

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



**Sunday worship and weekly news
29 August 2021**

TRINITY 13

Today we welcome

Canon Andrew Braddock to our services

Please take a moment to introduce yourself to our visiting Minister Andrew or one of our Church Wardens, (Mike or Sylvia at St George's) (Jonathan or Hans at St Margaret's) or the door steward. If visiting St George's, please join us for tea/coffee after the 10.30am service. Both churches are fitted with an inductive loop; to hear the service better those with hearing aids should switch them to the appropriate setting.

Today's service on YouTube

The service can be accessed from the church website www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk on Sunday evening.

Click on the blue banner at the bottom of the page. Enjoy, and sing aloud to your hearts content.

To protect everyone,

Please wear a face mask.

Sanitise your hands as you enter

Observe sensible social distancing indoors, and ...

You can now sing if you wish, but you must be wearing a mask.

Although restrictions are easing....

Covid is still with us. If we are to continue to see a reduction in the effect Covid is having on us we ask you to voluntarily stay at home if you feel unwell.

Tea or Coffee after the Service.

It has been a long time since St George's have had tea or coffee after the service allowing friends to socialise.

Now Covid restrictions are easing St George's will be providing tea or coffee should you wish to stay and fellowship. While waiting to be served please wear a mask until you are seated.

A tea/coffee rota is to be established. If you are willing to join the rota, please speak to Mike Brammer.

Showing love even in trials



Processional Hymn

O Jesus, I have promised

to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Prayer for Today

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

James 1 Trials and Temptations

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Hearing and Doing the Word

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for

your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Prayer: Lord help us consistently to live a life that shows the faith we proclaim. Amen

Psalm 45

¹ My heart overflows with a goodly theme; **I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.**

² You are the most handsome of men; grace is poured upon your lips; **therefore, God has blessed you forever.**

⁶ Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. **Your royal sceptre is a sceptre of equity;**

⁷ you love righteousness and hate wickedness. **Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;**

⁸ your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. **From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;**

⁹ daughters of kings are among your ladies of honour; **at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

Prayer: Lord our God, bring your bride, your holy Church, with joy to the marriage feast of heaven, and unite us with your anointed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 7 That Which Defiles

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶ He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷ in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Prayer: Lord help us focus on goodness from the inside out. Amen

Reflection from Canon Andrew

Thoughts, Words and Actions

Listening to the parliamentary debates on the appalling situation unfolding in Afghanistan, the interventions that spoke most powerfully to me were those from people with personal experience of serving in that country. They spoke with a strong sense of moral purpose and of our moral obligations. Their words arose from their experience and actions, and their actions and experience informed their words. Our response to the humanitarian crisis now unfolding in Afghanistan will be a test of our intentions and priorities as a nation. We are being challenged to follow-through on our obligations to the Afghan people because of the choice we made to intervene in that country twenty years ago.

Today's readings underline the importance of words and actions aligning with one another. “Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves” writes James. The end of that passage speaks powerfully into the current crisis: “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

It is often said that in the life of individuals and nations we will be judged by our deeds and not just by our words. In today's Gospel reading Jesus develops that theme to highlight the link not simply between our words and actions, but between our thoughts and actions. “For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come” says Jesus.

Read together, the Gospel passage and the letter to James underline the deep link between thoughts, words and actions. Our thoughts and inner desires will indeed shape our actions in the world. But our practices in the world can also shape and refine our thoughts and desires. That's why Christianity values 'holy habits' – for example regular prayer, reading Scripture, giving to others, and practising forgiveness – because they help form our inner attitudes and disposition. Working together, thoughts, words and actions can lead us closer to God or away from God. We need to watch over them with care. They shape who we are becoming.

We declare together our commitment to faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory, to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Intercessions from Sylvia Chamberlain

Lord we thank you for drawing close to us to hear our requests and petitions, and that the Holy Spirit helps us put our needs into words, and to plead our case before you. May our prayers play a significant part in the building of your kingdom on earth. We pray for the church throughout the world as she reaches out to people searching for words of eternal life.

As followers of Jesus may we enter fully into his being, becoming one with him and the Father who sent him. We pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen us to love and serve our neighbours in Christ.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for peace in the world. Especially today we pray for Afghanistan and all those who are desperately trying to flee the troubles there. Help us all to be prepared to welcome the refugees. We pray that weapons of destruction will be replaced by the protection of God; that lies and deceit will be replaced by truth and integrity; that doubt and oppression will be overcome by faith and salvation; and that the forces of hatred and cruelty will retreat before the Spirit of love and justice so that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our own community and ask for your blessing on the homes and families in Quedgeley Court Park, Shepherd Road, Greenhill Court and Tolsey Gardens. We pray for all who are weakened and distressed by illness of body, mind or spirit, remembering especially... and those known only to you. We pray that God's words of spirit and life will be heard in the darkest places of suffering. We pray that all of us will receive in our hearts the healing and wholeness of the eternal life of heaven.

Lord in your mercy...

Most loving God, you know the pain and sorrow of death; mercifully hear our prayer for those who mourn and bring them comfort in their darkest hours. We remember today... recently departed and all whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Lord in your mercy...

Heavenly Father we offer these prayers to you through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We commit to you ourselves and all for whom we have prayed trusting that you will bring all your children to share in the eternal life of your Kingdom.

Merciful Father... Amen

Offertory Hymn

Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their king.

Still to the lowly soul
He doth himself impart,
And for His dwelling and His throne
Chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for thee.

After Rev'd Andrew 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 dipped in wine.

We receive Communion in silence with arms outstretched.

Please maintain social distance at all times.

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Final Hymn:

The Spirit lives to set us free,

walk, walk in the light.

He binds us all in unity,

walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light, walk in the light,

walk in the light, walk in the light of the Lord

Jesus promised life to all,

walk, walk in the light.

The dead were wakened by his call,

walk, walk in the light.

Chorus

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,

walk, walk in the light.

The Father's kindness is revealed,

walk, walk in the light.

Chorus

The Spirit lives in you and me,

walk, walk in the light.

His light will shine for all to see,

walk, walk in the light.

Chorus

Damian Lundy (1940-1997) © 1978 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the Foodbank; new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on a Friday morning from 9.30am until 11.30am. The Foodbank are in **URGENT NEED OF, TINNED FRUIT, DEODORANT and SHAMPOO**

In addition, they need donations of Tinned Fish, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Vegetables, Cup-a-Soup, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned tomatoes, Single Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Toilet Rolls, Nappies (Sizes 6 & 6+ only), Bars of Soap.

Please note they have an abundance of: -

Baked Beans, Dry Pasta, Dry Spaghetti and Tea.

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: Rev'd Rachel Beck 01452 520851

Email: revrachelbeck@gmail.com 07753 389865

Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis 01452 502174

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 Friday mornings from 9.30am until 11.30am 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).



News 29 August – 5 September

In Memoriam:

Dennis Vincent, Ruby Jenkins RIP

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

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Bill, Pat, Daphne, Rosemary, Carol, Angela, Margaret and Mark, Phil.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Bruce & Gloria Wiggall celebrate 61 years of marriage on 3rd

Anniversaries of Death:

Alan Deeley, Vera Taylor, Audrey Moore, Terry Wootton, Charles Meadows, David Sykes, Mavis Oldfield, Anne Waite, Stephen Greatorex, George Ball, Beatrice Collett, Barbara Hellaby, Glenice Hern.

If you would like your birthday or anniversary mentioned in Signpost, please let Glenda know.

We need your feedback on your views about Signpost.

Do we retain the hymns, intercessions and reflection in Signpost or not? Please let your views be known, during August, either in person or by email to Rev'd Rachel - revrachelbeck@gmail.com Linda Medwell - linda47medwell@virginmedia.com or Pete Best – petebest@blueyonder.co.uk

Memorial service for the late Ruby Jenkins

Ruby's daughter, Christine, is arranging a memorial service for the late Ruby Jenkins on Sunday 12 September at 12.30pm with refreshments in St George's Centre afterwards. But she would like to know just how many of Ruby's friends were likely to attend. Please let Glenda know if you would like to support Ruby's family at this service by either phoning the church office on 01452 307456; please leave a message on the answerphone if Glenda isn't there or email Glenda on stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com
Thank you

St George's PCC is looking for a Church Centre cleaner to help Jill, whilst her sister Margaret remains unwell.

We are looking for someone who can work alongside Jill for a couple of hours a day, Monday to Friday, especially as the regular users of St George's Centre, start to return and the Centre gets busier. Please see Darrell, Chair of St George's Centre Management Committee, if you are interested or know someone who is interested; or ring him on 01452 410507 or email ds52604@gmail.com
Thank you

DIARY DATES

Sun 29			TRINITY 13 September/October Crossroads available
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Dot Readers: Jonathan T/ Linda M Intercessions: Sylvia C
Mon 30			Bank Holiday
Wed 1	8.15am	Zoom	Morning Prayer
	3.30pm	MH	Slimming World sessions
Thu 2	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
Fri 3	7.30pm	MH	Gardening Club
	7.30pm	SH/SL	Entertainers
Sun 5			TRINITY 14
	10.30am	St M's	Family Praise
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: David Readers: Sylvia C/ Stuart Intercessions: Derek
	12.00noon	St M's	Baptism
	1.30pm	St M's	Baptism
	5.00pm	St M's	Evensong

St G's = St George's St M's = St Margaret's
MH = Main Hall SH = Small Hall
SL = Softly Lounge in the Church Centre

Tuesday Holy Communion and Coffee Pot at St George's

From Tuesday 7th September, there will be a said service of Holy Communion at St George's at 10.00am, and Coffee Pot will run from 10.00am until 12.00noon in St George's Centre. This will be for a trial period during September and October (if allowed by any further Covid guidance and restrictions). A decision about the future of both will be taken by the PCC in November.

If you can offer any help in setting up or clearing away for Coffee Pot, please speak to Mike Brammer or Jill.

Pioneering and outreach in the community

It would be good to spend some time looking at the map of our benefice to identify where we already have links in the community, and to explore ideas for further involvement. If you would like to be part of this conversation, please speak to Rachel, Pete or Lorraine. A time will then be arranged to suit everyone who is interested.