

St Francis Weekly News for TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 16th August 2020



This bulletin may have come to you by email or through your letterbox, if you received it on paper but are happy to receive an email in future please email deborah.lechmere@ntlworld.com If you know anybody else who would like this delivered or emailed please contact Deborah or Revd Janet: revdjanetwyer@outlook.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST FRANCIS CHURCH?

A NEW FACE AT THE FRONT

This week will see us welcome a new addition to the Licensed Leadership Team at St Francis.

It is with great joy and gladness that we say hello to Gloria Chinery who, with the kind permission of Archdeacon Karen, will be joining us as a retired Lay Reader.



Gloria has permission to officiate in the diocese and has been worshipping with us for some considerable time. After much prayer and discernment we believe that she has been led by God to explore a ministry leadership role with us here at St Francis and so she will be undertaking some light ministerial duties over the next few months.

Gloria has long been linked with the Heartsease community, and she is delighted to be able to see what God has in store for her and for us as we journey on together in God's mission in this place.

God bless you Gloria – God's peace and blessing be upon you and your ministry among us.

NEW SUNDAY SERVICE

Following on from our Sunday afternoon opening for private prayer we are now delighted to announce that we are in a position to be able to offer Evening Prayer on a regular basis every Sunday at 5.00pm as from 16th August.

Revd Winnie and Eeyore are very pleased about Evening Prayer every Sunday at 5pm!



ST FRANCIS YARD SALE

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST 10.00am.

Over the past few months we have been having a bit of a clear out!

Having foraged through almost every room, cupboard, nook and cranny we have accumulated what seems to be a huge amount of surplus furniture, pictures, bric a brac, and sundry other bits and pieces that we no longer have any use for.

Consequently we thought that it would be great to offer it to anyone from the Heartsease Community who might be glad to give it a home

We will be keeping prices low as everything must go!! All proceeds to St Francis Funds.



ST FRANCIS HEARTSEASE YARD SALE

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST
10.00 am

Come and grab a bargain!

MUSIC IN CHURCH

From this Sunday although we still cannot sing together, we will be able to enjoy some beautiful instrumental music before, during and after our Sunday worship.

If there is a piece of music you would particularly like to hear please let us know!

LET IT GROW



Look at this beauty!

Congratulations to Samantha Drake Haslam who has grown this magnificent sunflower from one of the Let It Grow plants we were giving away earlier in the year.

So lovely to see one of our tiny seedlings thriving!

AUGUST NEWS...

Just a little reminder that over the next few weeks some of us will be taking some time away from our usual duties. This may well mean that the newsletter and some of our services may have a slightly different look or feel to them – enjoy!

CREATIONTIDE

Beginning on 1st September we will be observing the season of Creationtide, a season of celebration of the natural world and all that God had given us in creation.

Look out for our window displays, special services and a themed St Francis All Age Activity Pack that will be on offer to anyone who would like one.

CREATIONTIDE DATES FOR THE DIARY:

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 6th September; 10.30am

CREATIONTIDE SUNDAY EVENING PRAYERS

Every Sunday 5.00pm

ST FRANCIS ACTIVITY PACKS IN CHURCH

Sunday 20th September; 10.30am

ST FRANCIS DAY SERVICES

4th October

10.30am – Patronal Festival

5.00pm – Evening Prayer

THE CHURCH OF ST FRANCIS
HEARTSEASE

HARVEST FESTIVAL OFFERINGS INVITED

**Dried or Tinned Goods
for St Francis Free Food
or
Financial Contributions
For Tearfund &
St Francis Free Food**

01603 431259 for details

ST FRANCIS FREE FOOD

We continue to offer food parcels to those who ask for help and hope to do so for the foreseeable future.

If you or anyone you know is in need of a helping hand, please call St Francis Free Food on 01603 431259 or call at the church any weekday morning between 11am -12pm.

We would also be interested hear your thoughts on how we might take the Free Food project forward in the future. If you have any comments or ideas, please do get in touch.

PASTORAL CARE

Shielding has now come to an end and this means that the support from the National Shielding Service of free food parcels, medicine deliveries and care has stopped.

We are also hearing almost daily of changes in the government's response to the measures being taken to keep us as safe as possible from the virus.

If you are worried about any of the changes that are happening, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are very happy to talk with you if that would be helpful.

Please do not feel that you are alone - help and support is always available, whatever may be troubling you.

Revd Janet [07990 576118]

Father Tracy [07704 328319]

Eleanor [07840 206716]

Also, there is always someone available in the church building weekdays 11.00am – 12.00pm; please feel free to knock at the door, it will open to you.



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

In these difficult times someone might just need one of them...

Childline: 0800 1111

Samaritans: 116 123

Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247

[If you hear a neighbour in distress please do not hesitate to call this number or 999; you could save a life]

Mind: 0300 123 3393

Age UK: 0800 169 6565

St Francis Free Food: 01603 431259

A WORD FROM THE VICAR

The Gospel reading this week features a little story where Jesus is confronted by someone who needs his attention.

Unusually for Jesus, he seems to misjudge her – and tries to send her away disappointed.

Amazingly, this brave woman stands her ground and argues with Jesus' 'Hang on' she says, 'I think you're wrong'. [or words to that effect]

And Jesus listens, changes his mind – and she gets what she, in good faith, has asked for.

A lesson for us all there not to be too quick to make swift or unfounded judgements and to attempt to stand by them even in the face of opposition.

Very apt too I think in the wake of the disgraceful treatment of our young people in terms of some of them being downgraded [by computer technology] on their assessed A Level grades.

I think the powers that be in our Education Services need to take note of Jesus example – and the young people and their families take heart and courage in the example of the Canaanite woman.

Truth, justice and faith will always prevail.

God's blessing and peace be with you and yours.

Revd Janet

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those who are in acute need of prayer at this time: Kaitlyn; Maegan; Doreen F; Tom; Riley & his mum and family; Jeanette, David & Grace; Paula; Colin; Pete; Lauren; Fr Brian; Hazel

We continue to pray for all those in our Church, friends and family who are managing long term health issues including Rosemary, Sheila, John, Joy, Shirley.

We remember with love Tina and all those who have died in recent days and pray for their family and friends.

PRAYER FOR THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

**The Church of St Francis
Heartsease**

**Heavenly Father
We ask your blessing upon us.
Hold the Heartsease Community,
and all the world,
in your arms of love.
Be with us.
Give us your strength,
peace, and healing grace.
Watch over us,
protect us from harm;
and keep in safety
all those who care for the sick
and attend to our needs,
in Jesus name we pray.
Amen**

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR 10TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

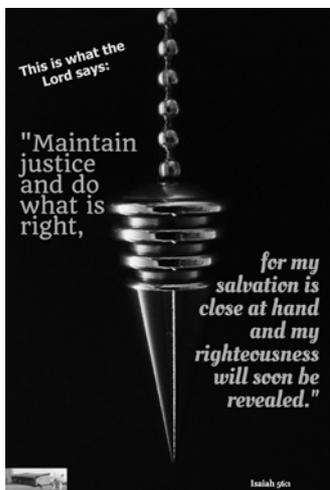
Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

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. Amen

God of our pilgrimage,
you have willed that the gate of mercy
should stand open for those who trust in you: look
upon us with your favour
that we who follow the path of your will
may never wander from the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

READINGS FOR 10TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

ISAIAH 56:1, 6 - 8



Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant — these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

PSALM 67



God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,

That your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the
peoples praise you.

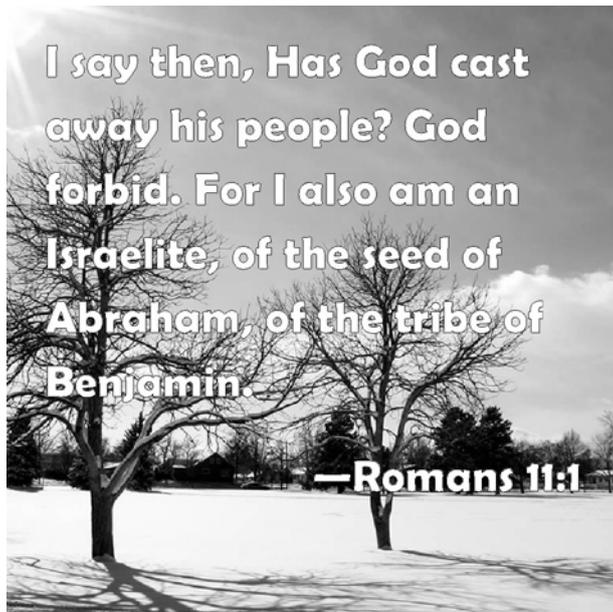
O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the
peoples praise you.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
and God, our own God, will bless us.

God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall
fear him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen



I ask, then, has God rejected his people?

By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.

For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

MATTHEW 15:10-28



Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.'

Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.'

But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'



Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

REFLECTION FOR 10TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Over the past few months I have been aware of lots on social media and TV relating to Black Lives Matter.

I have seen dozens and dozens of reports outing white people victimizing, insulting and verbally abusing people of Black, Asian and ethnic minority groups.

Dreadful.

But thankfully, at last, real awareness is being raised and there is a will for right minded people to speak out against prejudice, discrimination and bigotry of any kind.

But we have a problem.

Prejudice, discrimination and bigotry have, like the poor, always been with us – which means it will take a lot of hard work and concentrated effort to wipe it out.

But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try.

And today we get a lesson in trying and about thinking twice before hurling insults about.

In today's Gospel reading it is a soul rocking moment when we realise that hard on the heels of Jesus teaching his disciples to be wary of all that can come from the heart and the lips - it is our Lord Jesus Christ who uses a derogatory term to describe a woman who has approached him for help.

Someone who has come to him because of her desperate desire to see her daughter cured of a serious affliction.

The Canaanite woman who calls to Jesus for help is very brave - perhaps it is her desperation that drives her on - but she certainly will not take no for an answer.

She will not to be driven away like the mangy dog Jesus likens her to.

In the face of seemingly heartless rejection she stands firm - she knows that Jesus has the power to help her - she is sure of it.

So sure that she humbles herself even more by kneeling at Jesus feet and begs him.

But he again refuses to help her.

What does she do?

After what seems to be a final word of rejection, she argues with him.

The Canaanite woman argues with Jesus.

She is so confident of who he is and who he comes from that she has the unshakeable conviction that he will help her.

And of course - he does.

But why did Jesus need to be persuaded?

It is a fact that this amazing woman was really up against it when she got it into her head to approach Jesus for help.

In terms of prejudice, discrimination and bigotry, she was a loser on every possible score

She was a woman and a Canaanite; worse still she could have come from Tyre or even Sidon - sink holes of depravity, evil places beyond imagining. And if that were not enough, over and above all that she has a daughter possessed by demons.

Unclean, unclean, unclean...

It would be safe to say that this woman was socially a bit difficult - especially for any self respecting Jew.

And Jesus was a Jew, and Jesus was fully human.

And he showed it - he put his head down, ignored her - and to top it all, he insulted her by calling her and her kind unclean animals

What on earth are we to make of this?

Well, there are many theories: Jesus was merely jesting with her - to see how firm her faith was.

He was talking to himself - working it out, wondering aloud whether this was the moment to fulfil the Isaiah prophecy we heard earlier.

Or – and this is more likely; Matthew was making a point to the first century Christians he was writing for.

In this surprising little story Matthew underlines that Jesus' mission was to the lost sheep of Israel; that from the very beginning Israel was God's chosen people

As St Paul says, Jesus came to bring his people back to God, to remind them that although they had forgotten their covenant relationship with God, God had not forgotten nor forsaken them.

Jesus had come to remind them of the purpose of their existence, if God's new life was to come to the world, it would come through Israel.

That's why Israel had to hear the message first.

And that's why Jesus limited his ministry almost entirely to the Jewish people.

That's why Jesus almost turned a deaf ear to that persistent, irritating, troublesome socially unacceptable individual who saw him, recognised him, named him and prostrated herself before him.

I wonder what went through Jesus mind - here was this woman, a pagan, a gentile - someone totally beyond the pale showing the faith and belief he so wanted to inspire in the people Israel.

Because it was Israel that needed to hear, Israel that needed to follow, Israel that needed to respond to him.

In the end, it would take nothing less than his death on the cross and his glorious rising to new life to bring about a true response to the Good News that God's infinite love is for everyone.

Jew, Gentile, Black, White, Asian, People of Ethnic Minority backgrounds – God loves everyone.

And so must we.

Prejudice and all the other hateful ways people treat one another have no place in God's kingdom.

The story of the Canaanite woman and Jesus reaction to her is a reminder that we are all God's children and that God will welcome us all with open arms if we are persistent in faith and turn to him.

This story also reminds us – as if we need reminding - that the world is still riddled with prejudice, discrimination and bigotry and that we, God's church, we are called by Jesus to be different; to make the world a better, kinder place.

And how do we do that?

As a very dear old friend used to say: 'before you speak, take your words out – look at them and if they're not something Jesus would want to hear – put them back and say nothing at all.'

Amen

Revd Janet





Numbers 6:24

BaciaBella
DESIGNS

May the
Lord bless you
and protect you



Jesus was teaching the crowds when he explained about what makes a person pure. 'It's not about what goes into your mouth,' he said, talking about what you eat. What stops you from being pure is if bad things come out of your mouth.' Some people listening disagreed and the disciples told Jesus. He answered, 'Any plant that has not been planted by God will be uprooted. These people are like the blind leading the blind. If they do not understand, how can they help others to do so?'

Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Explain this to us.' Jesus said, 'Do you still not understand? Whatever goes into your mouth goes into your stomach and eventually into the sewer. But things that come out from your mouth come from the heart, so if they are bad, this means the very heart of you is also bad.'

Jesus went on to another place, a foreign place called Tyre and Sidon. A woman from that place, a foreigner, came out into the street and started shouting. 'I need your help, Lord!' she called. 'Son of David, help me. My daughter is very ill

She shouted as loud as she could to get their attention, but Jesus didn't answer her at all.

His disciples tried to persuade him: 'Send her away. She keeps on shouting at us.' Jesus seemed to agree with them.

He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.'

But the woman didn't give up. She came right up to them and knelt before Jesus, saying, 'Lord, help me.' Then Jesus said to her, 'It's not fair to take what was meant for the children, their food, and throw it to the dogs.'

But she replied, 'Well, yes, Lord, but even the dogs get something. They eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table.'

Jesus looked straight at the woman and answered, 'Woman, you have great faith! What you want most will happen.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Name



Matthew 15.(10-20), 21-28

Jesus meets a woman with amazing faith and heals her daughter, despite what others might expect.



Family time

Talk How important is kindness in the world today, and why?

Do Watch a favourite film and write down all the words of kindness and affirmation you hear.

Pray Spell out the word PRAYER as an acrostic and write something next to each letter to pray for, e.g.

- P** — Peace in places where there is fighting.
- R** — Rest and relaxation over the summer.
- A** — Action for the climate crisis.
- Y** — Young people waiting for exam results.
- E** — Everyone I meet today.
- R** — Remembering people I miss a lot.

Activity time



Can you imagine how the woman was feeling in the story? What was wrong with her little girl? Draw their faces to show their emotions.



Puzzle

How many hidden hearts you can spot in this picture? Colour them in as you find them.



ROOTS children's sheet
16-22 August 2020



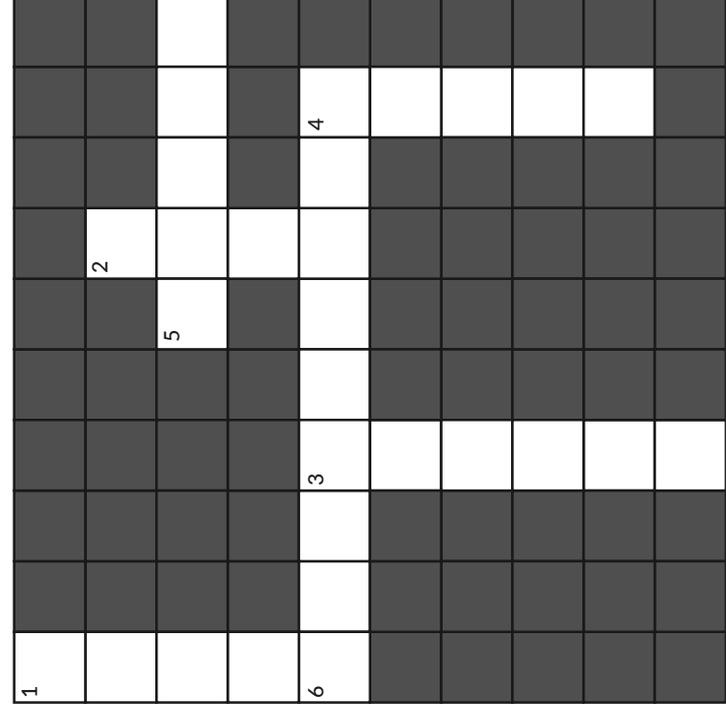
Solve the clues to work out which words you need to find in the crossword.

Down

1. The woman calls out 'Lord! Son of _____!'
2. The woman asked Jesus to _____ her daughter.
3. The dogs eat _____ under their masters table.
4. The story takes place in Tyre and _____.

Across

5. The hero of the story is _____.
6. Jesus' friends are called the _____.



Answer to wordsearch: **Down:** 1-David; 2-heal; 3-crumbs; 4-Sidon
Across: 5-Jesus; 6-disciples
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Name

ROOTS Colouring Sheet

16-22 August 2020

Colouring time

The woman has such great faith that Jesus is impressed and heals her poorly child.

