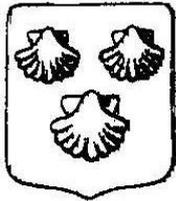
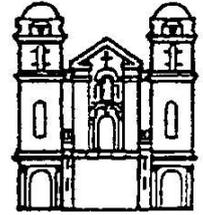


28/20



This week at the Church of
St James the Greater
Leicester

www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk
office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk



12 JULY 2020 – 5TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Prayer for the Week

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Our Prayers are asked for:

All prevented from worshipping with us, remembering this week

John Goadby : David Muddimer : Conceição Fernandes

Unwell

Barbara Penrose – awaiting cataracts surgery

Ann Blanchard : Anthony & Barbara Green : Owen Shepherd

Elizabeth Bentley : Josephine Chizema (Tony's mother)

and those with Coronavirus symptoms from our community and beyond.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

CHURCH CLOSED

With the continued local lockdown in Leicester, unfortunately the church remains closed. We're aiming to reopen as soon as we can after the current restrictions are lifted. We hope that our first service will be on Sunday 26th July, when we can celebrate our Patronal Festival.

Hopefully you've had a chance to read the Vicar's letter that was emailed out earlier this week. This details how we'll be meeting the guidelines from both the Church of England and the government, so that we'll be able to worship together again.

If you've not had a chance to see it, you can find it on the home page of our website at: <http://www.adlibitum.co.uk/>. You'll also find a copy on our Facebook page. If you'd like a copy emailed out to you please contact the Church Office.

Readings for the week

Isaiah 55.10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Vicar Writes ...

I sometimes think this week's Gospel, the parable of the sower, could be called "The parable of the Bad Sower". The sower throws the seed everywhere, with no apparent aim or intent. He has not prepared the soil, he does no weeding, he does not even manage a scarecrow to protect the seed. Not surprisingly the rate of loss is significant. Of course the parable is not really meant to illustrate good agricultural practice, but rather the sharing and reception of the Gospel.

When it comes to sharing our faith, this parable goes against much current advice and training - we don't need to be careful, judicious, targetted or prepared in that sharing - just chuck it everywhere. Some people feel they need to be experts, or

that the time must be just right, or that the person they're talking to must be especially receptive - this story says don't worry about that. In that respect the new electronic era the Church has been forced into by the pandemic is a bit like this - some have been sniffy about the depth of engagement provided by these thousands of youtube views and facebook clicks, but I think this is a great chance for church to chuck the seed everywhere, and see what comes up.

In terms of receiving the Word, the parable invites us to think about where we are - are we in the shallow soil, responding enthusiastically to the novel, but lacking the staying power? Are we surrounded by weeds of distraction and diversion? Being aware of, and realistic about, our situation, gives us the chance to guard against these obstacles to a deeper faith.

This parable is unusual in that we are given a "decoding" of it - but even with this the parable is not a mathematical formula - it is open-ended, an invitation, an imaginative exercise that allows us to put ourselves in the story, as sower or seed, and respond accordingly.

Andrew Quigley

BIBLE STUDY The vicar would like to invite you to an online video discussion of Sunday's readings. We do this via "zoom", an online video conferencing programme. To join you'll need a computer, phone or tablet with a camera and microphone, a reasonably good internet connection, and to download the zoom software (which is free). Please then email the vicar and you'll receive an invitation to the next virtual meeting. ***If you need help downloading to your phone or computer please call or email Annabel who will try to help.***

CONTACTING THE TEAM You may not be physically seeing us but we are still working! Andrew can be contacted by email revdaquigley@gmail.com or 0116 254 4113. Annabel in the Church Office can be contacted by email office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk or 07749 227109. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, further details are on our website www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk

GIVING TO ST JAMES We know that many of you will see your income reduced and other hardships so we are most grateful to all those who have already pledged to continue their giving through this difficult time. ***If you normally give through gift aid envelopes, stewardship envelopes or cash on the plate, please contact the Church Office if you are able to switch to a standing order, we also can accept cheques through the post.***

Resources for Home Worship

Broadcast Media

Daily Service	Mon-Fri at 9.45am	Radio 4 LW
Choral Evensong	Wed at 3.30pm & Sun at 3pm	Radio 3
Sunday Worship	Sun at 8.10am	Radio 4
Morning Worship	Sun – check schedule for time	BBC I
Songs of Praise	Sun – check schedule for time	BBC I

Online

www.churchofengland.org

www.leicestercathedral.org

Many churches and cathedrals have put services online – let us know your favourites so we can share next week.



A PRAYER FOR THOSE WITHIN THE LEICESTER LOCKDOWN ZONE

*offered by the Church Leaders of
Churches Together in Leicester and Leicestershire*

Loving God,
ever-present with your people
through the highs and lows of life,
we cry out to you for Leicester
in the face of prolonged suffering and hardship
as a result of lockdown.
Grant us peace in our frustration;
strength to our NHS and all who are called to care and help;
wisdom to our city leaders;
and discernment for our churches
in offering the medicine of your gospel.
Bless all caught in the grip of Covid-19 and comfort the grieving.
In the name of the One who gives us hope,
Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mrs Marlies Adam, The Lutheran Church of Great Britain
Revd Helen Cameron, Chair, Northampton Methodist District
Revd Geoffrey Clarke, Moderator, East Midlands Synod, United Reformed Church
Revd Mark Clay, Regional Team Leader, East Midland Baptist Association
Rt Revd Gulli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Loughborough (Church of England)
Major Martin Hill, Divisional Commander, Central East Division (Salvation Army)
Mr Michael Hockaday, Congregational Federation
Jenny Mattingly, The Society of Friends
Rt Revd Patrick McKinney, Bishop of Nottingham (Roman Catholic)
Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester (Church of England)



DAILY HOPE TELEPHONE SERVICE

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. This is a freephone number.

Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as Prayer during the Day and Night Prayer updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service. A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group.

The options are detailed below:

1. Hymns we love - one each day with a spoken reflection based on it
2. Hymn line - favourite hymns on a repeating loop
3. Prayer line - prayers for the coronavirus crisis
4. Access to more options (5-7)
5. Weekly service from C of E
6. Morning and Evening Prayer from Common Worship
7. Latest Government advice on Coronavirus

Pressing 0 returns you to the top menu (1-4) and * gives access to the full text of the Archbishop of Canterbury's introduction.

It is helpful to have the telephone on speakerphone to avoid having to hold the handset for a long time.

Vicky Roe
Pastoral Assistant

KEEPING IN TOUCH This bulletin will be emailed every week if possible - if you do not have access to the internet please ask a relative or friend to contact the Church Office to be included. ***We are unable to print until Government restrictions are eased, if you are able to share news with those who do not have internet, they will be most grateful.***

HELP FOR PEOPLE SELF-ISOLATING We have volunteers who have offered to help members with shopping and other essentials who have nobody else to help them and are not able to get online shopping. ***Please contact the Church Office for further details of this and other neighbourhood schemes being established.***

ARTICLES If you would like to share what you are doing during your isolation, perhaps a recipe to use those tins we have all stockpiled or a poem/joke to brighten our day, please email to office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk by Wednesday midday for inclusion.

FOR THOSE THAT HAVE
NEVER SEEN A
CATFISH !!

