

Saints, Souls... and Children of God

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



Sunday worship and weekly news
1 November 2020
All Saints' Day

Welcome everyone

We welcome our visiting priest
Revd Ann Morris

All Saints Day, All Souls Day...

At this season we think of those who have gone before us. A few are the Saints officially recognised by the Churches, including our own St George, and St Margaret of Scotland. Infinitely more in number are the souls of all the faithful departed. Some we remember, those who have loved and inspired us. Many more are long since forgotten by the world, but all are dear in the sight of our Lord.



In our first reading, St John reminds us of what we all share in common: Saints or sinners, we are all Children of God. What a wonderful truth that is.

Jonathan

To keep us all safe, we will keep doors open for ventilation.

Please

Use hand sanitiser
Stay 2 metres apart
Avoid touching
Sing with your heart – not your voice

The Church of England "strongly advises that face coverings should be worn by all those attending worship remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID 19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing."

Next week we welcome the
Revd. Mike Parsons

Processional Hymn

Ye watchers and ye Holy ones,
Bright Seraphs, Cherubim and Thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia.
Cry out, Dominions, Princedoms,
Powers,
Virtues, Archangels, Angels' choirs,
Alleluia.



O higher than the Cherubim,
More glorious than the Seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluia.
Thou Bearer of the eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord.
Alleluia.

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, alleluia.
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia.

Prayer for Today

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

1 John 3

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.



Prayer

Lord God, You are our Father, we are so blessed to be Your children, help us take it in.
Amen

Psalm 34

¹ I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
² My soul shall glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

³ O magnify the Lord with me; **let us exalt his name together.**

⁴ I sought the Lord and he answered me **and delivered me from all my fears.**

⁵ Look upon him and be radiant **and your faces shall not be ashamed.**

⁶ This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me **and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him **and delivers them.**

⁸ O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; **blessed is the one who trusts in him.**

⁹ Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones, **for those who fear him lack nothing.**

¹⁰ Lions may lack and suffer hunger, **but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**

Prayer

Send your holy angels to watch over us, O God, that on our lips will be found your truth and in our hearts your love; so we may ever taste your goodness in the land of the living; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Matthew 5 The Beatitudes



¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught

them, saying:

³ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Prayer

God, so rich in blessings for your children, we rejoice in your promises and in your boundless and transforming grace. Amen.

Reflection from Revd. Ann Morris

When we hear the stories of the saints – and we see the stained glass pictures of them, it's not surprising that we often think of the saints as a different breed of people from ourselves.

With all the noble things that they did and the way they persevered through life, it's hard to imagine them doing ordinary things like getting irritated by the length of the queue at the checkout – or shouting at the children. We tend to imagine them sailing through life unruffled by the things which give us grey hairs. 'It must have been OK for them' we think, 'They glide through their lives helped by some saintly gene we haven't inherited.'

But perhaps the most important thing we celebrate today is that, however much we have since reworked their lives, and however beautiful their monuments, saints began by being as ordinary as the rest of us and it's just as possible for us to be saintly as it was for them. We sometimes paint saints being other worldly, untouched by the temptations of this world – but real saints have their feet firmly in this world; they love it and appreciate it. They are the people who take seriously the code 'love God – love one another', and you can't do that from a distance; Loving means getting involved – getting hurt – seeing the funny side – learning from your embarrassing mistakes – but definitely being involved. Saints are ordinary people with their own ways and habits – and I bet some of them were really annoying. I expect they had times when they had no idea what the next step should be – just like us. For example, Mother Teresa told us how much she struggled with through her ministry in India, but she carried on doing what she felt she was called to do.



People became saints through living ordinary lives, but they lived them in God's close company. That takes courage but as Jesus said, if we try to protect our life, we end up losing it. It is those who joyfully give it away who end up gaining the heavenly life which lasts.

We declare together our commitment to faith:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Intercessions from Lorraine Best

Heavenly father, we are blessed when we realise how poverty stricken our human spirits are. Thank you for saving us, giving us Your Holy Spirit, and numbering us among Your Saints.

We pray for all who mourn, remembering the families and friends of the recently departed and those marking the anniversary of losing their own loved ones. May they know your comfort.

We are blessed when we do not demand our own way. Thank you for your willingness to show us 'Your way' and for providing us with Your written word.

We pray for all who seek righteousness and justice. We pray for our political leaders, both nationally and locally. We thank you for all who are willing to make a difference and for the work of charities, especially those who seek to support the disadvantaged, poor and hungry.

We are blessed when we adjust our behaviour in line with our beliefs demonstrating love mercy and purity in heart. Thank you that we all have opportunities to sow peace rather than discord. We pray for the unity of our church, both locally and nationally.



May the process to find our new incumbent go smoothly. Give wisdom and insight to all those involved that Your will, will be done.

We are blessed when we get together and our lights can be seen. Help us to remember that we are equally blessed when we are scattered like salt throughout our community.

We pray for those who are sick in mind, spirit, or body. We ask for healing, we ask for miracles of grace and thank you for the skill and compassion of our health professionals.

We pray for our brothers and sisters who face persecution for their faith. May they stay faithful knowing your strengthening presence and experiencing your protection.

Offertory Hymn

God be in my head

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Preparing to receive Holy Communion

After the priest says to us all: "the body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life", we all respond Amen

A steward will guide you forward.

We each receive a wafer; the priest alone receives the wine on behalf of us all.

We receive communion with arms outstretched, and in silence.

Please maintain a 2-metre distance at all times.

Final Hymn

For all the Saints

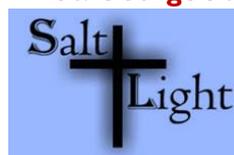
who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness still their one true light:
Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Please leave the building immediately after the priest, in view of the **Rule 6** please do not linger outside

Covid 19 update for St. George's and St Margaret's Churches



Our Churches have now been open since the middle of July. At the time of opening I helped prepare a video and supporting note to re-assure our congregations that attending our services was in my opinion safe with very little risk of Covid infection. This assurance was based primarily on two factors. Firstly, the number of recorded cases of Covid infection in our area was running in low single figures and the likelihood of anybody bringing the virus into our services was very small indeed. Secondly, after a detailed risk assessment in our churches we had established safety procedures to mitigate any risk of infection should the virus be brought into any of our services.

We are now however in October and at a critical stage of the second wave of the pandemic and neither of these safety factors is now fully valid.

First, the number of infections in our area has risen significantly and is continuing to rise at a worrying rate.

As a consequence, the risk of the virus being brought into our Church services is higher.

To minimise this additional risk, we need to tighten up on our compliance to the safety guidelines.

The safety measures we had to impose when we reopened were almost all at odds with our normal behaviour. The wearing of masks, the social distancing, the restriction of singing, the loss of tea and coffee and social mixing after the service. The clearing the Churches immediately after the end of services was made worse by the Rule of Six which curtailed socialising outside after leaving the Church.

We have been subject to these restrictions for so long now that we are, not surprisingly, beginning to relax our guard. We have spent all our lives being sociable and enjoying the company of others and to break these habits is very challenging and we all tend at times to forget the rules and revert to "normal" behaviour.

In these increasingly dangerous times this tendency could bring about very serious consequences.

We catch Covid infections by ingesting virus laden droplets from a person who is infected.

We need to protect ourselves and others in our congregation from this risk of infection by fully observing all the protective measures the Church has published.

Now we are all wearing masks it can give us a false sense of security. Masks offer little or no real protection to the wearers, but they do reduce the number of droplets we expel from our mouths when talking coughing or sneezing. Those droplets which do pass through the mask are also not projected so far forwards. If worn properly and people stay at a two-metre distance from each other, a mask reduces the risk of person to person transmission. If used closer than two meters this protection is significantly reduced.

Face to face talking particularly indoors at a reduced social distance is unsafe.

We need to limit all face to face conversations before and after our services.

After the service has finished please leave the Church without delay. If you need to talk to anybody please try, if at all possible, to leave it until you have moved outside remembering the rule of six and social distancing. One final point, there is a slight problem with congestion at the back of the hall when we are selecting envelopes for local delivery, remember social distancing.

Please help us to keep our Church family safe by following all the guidelines.

As we all face the uncertain future, we will need to adapt our behaviour to meet the emerging risks.

As a guiding principle please remember that by limiting your range of contact with others, your risk of infection will be reduced.

Finally, we all need to pray that our congregations remain Covid - free, we are delivered from this disease and we can resume our worship and normal lives without fear as soon as possible.

Stuart Mitchell October 2020

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

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

Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank.

Thank you!

Last week we sent 96.2kgrams to the Foodbank.

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: Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)

Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-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 open on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9.00am until midday 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

This week's News

In Memoriam:

Philip Parker, aged 103 years, ex organist at St George's

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

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Sarah, Baby Obi, Pat, Sarah M, Christine, June, Darren and family, Daphne Reeves is quite poorly in hospital following a fall.

Anniversaries of death:

Gwendoline Burris, Alf Keates, Carew Tyler, Jeremy Ball, Rosa Miles, Norman Herne, Ernie Maddock, Jean Medcraft, Katherine Holmes, Henry Terrett, Molly Hancock, Victor Major

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

None that we know of this week

DIARY DATES – 1 – 8 November

Sunday 1 – All Saints' Day

Sun 1	10.30am	St M's	Family Praise
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Roger Readers: Sylvia & Linda Intercessions: Helen
	4.00pm	St G's	Time to Remember
Tue 3	7.00pm	MH	Karate
Wed 4	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	3.30pm	MH	Slimming World also at 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Thu 5	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Railway Society at 12 Ryelands
Sat 7	11.00am	MH	Karate
Sun 8			Remembrance
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: David Readers: Jonathan T & Susan Intercessions: Sylvia C

**St G's = St George's, MH = Main Hall,
St M's = St Margaret's Z = Zoom**

BELATED THANK YOU:

Mike & Laura would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and cards for their recent wedding anniversary. They spent a few days in Norfolk and met up with David & Angela Smith, David was vicar here from 2009 until early 2015, and they wish to pass on their good wishes to all at St George's and St Margaret's.

Carols by Candlelight at St Margaret's...

We are pleased at the response of both congregations at the suggestion of holding a number of Candlelight services at St Margaret's during Advent. Work will now begin to set up and organise these evenings. A form inviting you to book will be circulated in the near future. So, watch this space.

Christmas Hampers 2020

As a Tuffley church and community project, we would like to provide 30 Christmas hampers for local families. The families we were able to help last year were so grateful. We are working in partnership with Gloucestershire Bundles who will add appropriate presents for children whose families receive a hamper. The hampers will be full of Christmas treat items which will cost about £45 per hamper and we hope to deliver these as early as possible to ease the financial burden on these families.

Can you help? Please contact Helen and ask for a leaflet. Thank you.

Glenda's Christmas draw...

Glenda will be running a Christmas Draw to be drawn on Sunday 13 December. Cost will be 5 tickets for £1.00 and will be on sale from Sunday 8 November in both Churches.

We already have a Christmas cake promised and will have some other prizes too.