After 4 long months with the church doors locked, we are returning to our buildings to worship God and meet with our friends and family on Sunday 9th August! It has been a difficult time for us all coping with lockdown and the Coronavirus but we hope you have still felt connected to our church family through the online services or the resources that have been available on our website! For those without internet we have been delivering the service sheets each week so that they too could keep in touch with us all.

Over the next few weeks we will be having short services of Holy communion on a Sunday and Morning Worship or Holy Communion on a Wednesday and we will rotate around the churches. All the services will be at 10am – just like our team services so that it enables as many as want to come to be able to! Please see the rota which tells you which church on which day! Numbers will be limited for a while as we still need to follow the social distancing rules of 2metres and if possible you will need to wear a mask, to ensure your safety so please choose either a Sunday or a Wednesday to give everyone an opportunity to attend a service each week! Some of you may not feel it is safe yet to come to church and that is fine because there is no rush – God is wherever you are and you can pray and worship at home, as you have been doing, because we will continue to record the service each week until Christmas and maybe even beyond then!

We have to remember that your safety must come first and so we will need to follow all the government and Church of England guidelines to ensure you are not put in any danger!

Here are a few of the rules which might help you to stay safe!

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Sanitize your hands before entering the building at the sanitizing stations at the door.

Please wear a face mask if you are able (this is advised by government and the CofE)

Follow the one way system to avoid clashing with others. This will be clearly marked and the sidespeople will help if you are unsure!

Only sit on seats with service sheets on them – we've measured out the distance between them! The service sheets have been laminated so that we can use them again so please leave them on your seat as you leave!

Stay 2metres away from others – unless they are in your household or bubble!

No singing – out loud but you can sing and dance in your head and heart!

No tea and coffee will be available

No handshaking or sharing the peace

No hugging or kissing

Please don't stand in the aisle or doorways to chat; as others may need to pass!

Please fill in the test and trace sheet so we can help keep track of any cases of Covid19 and put it in the box provided on your way out!

I realise that all this may seem daunting but it will become part of life very quickly and it will ensure we are doing the best for you and all those you meet in church!

It will be good to get back into our buildings to worship God but please only come when you are ready, there is no obligation to come just

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because the doors are open. As Bishop Nick keeps on telling us “just because we can; doesn’t mean we must!”

Any questions please just ask!!
Stay safe!

Julie

All services will be at 10am

Date	Church and Type of service
Sunday 9 th August	Armitage Bridge
Wednesday 12 th August	Newsome
Sunday 16 th August	South Crosland
Wednesday 19 th August	Armitage Bridge
Sunday 23 rd August	Newsome
Wednesday 26 th August	South Crosland
Sunday 30 th August	Armitage Bridge
Wednesday 2 nd September	Newsome

Prayers from the brothers at the Community of the Resurrection

These are prayer pointers from a recent list from the brothers which I find helpful. You may find them helpful in your own times of prayer and meditation:

St Benedict writes in the Prologue: ‘Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God and our ears to the voice from heaven that every day calls out “Do not harden your hearts”’. That should be our first concern as we come out of lockdown: listen to what God is saying! What has he been telling us? Pray that we will not be deaf to the Spirit speaking.

St Benedict writes: ‘What, dear brothers, is more delightful than the voice of the Lord calling to us. See how the Lord in his love shows us that way of life.’ This delighting in the Lord’s love is the very heart of every Christian life. It what drives us forward and keeps us loving even when we are tired or suffering difficulties. Pray that we will seek this delight in the Lord’s love and that it will fill our lives so that others will be drawn to God.

Pray that we get the balance right between prayer and activity, and that the choices make after this time of desert will be the ones God wants.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness’ (Matt 5.6). Pray that we will all find the right way to seek righteousness particularly in ways where the cracks have been shown in our society by the coronavirus: in racial attitudes, in poverty, in the environment .

[The Rule of Life of the brothers of the Community of the Resurrection is based upon the Rule of Saint Benedict. This was written in the early 6th century by Benedict of Nursia, Italy. The Rule contains 73 chapters which outline a way of life based on the Gospel and lived in community under the guidance of and obedience to an abbot (men) or prioress (women), and obedience to one another.]

Lockdown and beyond!

Life during lockdown has been very different for all of us. Many of us have been “locked down” for several weeks and so life as we know it has been put on hold. Those who continued to go out to work have found a very different pattern to that too with lots of them working from home or working in offices that are now deserted with colleagues being furloughed or moved to another work space to enable social distancing to become the norm! Those on the frontline the key workers have given themselves to serving the community selflessly and generously with those working for NHS battling with a virus they can’t get to grips with and those working in our supermarkets and shops experiencing strange times of empty shelves and queues of anxious shoppers waiting to get in to see what was left to buy. And we mustn’t forget all those who continued to work in the Ambulance service, Fire Service, Police Force, Refuse collection, Funeral Directors and crematoriums and any other profession working to serve the community in this strange time – they have all continued to provide the services we need despite the risks involved! The them we say thank you!!

We say thank you too, to all those who have stepped up and volunteered to help those who have been isolated or alone. The shoppers, the carers, the good neighbours who have provided much needed assistance to those around them. Life would have been totally unbearable for many without these Good Samaritans who stepped in without hesitation!

For those of us who have been at home our daily pattern has changed and we have had to find new things to do to fill our time. Perhaps we have exercised with Joe Wicks on a morning or taken a daily walk in the fresh air or “tidied” that cupboard that we’ve always been going to do but never had the time or read those books that have been

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sitting on the bookshelf for years – whatever we have done over the last 4 months it has been different!

So now as we begin to emerge from the lockdown perhaps we need to take time to reflect on how we are going to return to “normal”. What is it that we have enjoyed that we want to keep as part of our routine and what will we be glad to see the back of?! What have we missed that we are eager to find again and what things that were part of life before will we never return to?! It is a wonderful opportunity for us all to start again and put life in perspective!

Last month I asked for any reflections from living in lockdown and I only received 2 which I found surprising but maybe you just haven't had time to reflect on what life is like now because you are enjoying the new normal and are busy getting on with it.

Jeremey Plummer writes:-

I confess that I am rather careful about what I say about the Lockdown. It seems to me that those of us who are retired have probably got the best 'deal': no meetings or rehearsals to go to or to organise, in particular. It's also been good that it has been so much easier to have an “ordered” day. I do miss seeing people, going out whenever I feel like it, going out occasionally for meals, going to the local pub, and being in church. I realise that almost everybody else has had a much more stressful time. As it is my 'ordered' morning begins with leisurely tea in bed, breakfast, doing my 'boot camp' exercises*, saying an extended Morning Prayer, and spending time praying for family & friends & for those less fortunate than ourselves. I spend the rest of the morning playing the piano (Oh Yes, so I do miss accompanying a number of people). We both start the afternoon reading and then I either do a bit of house-work, or catch up with emails. I then enjoy giving Davey the dog a leisurely

stroll. The downside is too many emails and too much time spent reading them but all in all it's not been such a bad deal for me!



From a different perspective Catherine writes:-

I am pretty self-reliant but I am now ready to break free from all these restrictions as I am beginning to miss what I can't have or do! It has been a pleasant interlude from the business of life but I am conscious of how privileged I am when I think of all those who are worried and anxious about what is to come! I am so very grateful to all those who have shown kindness and helped their neighbour it has brought us all together in many ways. I have tried to do my bit by posting home baking through letterboxes of those shielding and knitting a square a day for the blankets for those in need. I have tried to keep in touch with folk by phone and email and I am thankful for

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technology because being able to see family and friends on a screen has helped – it's not the same as seeing them face to face but it has helped!

I have been able to practice the piano more (without much improvement), grow and pick my own strawberries and read my bible more as I have done morning prayer every day! I haven't done all the extra cleaning I thought I might do and I haven't been able to share a meal with anyone over the last 4 months but on the whole it has not been too bad!

I know that many of us are praying for change – a rethink in the way we live – that's the easy part but it's much more difficult to implement!

I know lots of you will resonate with both those experiences and I am sure you will all have your own take on what life will be like now. From my perspective I think we all have to think about what is important in our lives and never let that get pushed aside as life returns to normal. Family and friends need to be at the top of our list and the other things can fall in behind them. Too many lives have been lost and too many "if only" moments have come and gone for us to let this opportunity to change life as we knew it pass us by.

Lockdown has not been easy and coming out of it will leave many feeling anxious and afraid but life will go on – it's what we do with it that matters!!

Julie

Positives from Lockdown??

Having a big garden to look after involves fairly demanding work in all four seasons of the year and at times it can feel to be rather onerous. However in the wonderful weather during the early weeks of lockdown the work became a joyous activity; and subsequently it was even more pleasurable for us to see everything coming to life again.

David & Melody Hirst



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Caroline Jones

Karen (hairdresser) is much better at doing French plaits than I am. How grateful I am for a decent haircut!



Melody Hirst

Even in lockdown it has been possible to source and purchase items online, and have them delivered efficiently to one's home. While this service is not without significant downside implications it has reduced people's exposure to risk. In this way family and friends can also support those without IT facilities or knowledge.

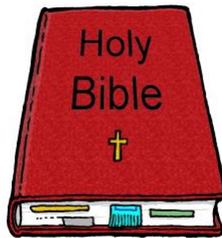
The benefit of the online initiatives launched by Julie have been evident within our benefice and another big positive - for him and us - has been Bishop Jonathan's series of sermons. He has been able to make a connection with people who may never have seen him before.

Church Yard Tidying or trying to tame the jungle.

Following on from the piece in July Focus; these intrepid folk are to be found at Holy Trinity every Tuesday at 3.00pm.

Why not join them?





Daily readings and prayers

**Sunday 2nd August - Eighth Sunday after Trinity – Theme – Bartimaeus
Romans 9: 1-5 & Mark 10: 46-52**

Prayer for the Day (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.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 3rd Psalm 27, 1 Samuel 14.24-46, Luke 23.13-25

Lord of all wonder and life. We rejoice that with you nothing is impossible and that even before we knew it you were touching our lives and preparing them to be filled with your love.

Tuesday 4th Psalm 32, 1 Samuel 15.1-23, Luke 23.26-43 we praise you for your Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes to see the world, not only as it really is but also as you meant it to be.

Wednesday 5th Psalm 32, 1 Samuel 15.1-23, Luke 23.26-43

We praise you that your presence and power still transform the world, and the lives of your people, that your being with us still gives new meaning to all that we do.

Thursday 6th *'The Transfiguration of Our Lord'* Psalm 27, 1 Kings 19.1-16, 1 John 3.1-3

We praise you that your presence and power still transform the world, and the lives of your people, that your being with us still gives new meaning to all that we do.

Friday 7th Psalm 31, 1 Samuel 17.31-54, Luke 24.13-35

We praise you for the light and the peace with which you flood our lives and for the truth that makes each day worthwhile.

Saturday 8th Psalm 41, 1 Samuel 17.55-18.16, Luke 24.36-end

We praise you for coming to us in the hustle and bustle of life every day. No matter who we are or what we are doing or facing your almighty presence and power lifts us and changes us.

Sunday 9th August - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Theme – Woman with the haemorrhage - Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-36 & Mark 5: 25-34

Prayer for the Day (Collect) Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 10th Psalm 44, 1 Samuel 19.1-18, Acts 1.1-14

Almighty and eternal loving God, fill our hearts with joy and gladness and take away the stresses and strains of our daily lives.

Tuesday 11th Psalm 48, 1 Samuel 20.1-17, Acts 1.15-end

Almighty and eternal God, you are our friend: reaching out a hand of forgiveness and hope through Jesus to the world; embracing us with strength and courage.

Wednesday 12th Psalm 119.57-80, 1 Samuel 20.18-end, Acts 2.1-21

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Almighty and eternal God, we come before your presence singing. From all that we are, for all that you are, we offer our love to you.

Thursday 13th Psalm 56, 1 Samuel 21.1-22.5, Acts 2.22-36

Almighty and eternal God, you are our Maker and Minder: in you, darkness becomes light; chaos becomes order; and the desert bares fruit.

Friday 14th Psalm 51, 1 Samuel 22.6-end, Acts 2.37-end

Almighty and eternal God, you are our guide: breathing your Spirit in us and between us, so that we can know your grace in our lives and show your grace to the world.

Saturday 15th 'Blessed Virgin Mary' Psalm 98, Isaiah 7.10-15, Luke 11.27,28

Almighty and eternal God, you have given us everything we have, everything we are and everything we shall be. We give you Thanks and Praise.

Sunday 16th August - Tenth Sunday after Trinity – Theme – Pilate

Romans 10: 5-15 & Luke 23: 1-7, 13-25

Prayer for the Day (Collect) Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 17th Psalm 71, 1 Samuel 24, Acts 3.11-end

Father, you told us to have no other gods; that there should be no one more important to us than you and nothing that matters more than giving you honour, thanks and praise.

Tuesday 18th Psalm 73, 1 Samuel 26, Acts 4.1-12

Father, we have not listened to your words, but have sought honour for ourselves and have fed ourselves on the praises of others.

Wednesday 19th Psalm 77, 1 Samuel 28.3-end, Acts 4.13-31

Father, we attempt to find our security in our earthly possessions and not in being your special possession.

Thursday 20th Psalm 78.1-39, 1 Samuel 31, Acts 4.32-5.11

Father, we find our purpose in our achievements and our joy in the thanks we long to receive.

Friday 21st Psalm 55, 2 Samuel 1, Acts 5.12-26

Father, we confess that we would grieve more over the loss of our health and wealth, or our family and friends, than we would if we were deprived of your loving presence.

Saturday 22nd Psalm 76, 2 Samuel 2.1-11, Acts 5.27-end

Father, forgive us for giving room to the gods we allow to take your place and to the idols which receive the devotion that belongs to you and you alone,

Sunday 23rd August - Eleventh Sunday after Trinity – Theme – Woman of Samaria

Romans 12: 1-8 & John 4: 7, 9-11, 13-15

Prayer for the Day (Collect) God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 24th 'Bartholomew the Apostle' Psalm 86, Genesis 28.10-17, John 1.43-51

Lord, we praise you for your kindness. You gave us life, and you shared our journey every step of the way.

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Tuesday 25th Psalm 87, 2 Samuel 5.1-12, Acts 7.1-16

Lord, never once have you left us on our own, and we have never for a moment stepped outside the orbit of your grace.

Wednesday 26th Psalm 119.105-128, 2 Samuel 6.1-19, Acts 7.17-43

Lord, we praise you for your kindness, when our lives were in turmoil and we didn't know which way to turn—you were there

Thursday 27th Psalm 90, 2 Samuel 7.1-17, Acts 7.44-53

Lord, when our hearts were breaking and pain and sadness all but overwhelmed us; you were there.

Friday 28th Psalm 88, 2 Samuel 7.18-end, Acts 7.54-8.3

Lord, we praise you when all was dark and we were afraid and no one seemed to understand—you were there.

Saturday 29th *'Beheading of John the Baptist'* Psalm 96, 2 Samuel 9, Acts 8.4-25

Lord, we praise you for when our hearts were filled with joy, and we longed to break out into songs of praise and celebration—you were there. You Are Always There,

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This magazine may be read in full colour on our webpage!

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THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

“Offering love and service to our communities in Christ’s name.”