

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



**Sunday worship and weekly news
15 November 2020**

2 before ADVENT

Welcome everyone

We welcome via our YouTube link
[Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar](#)

November can be a grey month; the days grow shorter and the weather may turn foggy. Looking through the window, the colours have gone, and the trees have lost their bright autumnal leaves. November can be a time of looking back when sorrow and regrets take over our thoughts. Especially this year, with all that we have faced so far, and another lockdown, the month may seem very grey.



So, it's more important than ever to reach up and reach out. Reach up to God whose love is never dimmed and reach out to those around you. Don't feel embarrassed or ashamed but reach out and say that you're finding life hard and let others share God's love with you.

Susan

Christmas Hampers 2020

As a Tuffley church and community project, we would like to provide, at least, 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 treats 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.

If you can help... please visit the web-site www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk Amongst the titles at the top of the screen you will find '**Christmas Hampers**'. Clicking on this title will display a leaflet showing what items we are seeking to provide. If you would rather give financially please contact Helen.

Order of Service

Being Trustworthy

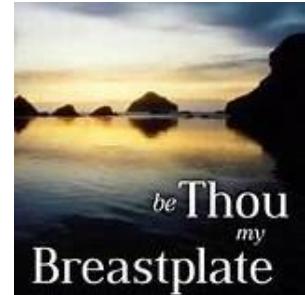
Processional Hymn

Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart,

Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, Be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.



Riches I heed not, nor Man's empty praise:
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayer for Today

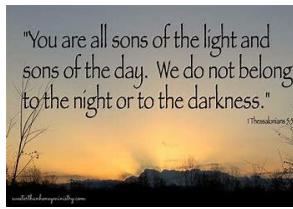
Heavenly Father,
Whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
Grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as He is pure; that when He shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like Him in His eternal and glorious kingdom; where He is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

I Thessalonians 5 The day of the Lord

Read by Joceline Blunt

Now brothers and sisters about times and dates we do not need to write to you.² For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.³ While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape!⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, so that this day should surprise you like a thief;⁵ for you are all children of the light and children of the day; we do not belong to the night or to the

darkness.



night.⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love, as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for Jesus who saves us from wrath to live with you forever. Amen

Psalm 90

Read by David and Kim Westcott

1 Lord, you have been our refuge **from one generation to another.**

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed, **from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

3 You turn us back to dust and say: **'Turn back, O child of earth.'**

4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, **which passes like a watch in the night.**

5 You sweep away like a dream; **they fade away suddenly like the grass.**

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; **in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; **we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.**

8 You have set our misdeeds before you **and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

Prayer

Almighty God, our eternal refuge, teach us to live with the knowledge of our death and to rejoice in the promise of your glory, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Matthew 25 - The Parable of the Talents

Read by Jonathan Mackenzie-Jarvis

¹⁴ 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents.¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."



²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³ His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."²⁶ But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to the one with the ten talents.

²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Prayer

Lord thank you for trusting us with so many gifts; help us to so trust you that we use them well. Amen

Reflection from Rev Mike Parsons

The Parable of the Talents Matthew 25: 14-30

This well known parable (almost the same as Luke's version, but there called the parable of the pounds) is NOT about our talents or abilities as such. The three slaves already had various abilities, as this was the basis on which the master distributed the money (for a talent was a sum of money). And in typical oriental fashion Matthew has said outrageously large sums: a talent was worth around a quarter of a million pounds!

We must ask at least three questions of this text: what did it mean in Jesus context; what did Matthew's church take it to mean; and what might it mean for us today. The answers may overlap, but they are unlikely to be the same.

Jesus was directing this at the religious professionals who had had the law and the prophets and failed to live out a life of faith and joy based on them, but rather enclosed it all in a set of rules and difficult regulations. They hid it and kept it from others. Their end was to be rejected and cast out.

Matthew's church needed to be reminded that waiting for Jesus to come again was not an option: rather growth in the Spirit and development in mission were how the talents were to be used.



And for us today, rather the same. We are not to be afraid of failure in using what God has given us: there is no resurrection without death first. Failing in a cause that will ultimately succeed is far better than succeeding in one that will ultimately fail. In today's political situation, the one who succeeds is not the one who holds the top job, but the one who isn't paralysed by the fear of their own failure.

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 Derek Kingscote

Let us pray for the peace of God in the Church and among the nations.

Lord, creator of the universe, infinite and glorious, you give us laws to save us from our folly; give us eyes to see your plan unfolding, your purpose emerging as the world is made; give us courage to follow the truth, courage to go wherever you lead; then we shall know blessings beyond our dreams; then will your will be done. Lord in Your mercy...

Lord, you feed us with the bread of life, and nourish us with the cup of salvation. We give you thanks for the wisdom of your counsel: in the silence of the darkest hours of the night, we open our ears to the whisper of your voice. Lord in Your mercy...

Lord of all power and might, give us grace to trust you both in darkness and in light. In the face of danger and adversity, be our strength and hope, that we may be sustained on this earthly pilgrimage. We seek to understand your will for your church and people in this place and we pray for your guidance during the interregnum and grant us discernment in the process of appointing an experienced priest to take us forward. Lord in Your mercy...

Give courage to all those who are ill, and all who are afraid for their future. Look with mercy, we pray, on those who are in pain, that their sufferings may be lessened, or they may be strengthened to endure to the end. Lord, we give thanks for those who now rejoice in the fellowship of your saints; and we commend our loved ones whom we now mourn to your almighty love, that they too may rest in peace and rise in glory. Lord in Your mercy...

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen



Offertory Hymn
God of grace and God of glory,
On thy people pour thy power;
Now fulfil thy church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn thy Christ, assail his ways;
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days.

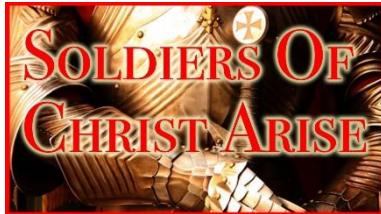
Cure thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton selfish gladness,
Rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places,
Gird our lives that they may be
Armoured with all Christlike graces
In the fight till all be free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor thee.

*Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969) © Stephen F Downs
legal representative of Dr Elinor Downs*

Preparing to receive Holy Communion

Rev Dr Sandra Millar offers communion on our behalf



Final Hymn

Soldiers of Christ, arise

And put your armour on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
Through his eternal Son.

Strong in the Lord of hosts,
And in his mighty power;
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.

Stand then in his great might,
With all his strength endued;
And take, to arm You for the fight,
The panoply of God.

To keep your armour bright,
Attend with constant care;
Still walking in your captain's sight,
And watching unto prayer.

From strength to strength go on;
Wrestle and fight and pray;
Tread all the powers of darkness down,
And win the well-fought day;

That, having all things done,
And all your conflicts past,
Ye may o'ercome, through Christ alone,
And stand entire at last.

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank**; new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on Friday morning until 11.00am.

Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank.
Thank you!

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

Glenda's Christmas Draw

Glenda will be running a Christmas Draw to be drawn on Sunday 13th December. Tickets cost £1 for 5 and are on sale now.

We have a Christmas Cake promised and there will be other prizes too.

Glenda's contact details are listed above under **Administrator**.

In Memoriam:

Norman Oldcroft, Heather Hodges, Daphne Greatorex
RIP

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

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Sarah, Pat, Sarah M, Christine, June, Brenda Oldcroft, Darren and family, Daphne.

Anniversaries of death:

Peter O'Brien, Idris White, Tony Bond, Henry Wreford, Gladys Staite, Fred Sirrell, Ivy Bufton, Emily Paddock, Ethel Shipp, Beryl Chiswell, Graham Clarke, Ivy Mortimer, Agnes Preedy, Violet Barnes, Frank Baxter.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Dianne Baker 18th, David Kent 18th.

DIARY DATES 15 – 22 November

Sun 15			
Tue 17	11.30am	Crem	Funeral for the late Heather Hodges RIP
Wed 18	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	9.00am	Z	Mission Group
Thu 19	10.30am	St M's	Church open for quiet prayer

**Z = Zoom, Crem = Crematorium,
St M's = St Margaret's**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of London have called the Church to prayer for the nation throughout the month of November.

We are asked to pray each day at 6pm using the following daily themes.

Sunday:**Family friends and loved ones**

We lift to God those we hold in our hearts – praying for their health, their well-being, and their sense of hope.

We pray that even when loved ones cannot physically be together, they would not feel apart.

We ask God's help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

Monday:**Schools and colleges, children, and young people**

We pray for all those involved in the shaping of young lives.

We give God thanks for the sacrifices and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people in education.

We pray that all might be nurtured and cared for and that every needful resource will be made available.

That all lives can flourish even in these difficult times and that no one would be overlooked.

Tuesday:**Elderly, isolated and vulnerable**

We echo God's commitment to those most at risk of this virus by praying today for those who are particularly vulnerable and isolated. Praying for their deliverance, protection, and comfort.

Wednesday:**The workplace and economic wellbeing**

In this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country.

We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work.

We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together.

Thursday:**The NHS and other key workers**

Our God is the great healer – and the agent used more than any other is the NHS.

Today we voice our gratitude for those who serve this country in the NHS and pray that God would prosper the work of their hands that they would all be encouraged in their continued work of sacrifice and care among us.

Friday:**National and Local government**

We pray for those who are in positions of authority with responsibility for decision making at national and local level at this difficult time.

We ask that God would give great wisdom, deep commitment to all and right judgement.

Saturday:**All who are grieving, and all suffering with physical and mental ill health**

'Lord the one you love is ill...' John 11 v 3

We bring to God all those who suffer in body, mind, spirit or with grief.

We ask that in God's great loving kindness they might know God's sustaining presence amidst their pain.

We pray for those who are stretched beyond their own capacity to cope and remain hopeful - that in the roar of these waterfalls God would bring a sense of coherence comfort and strength.

How would you like to...

...Plant/Adopt a tree?

Put 16th January 2021 in your diary and come and join the 'Church in Tuffley Environment team' in Randwick Park to plant 20-25 trees. The City Council are providing the trees along with protective fencing.

Once planted we are then looking for volunteers to '**Adopt a tree** (or two). How? – As Corporal Jones would say, "Don't panic". Basically, it means ensuring it is watered during any spell of dry weather.

That's it! Interested?

Contact Lorraine Best on 07407516553.