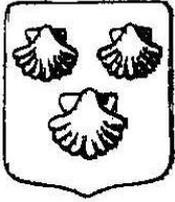
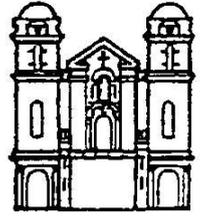


31/20



This week at the Church of  
**St James the Greater**  
Leicester

[www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk](http://www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk)  
[office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk](mailto:office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk)



**2 AUGUST 2020 – 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Prayer for the Week**

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,  
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern  
both our hearts and bodies  
in the ways of your laws  
and the works of your commandments;  
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,  
we may be preserved in body and soul;  
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**

George Daley : Gwen Leather : Marilyn Dorum

**Unwell**

Ann Blanchard : Anthony & Barbara Green : Owen Shepherd

Josephine Chizema (Tony's mother)

**Recovering**

Barbara Penrose – cataracts surgery

**Rest in Peace**

Ray Wood (Doris Makepeace's Brother in Law)

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 OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

We'll be open for private prayer again this Sunday morning between 10am and 12pm. As there's still a high infection rate in Leicester, we strongly advise everyone who visits the church to wear a face covering. We won't be opening this coming Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August, though.

As with previous Sunday's, there'll be a one-way system in place. When you arrive, you'll need to enter via the servery door and use the hand sanitizer provided. Chairs remain 2m apart and we ask that you don't move any, as this will allow us to maintain social distancing.

Please remember that if you're in the more vulnerable age group (70+), or have underlying health conditions, then you should still stay at home as much as possible.

The changes announced earlier today to the local lockdown conditions, mean we're able to reopen for public worship next Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> August. The PCC will be meeting on Tuesday evening to finalise our plans for this. We'll let you have more details about this in next week's bulletin. However, face coverings will be compulsory in places of worship from 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**Philip Jones**  
**Churchwarden**

## Readings for the week

### Reading 1

**Isaiah 55.1-5,**

### **An Invitation to Abundant Life**

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do

not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

## Reading 2

### Matthew 14.13-21

#### Feeding the Five Thousand

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' <sup>17</sup>They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' <sup>18</sup>And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

## The Vicar Writes ...

We know the story in this week's Gospel as "The Feeding of the Five Thousand", but we also know from the very last verse of the passage that this title is inaccurate: there were 5000 *men*, not counting women and children. Assuming that whole families were there, and that they were typically constituted, there would be at least another 5000 women, and perhaps 15-20,000 children. So, a more accurate title might be "The Feeding of the 40,000". I don't raise this merely to inflate the miraculous arithmetic, but to make a point about who counts. Clearly women and children didn't count then, at least in the same way as men.

This phenomenon is clearly seen in the original formulation for representation and taxation in the USA: "Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons." Remember that this is the nation founded on the credo that "all men are created equal". Leaving

aside the issue of women and their equality, even the men who are not free are only 3/5 equal in that formula.

Jesus' feeding of the 5 or 40 thousand was motivated by compassion. Our Christian compassion cannot be just for those who look like us, for those who "count" - it must be universal. Following child abuse scandals in the Church, and in the midst of the #MeToo and Black Lives Matter movement we are challenged afresh to ensure that all voices are heard, that all people count - particularly if we wish to call ourselves an inclusive church.

## Andrew Quigley

**CONTACTING THE TEAM** You may not be physically seeing us but we are still working! Andrew can be contacted by email [revdaquigley@gmail.com](mailto:revdaquigley@gmail.com) or 0116 254 4113. Annabel in the Church Office can be contacted by email [office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk)

**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.***

**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](mailto:office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk) by Wednesday midday for inclusion.

## 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](http://www.churchofengland.org)

[www.leicestercathedral.org](http://www.leicestercathedral.org)

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

**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 virtual meeting. ***If you need help downloading to your phone or computer please call or email Annabel who will try to help.***

**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.***

## **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**

**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.***

## **BIRD'S EYE VIEW**





This lunchtime, I donned a hard hat and Hi-Viz jacket and joined the builders up on the roof of St James for an update on the repairs that have been carried out over last few weeks. As you can imagine the views from the top of the church, especially on such a glorious day, are spectacular.

Work will be continuing for a number of weeks and once they've finished on the south side of the church, all the scaffolding will be taken down and reassembled on the northside.

When you're passing the church, you may notice that the work at ground level is drawing to a close. Some of the most damaged slabs on the front have been replaced and the builder's compounds have been removed. There's still some tidying up to be done and the electrical work to reconnect the lights on the piers at the front will be completed shortly.

Philip Jones