



Heacham Parish Church

21st June 2020 Sunday Service
Heacham Parish Church at home

Veronica welcomes and introduces the service from inside the church building for the 1st time since March.

*Adrian Flower plays **Vater unser.....**' Bach chorale prelude excerpts..... words 'Our Father, Thou in heaven above, Who biddest us to dwell in love, As brethren of one family, and cry for all we need to Thee; Teach us to mean the words we say, And from the inmost heart to pray.*

EXPLORING PRAYER PART 3 –

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you**

As we gather in our homes, together yet apart, we meet in the presence of God

Who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain and heals our wounds.

Lord, we seek to meet you through praise and prayer.

Let our praise be prayer and our prayer be praise.

In our worship, may God build up our faith

and strengthen our resolve to pray and to wait for the answer.

We continue our series on Exploring Prayer in our services, which link in with the exploring prayer video series from The Archbishop of Canterbury, this week we are thinking about saying sorry.

We pray together a prayer of confession:

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen

The God of love and power forgives us and frees us from our sins, heals us and strengthens us by his spirit and raises us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Song: What kind of love is this. played and sung by Sue, Amanda, Hilary, Terry, Karen, Lesley.

What kind of love is this
that gave itself for me
I am the guilty one
yet I go free
What kind of love is this
A love I've never known
I didn't even know His name
what kind of love is this?

What kind of man is this?
That died in agony
He who had done no wrong
Was crucified for me
What kind of man is this
Who laid aside his Throne
That I may know the love of God
What kind of man is this?

By grace I have been saved

It is the gift of God
He destined me to be his son
Such is His love
No eye has ever seen
No ear has ever heard
Nor has the heart of man conceived
What kind of love is this?

Bible Reading: James Ch 5 v 13 – 20 read by Gloria Whitbread

Reflection by Penny Sutton

This morning we come to the third part of our series on prayer: "Saying sorry".

Our reading comes from the epistle of James in which he talks about prayer many times and our passage is no exception. In verses 13 to 18 prayer is mentioned in every verse. The whole epistle is addressed to 'the Church scattered throughout the world' so that must include us.

He starts this section 'is any one of you in trouble?' and the final section with 'if any one of you'.... This is to emphasise that his remarks are for all believers not just church leaders or preachers these apply to the whole church.

There are four prayers (people who pray) described here: -

1. Individual Christians.

We have a God for every area of life to whom we can pray about anything from our deepest sorrows to our highest delights.

2. Praying elders.

We have a God for every situation in life. In sickness a Christian should call the church leaders to pray with and anoint them. Notice, it is the prayer of faith that heals NOT

the anointing. This places the sick person within the total eternal security of the unchangeably gracious will of God. 'Thy will be done' is our frequent and very relevant prayer in this situation.

3. Praying friends.

We have a God of fellowship. It is the privilege of all believers to pray with and for fellow Christians, taking difficulties and concerns to God in prayer. James is expressing concern for fellowship and relationships within the church both between believers and between individuals and God. He is addressing the need to heal what has been broken and reminds us of the biblical command to say sorry. Sorry must be said to the person we have wronged and from whom we need reconciling forgiveness. Secret sin must be confessed in secret to God alone while sometimes a public corporate confession is required. Effective confession requires a spirit of penitence, reconciliation and prayer.

4. Praying prophet.

We have a God for all ages. James tells us that the prayer of a righteous man (a man who is in a right relationship with God) is powerful and effective. He cites the example of Elijah whose prayer caused drought and rain.

The final section reminds us of the Fellowship of Christian concern. We are to 'look out' for one another. Feeling free to ask for help when it is needed and quick to offer help when we see someone struggling either with life or spiritually.

How do we know whether someone is a believer? In the first letter to Timothy we are told 'God knows who are his'. The Holy Spirit tells each one of us that we are a 'Child of God' and heirs with Christ. Others must rely on the evidence of our lives, our words and our deeds to indicate our relationship with God.

Backsliding suggests that the claim to belief was empty and that the fellowship should endeavour to lead that person to faith. By confessing the prayer of faith, we have been healed of the sickness of sin. "He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2 v 24.

The fellowship we have as Christians is a fellowship of loving concern, in which each is to act towards others, as God in Christ has acted towards us.

Prayers of intercession written by Kika Habermann

Let us pray.

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of prayer in suffering, in joy and at times when we feel repentant and in need of receiving and giving forgiveness. We praise You that in Christ we come before You as forgiven sinners but must also accept in our flesh we are still 'works in progress' and in need of saying sorry more than we do.

We are sorry not to have upheld enough by prayers our Queen, her family as well as all the people who rule over us. We ask your continued daily blessings of all of them.

The Covid 19 Pandemic has brought death and great suffering to the world, we pray for Your help to those who are victims of the virus. We also ask, Lord, those who are researching to find a vaccine to overcome the virus will be successful soon. **Amen**

We pray that through the Pandemic catastrophe people will be drawn to You, and the Good News of Jesus Christ will be heard all over the Globe. We ask Your blessings on all the Christian Organisations trying to carry out your command to preach the Gospel to all the world using different means to reach even the

most difficult areas, that the Joy of the Lord will be their strength and protection. **Amen**

There seem to be loud cries for justice and peace among the nations of the world but there are also movements for anarchy and power grappling having the opposite effect. Lord come and redeem your church.

We also pray Your blessings for Drs. Herbert and Rachel Karrach and the Goodman Family working overseas, James Hawksworth at the Church Army Centre in King's Lynn and Israel and Victoria applying to study Theology in the USA.

We bring before You, Heavenly Father, the PCC as the members will be seeking Your way forward as we slowly exit the Lockdown. **Amen**

Please Lord, bless -anyone in our church who is ill. In a moment of silence let us bring those to the Lord who are on our hearts. We thank you, Lord, for Your healing. **Amen**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

We pray together the Lord's prayer lead by Sue Strickland

Song: You are my hiding place, O lord written, played and sung by Kath and David Burkett

You are my hiding place O Lord
And now I know
That if I run from You,
There's nowhere else to go.
When pride and foolishness have kept me
From the peace Your children share,
You pursued me, found me, and You
Held me safely there:
Within Your loving arms.

How many grains make up a desert
Full of sand?
How many stars were flung
From heaven By Your hand?
Your thoughts about me number more than these,
You know me through and through.
Lord, because You loved me first,
I'm able to love You -
And Father God - I do!

Final Prayer

Be bold in prayer, and courageous.
Be gentle in prayer, and compassionate.
Be honest in prayer, and weep.
Be silent in prayer, and speak out.
Be sorry in prayer, and be forgiven
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he make his face
shine upon you and be gracious to you, may he look kindly on
you and give you peace. And the blessing of and the blessing of
God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you and those you love always.

A// **Amen.**

The **HEACHAM PARISH CHURCH online service** will be on
Youtube from 8am on Sunday morning
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEfWbBrE77u7MPpdjWtwzo>
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**PRAYER MEETING- 10am Sunday 21st focussing on
Saying sorry.**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9960936343?pwd=TIerVHp3UHBzZHNTSm16QzdCNUY0Zz09> Meeting ID: 996 093 6343 Password: 150936

Everyone is very welcome, if you can't or don't want to zoom, you could join us at home by praying at that time... together, yet apart.

PCC Meeting via Zoom Mon 15th June 2020- A Summary

As there was no AGM Liz DA has agreed to carry on as Churchwarden, Jenny Ives has stepped down. Pip Lawrence has also stepped down from PCC. Peter and Chris Murray have been co-opted as members of the PCC. Veronica Welham was elected as Lay chair.

Finance Report- We are spending more than receiving after already reducing Parish Share. It is important the Church as a whole knows what the situation is. We should be OK for 2-3 months but there are also financial implications with the Quinquennial eg Cupola and a hole in the Tower recently appeared. We also have tithes to pay. It was agreed it is not the time to ask the village for money at present.

Church Reopening- For private individual prayer and small funerals. Please remember we all still need to be following government guidelines and use social distancing. This is the initial decision with the following put into place. **Starting Sat 27th June.**

- 1) There will be a One way system with signage- Areas will be roped off and only certain chairs available to reduce area to clean. Candles will be available for prayers.
- 2) It will be opened initially Saturday afternoons 2-4pm and Wed 10-12noon.
- 3) There will be 2 stewards/welcomers available each hour.
- 4) A Big Clean will be carried out by those not at risk.

- 5) Leaflets will be removed and any hymnbooks/bibles left will be covered.
- 6) Penny T will liaise with Bev Keith re cleaning and coordinate any volunteers.
- 7) Veronica will send out an email for volunteers for Big clean and welcomers.

Roy Clarks Funeral

Roy died from a non Covid illness on 5th June aged 94. Roy's funeral was on June 19th and was live streamed using www.obitus.com Username Cizo5938 Password 604525. This can be viewed afterwards. We are glad to hear Roy was his cheerful positive self until his death. If you wish to contact the family Penny Taylor has details.

For those without access to the internet:

The telephone worship service: **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.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. This is a freephone service.

Also The Diocesan weekly podcast **Sunday Hope** can be listened to via your phone by calling **01603 537577**- calls for this are charged at a local rate.

