

St John's, Pevensey Road



Sunday 26th July:
**7th Sunday
after Trinity**



The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed - it is the smallest of seeds, but when it grows, it is big enough for the wild birds to come and build nests in its branches.

Matthew 13:31-32

Pews News & Service Sheet

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Arlene, Ian, Amber, Mike, Pauline, Sally, Tracy, Agatha, Jude, Diane, Clare & Luke & family, Shane, Paul, Clive & Pauline, Henry, Marylyn, Fr Ken, and Fr John.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the departed,

... those whose Years Minds fall around this time, especially Topypy Harvey, Bernard Shaw, Peggy Gick, Michael Counsell, Jack Murrills, Robert Blankson, Anna Blankson, and Minnie Quartey-Coffie,

...and all who mourn.

You are very welcome to join in with Rev Jill and Rev Michael's **"Zoom" service** on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. Just send one of them an email (their email addresses are on the back of this Pews News) and they will let you know how to join in.



When Christ stood in Trafalgar Square

Statues have been in the news recently...

I'm not a big fan of statues – but my favourite was the life-sized figure of Christ that stood in London's Trafalgar Square during the Millennium celebrations. It stood on the square's previously-empty fourth plinth, going almost unnoticed among the surrounding grand statues and with Nelson's Column towering above it. The statue, called *Ecce Homo* (Behold the Man), was built by conceptual artist Mark Wallinger and installed in 1999. He explained: "I consciously made Him life-size. We are made in God's image, and He was made in our image. So for the statue to stand in contrast to the overgrown relics of empire was definitely part of the plan."

The figure was made of marble resin, and depicted Christ standing before the multitude with His head slightly bowed. It stood as a reminder that the God of all creation came to earth as a man and lived among us. He gave up His life so that we might have salvation.

There, with London's traffic rushing by, pigeons coming in to land, and tourists snapping photographs of each other, Christ stood unobtrusively. Standing, you could say, at the door of our consciousness, and asking to be let in. It was a modern-day parable in marble resin.

When the Apostle Paul took a stroll around Athens, he spotted the various altars and statues to the Greek gods. He found an altar 'To an Unknown God' and declared that this was "the God who made the world and everything in it" who had made Himself known in Jesus Christ.

Just as Mark Wallinger took possession of the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square for Jesus Christ – the reason for the Millennium celebrations – so Paul claimed the 'unknown God' altar in Athens for the Christian gospel.

The Bible has always been wary of putting people on pedestals. It shows us all sides of the people it describes, warts and all. It tells us that Moses was a murderer, that David was an adulterer, that Paul persecuted the first Christians and that Peter denied Christ.

But all of us have feet of clay, and few of us deserve to be memorialised for centuries in stone or marble. Rather, we are gently encouraged to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Maybe that's the best way to make our mark in history.

Rev'd Peter Crumpler

Mass for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Prayer of Confession

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in
penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's
commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

The priest says the Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all
your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis is said:

**All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you
thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

Amen

Prayer for the Day - The Collect

Let us pray:

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard
seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the First Book of Kings

1 Kings 3.5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:26-end

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth, and the life,
says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father
except through me.

All Alleluia

The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus
Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union
with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Gracious God, fountain of all wisdom,
we pray for all Christian people;
for Bishop Martin, for all Christian
leaders, and for those who teach and
guard the faith ...

May the word of Christ dwell richly in
our hearts, and knit us together in the
bond of your love.

Hear us.

All Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for the leaders of the nations,
and for those in authority under them...
Give them the gift of your wisdom,
and a right discernment in all things.
Hear us.

All Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for our communities;
for those who live and work in them . . .
Speak your word of peace in our midst,
and help us to serve one another as
Christ has served us.
Hear us.

All Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for those who do not believe,
and yet who long to know you,
the very Word of life ...
Open their ears to hear your voice,
and open their hearts to the knowledge
of your love in Christ.
Hear us.

All Hear us, good Lord.

We pray for those bowed down with
grief, fear or sickness, especially ...
May your living Word bring comfort and
healing to all those in need.
Hear us.

All Hear us, good Lord.

We give thanks for all those who have
died in the faith of Christ...
and we rejoice with all your saints,
trusting in the promise of your word
fulfilled.

Merciful Father,

**All Accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace is introduced

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized
into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for
peace
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always
with you.

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of
peace.

We may exchange a sign of peace

Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and
wine are placed upon it.*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all
creation:
through your goodness we have
this bread to set before you,
which earth has given
and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all
creation:
through your goodness we have
this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine
and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of
salvation.
All Blessed be God for ever.

The priest takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of
your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Mary the Mother of God, and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All 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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei is said:

**All Jesus, Lamb of God, Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins, Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world, Grant us peace**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to
his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.

Communion is received

Music during Communion:

*Chorale Prelude. 'Soul, arise, dispel
thy sadness' - J.S.Bach*

Prayer after Communion

*The priest prays the Post
Communion for the day:*

Lord God, whose Son is the
true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself
that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup,
we may share his glory
and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.

All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living,
he declared your love,
gave us grace,

and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have
set before us, so we and all your
children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise
your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you
and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ finale: *'From heaven above to
earth I come' - J.S.Bach*

Prayer list

If you have any updates about friends or loved ones on the St John's prayer list - or additions, of course - please let Rosemary, or one of the pastoral/clergy team know, so we can keep the Prayer List up-to-date. Contact via church admin office if you don't know the relevant emails etc.. Many thanks.

Coronavirus hygiene measures

We now have special sanitizing wipes for the church toilets. If you use the toilet, please can you wipe down all surfaces you have touched with the "Sanisafe" wipes provided, and place all used wipes in the bin labelled "Disposal of Paper Towels and Wipes".
Thank you for your help.

Please come in.
It's safe, and you
are welcome.



CHURCH OPEN

weekday mornings, 9:30 - 12:30

ALL WELCOME

...for private prayer,
...to light a candle

Please sanitize your hands on entering and leaving, and observe "social distancing" and the directions inside the church, to help keep us all safe

The Coronavirus, Church & You Survey

You are invited to take part in this national survey...

The Covid-19 pandemic has obviously had a profound effect on churches. The lockdown has severely restricted ministry in areas such as pastoral care, fellowship groups, and serving the community. On the other hand, for those with online access, worship has taken on new and creative forms over the last few weeks. Many clergy and ministry teams have risen to the challenge of operating in the virtual environment.

As we pass the most severe period of lockdown, it seems a good time to assess how churchgoers have responded to the experience, and what they think the future might hold. How well have you coped with the pandemic? Has it strengthened or weakened your faith? How has it been for clergy and ministry teams trying to work in this new environment? How have those receiving ministry found this novel experience? Will virtual ministry become part of the post-pandemic landscape, and will this be a good move for your church?

This is an online survey, which we estimate will take you about 20-30 minutes to complete. It can be completed on mobile phones, though it is more quickly completed on devices with larger screens such as tablets or computers. You can access using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yqsq9fy2>

We should have some initial results within a few weeks and will make these available as widely as we can.

*The Rev'd Professor Andrew Village & The Rev'd Canon Professor Leslie J. Francis,
York St John University*

The Small Print for today's service

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