

**St George's, Tuffley
with St Margaret's, Whaddon**

**Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'**



**Sunday worship and weekly news
12 July 2020**

Worshipping Together at Home

Dearly loved worshipping community

Strange stuff soil!

I've got a garden full of it and my soil seems to be just as happy to grow weeds as it does plants.

Do I think my garden should be looking like the 'Garden of Eden'? No, not really. That garden must have been beautifully laid out with all kinds of superb plants and trees and.... well where would you stop?

Worshipping God is bit like tending your garden. Over these recent months it has been difficult. We have not been able to meet. The ground has been hard and stony, but slowly, slowly, green shoots are appearing. Both churches and St Georges Church Centre are undergoing 'Risk Assessments' in the expectation worship will resume in the near future.



Will worship in Church be different? Yes, for everyone's safety, but keep planting that seed of HOPE. This virus has come to pass. Church life will blossom soon.

Pete

❖ **Hot off the Press**

- ❖ St Margaret's opens on Sunday 12th July for the 9.00am Eucharist Service. The church then will remain open as Jonathan and Susan lead 'Family Praise' at 10.30am.
- ❖ We anticipate St George's will open on Sunday 19th July.

Order of Service

With Jesus 'less is more'

We light a candle...



Prayer for Today

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the
gospel your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn

To God be the glory

To God be the glory,
great things he has
done!
So loved he the world
that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in:



*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;
And give him the glory - great things he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God!
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives:
Chorus

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:
Chorus

Romans 8 Life in the Spirit

Read by Joceline Blunt

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit: ⁵
For those who live according to the flesh set their



minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that by your Spirit we can have abundant life.

Amen

Psalm 119

Read by Derek & Sarah Kingscote.

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶ I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.

¹⁰⁷ I am severely afflicted,
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.



¹⁰⁸ Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your ordinances.

¹⁰⁹ I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.

¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.

¹¹¹ Your decrees are my heritage for ever,
they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹² I incline my heart to perform your statutes:
forever to the end.

Prayer

Lord your word is sure and true.

We thank you for your light that lead us on the path we should follow.

Amen.

Matthew 13 The Parable of the Sower

Read by Derek Kingscote.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went

out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!'

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'



Prayer

Lord, we pray that as we hear and understand your word, we may bear much fruit.

Amen

Song

I give you a new commandment

I give you a new commandment:
love one another, love one another;
as I have loved, as I have loved you,
so you are to love one another.

I give you a new commandment:
Love one another, love one another.



If there is this love among you,
then all will know, all will know
that you are my disciples,
that you are my disciples, that you are my disciples.

©Peter Aston (b.1938)

Reflection from Lorraine Best

Everyone likes a good story and Jesus was a master storyteller. Today's story of the sower and the four types of soil is one of His best remembered parables. Perhaps because Jesus explained it to His disciples so clearly.

God is the sower, His Word of the kingdom is the seed and the soil is the heart of the different hearers. In Mark's account of the conversation which takes place between the story and the explanation Jesus states, "This is a key parable, if we fail to understand this one, how are we going to understand any of the others?"

So, what are the key points?

God is the sower, the decision maker, the instigator of growing His kingdom. He provides the seed, His spoken, written and (in Jesus) living word.

In the natural world seeds are amazing. Even the largest such as a coconut (the seed of a palm) are tiny compared to the plant or tree they could become in the right conditions. Therein lies the unknown; the potential of a seed to produce what it is designed to produce can be nullified or handicapped by its environment, in this case the condition of the human heart.

Think for a moment what good soil looks like and you



come to realise that here is where 'less is more'. Less compaction or hardness, less rocks or obstacles, less weeds or distractions. Good soil is free flowing, deep, rich and pure. What a

picture!

When we consider the state of our own hearts' we may feel woefully inadequate, but don't despair. The divine sower is also our loving creator. He is willing and able to help us change and improve.

Prayer

*Lord may we be quick to hear and understand your word.
May our response yield the harvest you seek for your kingdom
to come.*

Amen

Intercessions from Sarah Kingscote

Jesus taught that small seeds of faith can have great potential. Imagine you are planting seeds of prayer in the garden of God's love.



Firstly, for family and close friends, those you know best and care deeply about.

Next sow seeds for people, such as neighbours and acquaintances, who you know less well but are part of your life.

Now plant seeds for people in the public eye such as political leaders and others in the news. Also sow some seeds for those caring for the sick and other key workers supporting us during this pandemic.

Further away in God's garden of love seeds of prayer are needed for places suffering because of war, famine, natural disaster, or bad government, as well as the effects of the corona virus pandemic.

You have seeds left over. Cast them wide over the whole garden with love and joy for a world deeply in need of prayer, for this is our privilege, to work with God to sustain and heal the world in anticipation of a new creation, a new Eden.



You have one seed left. At your feet is a special patch of soil where you can plant a seed of prayer for yourself. What does your heart seek? What do you most need?

Lord, we give thanks for all those sowers who scatter kindness, beauty, truth and love into the rich earth of your garden.

We pray that seed thus sown might be fed and watered by your Spirit, germinate, grow and produce a harvest that is pleasing in your sight, fit for a banquet in your kingdom.

Jesus said that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed you will move a mountain. May it be so with these prayers, Lord, which we offer in Jesus's name. Amen.

Hymn

We have a gospel to proclaim

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.



Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward J Burns (b.1938)© Edward J Burn

This week's News

In memoriam:

John White, Kath Senior, Janice Davies, RIP.

We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name

Margaret Rowell, Mike, Ann and Steve, Jonathan, Bill, Julia, Brian, Mike and Laura, Dianne, Brian Webster, Lynne, Angela, Bela and Ann, June Young

Anniversaries of death:

Dennis Freeman, Lorraine Morgan, Mary Guest,

Raymond Locke, Edna Duncan,

Christabel Hutchins,

Cynthia Warwick,

Kim Williams,

Kathleen Wotton,

Joy Dean, Edna Crawford,

Clarice Blewitt,

Dorothy Connett, Peggy Hiam, Margaret Hopkins.



Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Bruce Clifford 12th, Sylvia Chamberlain 13th, Ray Fox 19th & Mike & Hilary Brammer celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on 19th.

Thank You to everyone who sent birthday cards and good wishes for my birthday on 27th June. Many thanks. Laura Mumby.

Where is God in a coronavirus world?

"Where is God in a coronavirus world?" is a small new book [62 pages] by the retired Oxford University professor, John C Lennox. I found it easy to read and helpful to make sense of what is happening during the current pandemic from a Christian viewpoint. There are several copies available to borrow in the vicarage porch. *Many thanks to Sarah Kingscote.*

Pass it on... Can you help unload food (Tuesdays 2.00pm until 4.00pm) or sort food parcels (Thursdays from 9.00am until 12.00noon) at St Barnabas Church hall for delivery to vulnerable people. **If yes**, phone 01452 396396 and ask for Gupti Gosine, Community Volunteer Support Appeal Manager, or email:

Community.wellbeing@gloucester.gov.uk

Don't forget...

Refresh via ZOOM on Wednesday 15th July at 7.30pm until 8.30pm. Ask Bruce for your invitation.



Pray with us

As the Church in Tuffley, we are continuing to pray for Tuffley. You can find resources to help on our website or pick up a booklet from the vicarage porch or book a time with Linda 01452 302590.

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

- ❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank** –Thank you!
- ❖ Borrow a good book (some are new) from Sarah's church library –in vicarage porch (we can deliver)

Know someone who:

- ❖ is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

Then Contact **Gloucestershire Community Help Hub** on **01452 583519**

Keep picking up the phone!

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



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The Administration office is not open until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).



THE CHURCH IN TUFFLEY