

Diocese of Chester

Cycle of Prayer Sunday, 20 June to Saturday, 17 July 2021

Sunday, 20 June 2021

Third Sunday after Trinity

International football competitions are always interesting times, and it seems even more strange when Euro 2020 began at the start of June 2021. Superficially at least, such tournaments bring people together in homes, pubs and gardens, particularly in the later stages. But the booing and online trolling of players because of the colour of their skin seems never far away. It was noteworthy, therefore, that the England manager, Gareth Southgate, took it upon himself to take a stand. He wrote a "Dear England" letter to the whole country, or at least the England football fans. While Southgate admits that on the grand scheme of things football doesn't seem so important, he claims the right to speak, and for his players to speak and provoke debate on issues of "equality, inclusivity and racial injustice, using the power of their voices to put debates on the table, raise awareness and educate."

We don't know what sport can achieve yet, even less how well England might do in the tournament, but as we bemoan the lack of integrity elsewhere in society, perhaps Southgate's letter offers a spark of hope. Yes, it is only football, but if the England manager is willing to write a letter to millions of people about how we should treat each other, perhaps it's also time for churches and Christians to speak about the same issues. Euro 2020 has given us an opportunity. In one of the readings set for today, 2 Corinthians 6, the writer says "we have spoken frankly to you." Perhaps it's time to do the same, as Gareth Southgate has done, and speak frankly in the cause of justice.

Liz Shercliff

The Church of North India (United)

Monday, 21 June 2021

0315 Runcorn St Michael and All Angels

C: Karen Brady, Helen Browne. LM: Bob Browne.

Pray for our Churchwardens, PCC and all who serve and worship at St Michael's. As Covid restrictions are lifted, pray for God's guidance and wisdom in the renewal of our church activities and mission. Pray that the Holy Spirit will embolden us and empower us to be the beacon of God's light, love and hope in our community and to welcome all who come through our doors.

Chotanagpur, The (united) Church of North India

Tuesday, 22 June 2021

0316 Thornton-le-Moors with Ince & Elton

C: Vacant, Jen Pilling. LM: Nicola Brown, Neville Ford, Judy Ford.

Christ the King, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Wednesday, 23 June 2021

0317 Crowton

C: Ron Iveson, Hilary Merrington. LM: Anne Davidson Lund, Audrey Griffiths.

We pray for unity, vision and growth in faith as we seek to love and serve our Lord and each other in word and deed.

Crowton Christ Church CofE School.

Christchurch, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

Thursday, 24 June 2021

The Birth of John the Baptist

Runcorn St Chad's RC / C of E High School

Chubu, The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Friday, 25 June 2021

Cheadle Deanery

Clogher, The Church of Ireland

Saturday, 26 June 2021

1201 Bramhall

C: Calum Piper. LM: Mark Hackney, John Baker, Andrea Millington.

Please pray for St Michael's as we look to reach out to younger generations through our Micah Project seeking to serve our community whilst proclaiming with courage hope, joy and love. Pray that we might discern the leading of God into the right places at the right times.

Coast, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Sunday, 27 June 2021

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

In the midst of all the turbulence and chaos of lockdowns, the monthly Diocesan 'Poetry Break' has been a welcome oasis for me: a time to share the work of famous poets, and poetry written by ourselves. It has been through the words of others that I have found sustenance in this barren time: *Flickering Mind* by Denise Levertov is the current in a long line of poems that has encouraged me, and brought me closer to God.

Through poetry, the soul talks, and with emotions laid bare and honest, poet and listener grasp for understanding and meaning, and ultimately, God.

Next Sunday (4 July) is the day we celebrate with those ordained Deacon at the Cathedral. In the ordination service, amongst other things, the bishop urges the ordinands to:

Pray that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

This is the essence of discipleship but also encapsulates some of what poetry is: the process of both writing and receiving poetry is a creative way to let our hearts be enlarged by God, as we wrestle with metaphor and try to tame language in order to make some sense of the mystery of God and human life.

The whole people of God are to be poets of the Gospel, finding fresh and creative ways to speak of the wonder of God and so enlarge the hearts of the communities and people around us. Pray that our new Deacons, and all those they serve, can fulfil this calling as poets of God: perhaps that might involve coming along to the next Poetry Break?

The next Poetry Break is on Thursday 8th July at 11am – for more details on how to join in, contact David Herbert david.herbert@chester.anglican.org

Jim Bridgman

The Church of Pakistan (United)

Monday, 28 June 2021

1202 Cheadle All Hallows

C: Paul Cumming, Gilly Hall, Catherine Johnson. LM: Barbara Forrester, Liz Harrison, Heidi Theophanous, Tony Mason, Terry Thorpe.

Cochin, The (united) Church of South India

Tuesday, 29 June 2021

Ss Peter and Paul

1203 Cheadle St Mary

C: Rob Munro, Ian Chidlow, Mike Newman, Stanley Tomalin. LM: Philip Newsome, Winsome Richbell-Brown, Nick Singleton, Philip Wells, Malcolm Winton, Mel McLeod, Liz Duxbury, Ruth Ormiston.

Pray for wisdom as things open up post-Covid; especially for young people's work and our vacant youth worker post. Pray also for the renewal of our Vision: "... to see lives, families and communities transformed by sharing Jesus."

Coimbatore, The (united) Church of South India

Wednesday, 30 June 2021

1204 Cheadle Hulme All Saints

C: Sarah Hancock. LM: Michael Aiers, Pat Yates, Linda Ackerley, Clare Russell.

Pray for the vision day for the PCC on Saturday 17th July. Praise that our children's group Mainly Music is back to meeting in person again.

Colombia, The Episcopal Church, USA

Thursday, 1 July 2021

1205 Cheadle Hulme St Andrew

C: Christopher Hobbs, Peter Selby. LM: Peter Budd, Geoff Cooke, Ken Hill, Mike Yates, Jane Holland.

Colombo, Extra Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury

Friday, 2 July 2021

Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

1206 Gatley

C: Matthew Carlisle. LM: Geoff Belton, Belinda Priestley, Margaret Sidebotham.

Colorado, The Episcopal Church, USA

Saturday, 3 July 2021

St Thomas

1207 Handforth

C: Steve Burmester. LM: Ian Pettigrew, Jim Lethbridge.

Connecticut, The Episcopal Church, USA

Sunday, 4 July 2021

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

It is hard to be honoured by people who have seen us grow up. Jesus recognized that. "Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin." (Mark 6:4). Is that partly because they have seen the difficulties we have had growing up?

So let's pray for those in their teenage years.

There's a lot happening in the teenage brain with the unused connections in the thinking and processing part of the brain being pruned away while other connections are being strengthened. The prefrontal cortex is still developing leaving teenagers to rely on the part of brain called the *amygdala* for their decision making.

The amygdala is all emotion, impulse, aggression and instinctive behaviour. This makes growing up through the teenage years very difficult and leads many to be ashamed and to self-harm. One way of reading Genesis 3 is to see Adam and Eve as teenagers, making impulsive decisions and growing in shame.

Growing up is difficult. Please pray for those living through their teenage years, including:

- those who are vulnerable, anxious or ashamed,
- those who have made mistakes or are troubled or troubling,
- those who have suffered mental health issues through the pandemic,
- parents
- and those in our communities who support and champion teenagers.

David Herbert

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

Monday, 5 July 2021

1208 Heald Green

C: Jacob Devadason, Jasmine Devadason, Peter Dooley. LM: Marion Davies.

Please pray for our St Catherine's Parish as a whole the newly elected Stockport council mayor Mr Adrian, resident of Heald Green, and a follower of Christ. May his office bring peace, harmony, solidarity, healing and prosperity. Please pray for our parish financial situation; the team ministry of St. Catherine's - Rev. Jacob, Rev. Jasmine and Rev. Peter Dooley; the newly elected office bearers and church wardens; our parish needs God's healing touch... Many are sick and waiting for the GP's call. Please pray for our newly formed Parish Development Group: its mission and vision to be achieved. 8. Please pray for our Pastoral Care Group (group of lay men and women to care for our parishioners).

Connor, The Church of Ireland

Tuesday, 6 July 2021

1209 Poynton

C: Matthew Swires-Hennessy, Christine Buckley. LM: David Capener, David Coleman, Les Hutchinson, Joanne Rodman.

Please pray for us as a church to become a growing all-age community of faith, hope and love; for Jo Rodman, who prepares to begin training for ordained ministry, and for recruitment of a Children's and Youth Minister following Joe Hadfield's (current Youth Minister) selection for ordination training.

Cork, Cloyne & Ross, The Church of Ireland

Wednesday, 7 July 2021

1211 Woodford

C: David Russell. LM: Richard Cussons, Malcolm Evans.

Costa Rica, Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

Thursday, 8 July 2021

Great Budworth Deanery

Coventry, The Church of England

Friday, 9 July 2021

0401 Antrobus

C: Alec Brown, Christina Westwell. LM: Chris Taylor.
Antrobus St Mark's CofE School.

Cuba, The Episcopal Church, USA

Saturday, 10 July 2021

0402 Appleton Thorn

C: Alan Jewell. LM: Linda Buckley, Alan Hibbert.

Cueibet, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Sunday, 11 July 2021

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Finding Sanctuary with St Benedict

Few have done more to bring the wisdom of St Benedict to a contemporary non-monastic audience than Christopher Jamison, Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation, and former Abbot of Worth Abbey. In his book, *Finding Sanctuary* (Phoenix; 2007) he explores how the monastic steps of silence, contemplation, obedience, humility, community, spirituality and hope might enable us to find rest from the busyness and noisiness of day-to-day life.

I found myself returning to this book recently, in reflection on a theology of safety. Trauma specialists say that the first step to healing is to find safety. As we emerge from a time of collective trauma, what might safety, or sanctuary look like – for us and our communities?

For those whose lives were full of caring and work responsibilities, the notion of silence and contemplation may be a deeply refreshing one. There will be others among us who feel we have had our fill of silence over the past year, as staying at home paved the way to isolation and loneliness. One person's refreshment has been another's prison.

The question remains: what habits might we build in the months ahead, collectively and individually, as we pave the way to sanctuary? How might we support one another in our differing (and perhaps conflicting) needs, and what ancient wisdom might we draw on as we tentatively emerge into new ways of living?

Jenny Bridgman

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Monday, 12 July 2021

0403 Barnton

C: Vacant.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith: receive the prayer we offer. We pray for our churches Christ Church, Barnton and St Luke's, Winnington at this time of uncertainty; during the interregnum grant us strength to persistently shine your light into our community. Send us your spirit at this time of uncertainty and change to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer. In this time of change may we support one another. As we journey onwards with a song of hope on our lips, encouraging us to step out joyfully on the paths that lie ahead, seeking your wisdom and your will, to move with generosity into the future you would have us form. Guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a new incumbent for this parish, that the one whom we receive may be wise and ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Cuernavaca, La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

Tuesday, 13 July 2021

0404 Daresbury

C: David Felix, Gill Younger. LM: James Baird, Gavin Hall, Linda Mills, Jocelyn Squires.

Cuttack, The (united) Church of North India

Wednesday, 14 July 2021

0405 Grappenhall

C: Jane Proudfoot. LM: Christine Hunter, John Prytherch, Margaret Kitchen.
Grappenhall St Wilfrid's CofE School.

Cyangugu, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Thursday, 15 July 2021

Bishop Mark

Pray for Bishop Mark on this first anniversary of his confirmation as Bishop of Chester.

Cyprus and the Gulf, The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

Friday, 16 July 2021

0406 Great Budworth

C: Alec Brown, Jenny McKay, Christina Westwell. LM: Janice Rees.
Great Budworth CofE School.

Daejeon, The Anglican Church of Korea

Saturday, 17 July, 2021

0407 Latchford Christ Church

C: Vacant, Robert Icke. LM: Ian Burton-Baddeley.

North Dakota, The Episcopal Church, USA
