

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



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

Dearly loved worshipping community

“When will God’s kingdom come?”, the disciples asked Jesus. His response? “It’s already expanding in you!” (Luke 17.20, TPT) And so it is among us, today. Let it be so; and be glad!



As Rosie and I prepare to leave, our hearts are full of thanks to God and to you for this season together. And, taking the example of St Paul as he left the church

in Ephesus, “I entrust you all to God’s hands and the message of his grace, which is all you need to become strong”. (Acts 20:32, TPT)

God is faithful. Let us be too.

**We’ll love you always.  
Bruce**

**Welcome this morning** to our final week of ‘**online**’ worship services.

Our thanks to Hans and all the team who’ve made this fantastic resource available every week for more than four months; God bless you!

We continue to remember and pray for those who are unable yet to return to physical church; we’ll email or deliver the weekly service sheet to you for as long as you need it. Please keep in touch with us all, through Linda Medwell.

**Our ‘physical’ services this morning are:**

**St Margaret’s** for the 9.00am Eucharist Service  
and

**St George’s** for the 10.30am Eucharist Service.

*please bring this Service & News sheet with you.*

## **Order of Service**

### **God’s Kingdom Treasure**

**Holy Holy Holy!** Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down  
their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy Name,  
in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

### **Prayer for Today**

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. Amen

### **Romans 8 Future Glory**

*Read by Linda Medwell*

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

### **God’s Love in Christ Jesus**

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> 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? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> 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.

<sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered’.

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.

*Prayer*

*Lord we thank you that your Spirit helps us to worship you as you bring good things into our lives. Amen*

### **Psalm 105 God's Faithfulness to Israel.**

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, **make known his deeds among the peoples.**

<sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praises to him, **tell of all his wonderful works.**

<sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name; **let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice**

<sup>4</sup> Seek the LORD and his strength; **seek his presence continually.**

<sup>5</sup> Remember the wonderful works he has done, **his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,**

<sup>6</sup> O offspring of his servant Abraham, **children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

<sup>7</sup> He is the Lord our God; **his judgements are in all the earth.**

*Prayer*

God of our earthly pilgrimage,  
feed your Easter people with the bread of heaven,  
that we may hunger and thirst for righteousness  
until we reach our promised land;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Matthew 13 The Parables of the Kingdom**

*Read by Rosie Clifford*

<sup>31</sup> Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> 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.'

#### **The Parable of the Yeast**

<sup>33</sup> 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.'

#### **Three Parables**

<sup>44</sup> '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.

<sup>45</sup> 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put

the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

#### **Treasures New and Old**

<sup>51</sup> 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.'

<sup>52</sup> 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.'

*Prayer*

*Our Father in heaven, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen*

#### **Reflection from Bruce**

So many images, so many pictures of God's Kingdom treasure-trove. It was hidden, unseen for too long. Now it's now moving quietly, gently running through our hearts, as God nudges and prods, provokes, and challenges, to change and mould us. Yes, God is continually transforming us all till the vast potential of his Kingdom treasure-trove is fully realised.

There is a cost, of course. Actually, the Kingdom is priceless, beyond cost. Like the diamonds in the crown jewels. Yet once the kingdom-treasure is discovered, the price we pay is nothing compared to the great reward we gain.



Yet Jesus warns that the kingdom doesn't grow alone in us. It grows alongside evil, like weeds accompany the wheat, and bad fish swim alongside the good. We're all alike in the same dilemma.

And yes, all sorts of life's challenges can try to tear us away from God's love. But nothing can succeed. Only our sin can cut us off from experiencing His love. And even then, God doesn't condemn; instead, He sent Jesus who lived and died and lives again to pray for us. Truly nothing can ever separate us from God's love: we're joined at the hip., as it were.

Thanks be to God for Jesus.

And thanks be to God for His Spirit who's praying for us, with groans so deep they're beyond words. He's praying till we've finally become like Jesus himself. For this is God's calling to all of us. Amazing, and true.

O that we might see ourselves, each and every one, as treasure in God's Kingdom. What a picture. What a vision! Hold to it. Constantly. And hold each other to it. Then we'll see God's Kingdom come, to us, to Tuffley and beyond.

Then we'll see God's glory, in us, in Tuffley, and beyond.

Amen, come Lord Jesus!

We declare together our commitment to faith:

**We believe: in God the Father,  
who raised Jesus from the dead.**

**We affirm: Jesus is Lord of our lives.**

**We will follow: the Holy Spirit  
who enables us to live  
in His goodness and love,  
now and in all eternity. Amen**

*Intercessions from Pat Mitchell*



Father we thank you that in today's readings Paul writes that nothing can separate us from the love of God. At the same time, Jesus then gives us an assurance of hope and trust in you our heavenly Father.

We pray for churches throughout the world as they struggle to work out the safe way to meet at this time. Please give them the wisdom to find it.

Here in Tuffley and Whaddon we thank you for Bruce and Rosie, for the love, encouragement, and inspiration they have given us in the years they have been with us. We are sad that they are leaving us because we shall really miss them. We pray that their future life will be all that they and Jesus want it to be, and we will be thinking of them.

Father, we pray for the world, where at this time there is so much suffering and pain. Where many people have nowhere to live, and no job, and nowhere feels safe; and for all whose lives will never be the same again.

Father, we thank you for every person whose life is committed to changing lives and bringing healing and wholeness to those whose lives are broken. For all those to whom you reach out with love and compassion. Also, for those who love and care for us when we are hurting, and for those who try to understand us when we feel lost.

We thank you for our healing in Christ: for the healing of our relationship with you which was made possible at the cost of His death on the cross. Through His resurrection you have transformed even death, from an end into a new beginning.

Come Lord Jesus, come, come and we will praise and thank you for ever. Amen

### **O God Beyond all Praising**

we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you  
and wait upon your word,  
we honour and adore you,  
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour,  
accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favour  
may serve you as our king;  
and whether our tomorrows  
be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows  
and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.  
Michael Perry (1942 - 1996) © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns

### **Prayer for Healing**

Heal us O God from all our afflictions,  
And keep us steadfast in your love;  
Bind up our wounds,  
Raise us from death,  
And lead us to fullness of life;  
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

### **Praise my soul the King of Heaven**

To His feet thy tribute bring,  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me His praises could sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father like He tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him,  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;  
Dwellers all in time and space,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

### **Sending-out Prayer**

Almighty God,  
In the power of the Holy Spirit  
Send us out into the world  
To build your kingdom.  
**Here I am, send me.**

Will you go and carry the hope of Christ wherever you go? **We will go.**

Will you go and stand with the hurt and the broken, the old and the young, the rich and the poor?

**We will go.**

Will you go and faithfully build the kingdom of God?

**We will go.**

Will you go and carry the light of Christ in the dark places around you? **We will go.**

Will you go and in everything give glory only to God?

**We will go.**

## This week's News

**In memoriam:** Janice Davies RIP.

**We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:** Jonathan, Bill, Dianne, Artemis and Gaelle, Mike, Steve and Ann, Lynne, Angela, June Young, Sarah and Christine, Naomi.

### Anniversaries of death:

Hazel Mumby, Dorothy Arnold, Trevor Watts, Mary Priday, Frank Boulton, Eileen Huggins, Gordon Lewis, Jan Tate, Maxwell Nash, Ken Dobbs, Norman Hacker, Baby Stanley, Bertha Wakefield, Fraser McDonald, Christine Shipley.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

None that we know of this week.

**The Bible Course** Whether you're new to the Bible or want to go deeper, **The Bible Course** is for you! It shows how all the books, characters and events fit together to form one BIG story, from Genesis to Revelation. The course also provides tools and skills to help apply the Bible to everyday life. Beginning **Tuesday 4th August, online, at 7:30pm.** Contact Helen for more information.

### Farewell to Bruce and Rosie

The present situation makes everything that little bit more complicated!

There will be a farewell presentation for Bruce and Rosie in the Vicarage garden on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm.** Bring a brolly if wet, and if possible, please bring a folding seat if you want to be sure of something to sit on, though there will be a certain amount of seating laid out.

Sorry, but we can't provide refreshments in the present circumstances. Bring a thermos if you like.

Please arrive through the front gates and depart through the side gate.

The wardens are making a collection for a leaving present for Bruce and Rosie, and there will be a card to sign. Do please give contributions to any of the wardens, or to David Westcott.

**Awesome August** August is traditionally at time for receiving postcards. This year Saint Peter's mother-in-law has been receiving them and has graciously agreed to share them with everybody as Peter describes his time with Jesus. Look out for them!

### WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank; new collection point is the Church Centre hallway.** Thank you!

❖ Borrow a good book (some are new) from Sarah's church library – at back of St George's.

### 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 **re-opening soon!** Meanwhile 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