

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



Sunday worship and weekly news
19 July 2020

Worshipping Together at Home

Dearly loved worshipping community

Seeds are a miracle in miniature. They are also deeply symbolic, and the starting point of many a good sermon. Last week, and this week again, Jesus' parables have used the idea of the seed: good seeds that don't work, and bad seeds that do!



Bruce and Rosie have planted many good seeds during their five and a half years with us. After they leave, it will be our task to ensure that the seedlings they have helped to nurture will flower as they should.

Our worship has now restarted for real – alleluia! But let us not forget those who for one reason or another are not yet able to come back to church. Let us continue to

support them, praying that in due course they will be with us in person as well as in spirit.

Jonathan

**WELCOME**

this morning to **St George's** for the 10.30am
Communion Service

and

this evening to **St Margaret's** for Evensong at 5.00pm

Please bring this service and news sheet with you.

“Wheat and tares together sown”

We light a candle...



Prayer for Today

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we
see, and serve you in all that we
do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father
There is no shadow of turning with thee
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be

*Great is thy faithfulness
Great is thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies
I see
All I have needed thy hand hath
provided
Great is thy faithfulness
Lord unto me*



Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside

Romans 8 Life in the Spirit

Read by David Westcott

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba Father!' ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.



Future Glory

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager

longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Prayer
Father guide us by your Spirit to recognise and follow your chosen path for us. Amen

Psalm 139

Read by David & Kim Westcott

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light around me become night,"



bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" ²⁸ He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹ But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.' ³⁷ He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!



Prayer

Lord, we pray for the wisdom and guidance that we will grow in your presence and shine for you now and in the kingdom of our Father. Amen

Reflection from Pete Best

When we read the parable of the 'weeds among the wheat', then view wheat fields on TV, there is rarely a weed in sight. That's just as well. How would we feel about finding a bundle of 'rag wort' in our breakfast cereal? Today's parable is clear God is GOOD. Satan is BAD.

Years ago, I used to awake to my radio alarm. At 7am Radio 4 would broadcast the headlines. As I listened, one bad news item after another wafted over the airwaves. I thought, 'I don't need this', and immediately switched off the radio and unset the alarm. Who needs bad news?

Satan is behind much of today's bad news. Having been evicted from heaven (Luke 10:18) Satan knows he can't overcome God, so he seeks to destroy those who worship Him. He uses deception to steal our joy, our health, our family, anything we value. He will do all he



can to get us to doubt God.

If you've been burgled, scammed, or ripped off, how did you feel? It's Satan's way to get us to sometimes question God, "Why me?"

The good news is God is not prepared for Satan to snatch away any of His children. The Psalm shows it doesn't matter what we are doing, thinking, or saying, His Spirit is within us. He looks to guide us to the people He wants us to serve.

We might suffer knock backs, as we go out of our homes into our 'wheat field' of Tuffley and Podsmead, but does it matter?

If we are rejected by someone, consider this, it is Jesus they are rejecting, not us. By serving the Lord together we can look beyond the knock backs of the weeds, so we too can 'shine like the sun in the kingdom of our Father' (Matt 13:43). Amen

Prayer

Lord, help us to set aside our feelings and 'Go' and serve you. Help us Lord to fulfil your plan for our lives. Amen

Be still for the Presence of the Lord

Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy one is here
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on Holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy one is here



Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

Intercessions from Rosie Clifford

Father God, Abba, we come today in prayer only too aware of life's current struggles, and of your masterful creation marred by sin.



Thank you for the hope we have as Christians of life in a redeemed world with Christ, where evil has been defeated and sin has no place.

We thank you for your gift of hope, the anticipation of your kingdom reign when pain, grief and death are no more. We thank you that, in your love, your Spirit searches relentlessly for those in despair, that they might find the life you are calling them to.



We pray today for those in the darkest of situations, where hope of better times is in short supply. We ask you would sustain and comfort all who are imprisoned, detained, denied their basic human rights, persecuted for the right to practise their faith.

We pray for those who are caught up in modern-day slavery, trafficked, exploited, demeaned for others' gain. May we feel the fear of the cornered and be roused to action against all forms of oppression.

We call to mind those who know the anguish of mental torment, who can't see a way through their current problems and feel utterly despondent. May they know your love for them is unchanged, that there is nowhere where you do not dwell.

We pray for those whose hopes for the future have been dashed in recent weeks. May they come to know that you long to lead them into new pastures, to accompany them on the next steps in their journey of life.

We pray for those who are unwell, the desperately lonely, those overwhelmed by grief. Bring others alongside to encourage and care. May our eyes be opened wide to all who suffer in our midst but out of sight. We thank you, loving God, that to you no-one is invisible. Amen

Fight the good fight with all thy might!

Fight the good fight with all thy might!
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally

Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.



This week's News

In memoriam:

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, Artemis and Gaele, Tony, Daphne Reeves, Shirley Johns

Anniversaries of death:

Dorothy Connett, Peggy Hiam, Margaret Hopkins, Thomas (Pat) Parnell, Alan Wilcox, David Overthrow, Ruth MacKellar, Frances Manning, Hubert (Bob) Hill, Reginald Summers, Hazel Mumby, Dorothy Arnold.



Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Bert Welch 23rd, Mike & Hilary Brammer celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on 19th & Philip & Linda Brown celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary on 25th.



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.

Better still... now lockdown is easing why not prayer walk different streets within the parish using the booklet to guide you?

How Lovely... is the garden around St George's. Thank you, David and Kim and all the team. What a beautiful welcome back to church!

The Gift of Wheels Is the lack of a lift keeping you from coming to church? Contact the office.

Can you offer a lift? Contact the office. Thank you all.

Kath Senior RIP Thanksgiving service Wednesday 29th July at 2.00pm St Margaret's. All welcome. As space inside is limited, there will also be amplification and chairs outside. If wet, bring a brolly.

Tuff Fest 2020 is still available! Catch up [here!](#) Or by going to our website and finding 'What's on'.

Refresh Did you miss 'Refresh' organised by Grange Baptist Church on the 15th July? You did? Never mind. Join us on **Wednesday 19th August 7.30pm** for 1 hour when it will be St Barnabas hosting. Ask Helen for details.

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!



CONTACTING US:

Vicar: Revd Bruce Clifford 01452 520851
Email: vicar-bruce@outlook.com

Reader: Jonathan McKechnie-Jarvis
01452 502174

Pioneer: Helen McGeoch 07729 615993
Email: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

Facebook: St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

Administrator: Glenda Stevens 01452 307456
Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com

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