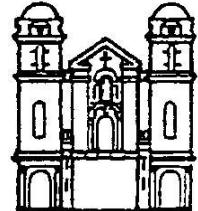


**This week at the Church of  
St James the Greater  
Leicester**

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



**15 NOVEMBER 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

**Prayer For The Week**

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.

**PRIVATE PRAYER** During the current restrictions, we regret that public worship has been suspended. However, we will be open this Sunday between 10.00am and 12.00pm for private prayer.

**Our Prayers are asked for:**

**All prevented from worshipping with us, remembering this week**

David Muddimer : Conceicão Fernandes  
and all those currently unable to attend services.

**Unwell**

Darienne Griffith (recovering from surgery) : Ann Blanchard : Anthony Green :  
Matt Brunning : Margaret Norman : Owen Shepherd :  
Josephine Chizema (Tony's mother)

**Rest in Peace**

Winifred Coldwell (Hannah and Maddie Cowley's Great Grandmother) :  
Nicholas Lacey (Funeral Held at St James on 11<sup>th</sup> November) :  
Ataullah Siddiqui (Founder Member of the Leicester Council of Faiths)

## **The Vicar Writes ...**

The parable of the talents is probably very familiar to us, but nonetheless can be troubling. Is God really this absentee investor who will demand a huge dividend upon his return? This is not really about God's return in judgement at the end of time – after all he is always with us in love. Nor is it about our "talents" – the talents of the parable are a measure of currency.



Rather it seems to be addressing the religious authorities of the time (who shortly after this conspire to kill Jesus), and what they have done with the treasure of faith entrusted to them. They have kept it safe, yes, but only by burying it in a hole. The riches of faith are meant to be shared, grown in generosity and effect. Thus, the parable remains troubling, raising the uncompromising question of how we share and grow the riches of faith we have been entrusted.

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## **Lectionary Readings for the Week**

### **Zephaniah 1. 7, 12 – end**

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; The LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

## **Matthew 25.14 – 30**

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

After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.” 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.” 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.” 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.”

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; so, I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” 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? 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. So, take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES** We're all hopeful that we'll be able to meet together for public worship again on 6<sup>th</sup> December, when we will mark the Second Sunday of Advent. There will be a Said Eucharist service in the morning at 10:30am, followed in the afternoon by our Advent Carol Service at 4.00pm.

As Advent Carols is one of our most popular occasions in St James' year, we are introducing a free ticketing system for this service. This will allow us to ensure as many of you are able to attend this wonderful service. It will also mean we are able to maintain social distancing within the church by monitoring our capacity.

If you would like to attend Advent Carols, please email the office at: **office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk** and let us know how many seats you need. Alternatively, you can ring the Office on: 0116 254 2111 and leave a message saying how many seats you need.

Looking further ahead into next month, there will be Sung Eucharist on the Third Sunday of Advent, 13<sup>th</sup> December, at 10:30am. The following week, 20<sup>th</sup> December, we will again have Said Eucharist at 10:30am. As this is the Fourth Sunday in Advent, we will then have our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 4.00pm. This will also be a ticketed service.

We will celebrate Christmas Day with a Sung Eucharist service at 10:30am. Unfortunately, the current situation means that we won't be holding Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

**BIBLE STUDY** Following last Friday's session, our next online Bible discussion will take place at 7.30pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November, where we'll be studying Matthew 25. 14 – 30. If you'd like to join the Zoom session, please email the vicar at: **revdaquigley@gmail.com** or call him on: 0116 254 4113.

**FAITH IN FANTASY RETURNS** this time looking at the spiritual dimensions of the worlds of Rowling, Lewis and Tolkien. We'll be starting this Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm, where we'll be looking at the works of C.S. Lewis. For joining details or more information please email the vicar at: **revdaquigley@gmail.com** or call him on: 0116 254 4113. There will be spoilers!

**THE SHELL** It's that time again! Once again, the editor is beginning to put together the Winter edition of *The Shell* which he hopes to publish on or about Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November. There must be a lot to talk about in this issue. What have you been doing during the lockdown, for example? How have you been coping? It is at times like this when sharing what we have all been up to might be particularly helpful to one another.

There will, of course, be the usual fun items, but don't be dissuaded from writing something on the basis that there might not be space to print it. What gets submitted, gets printed (subject of course to the usual constraints of public decency!). Please let Graham have your contributions as soon as possible, and in any event by Monday, 16 November. Send via the Church office or directly to: [editor@stjamesthegreater.org.uk](mailto:editor@stjamesthegreater.org.uk).

**YOUR GIVING TO ST JAMES** Did you know that in a normal year over 35% of the church's income is made up of regular Direct Debits and Standing Orders from members of the congregation?

This income is especially important to us at the moment, since Sunday services have been suspended during the second lockdown and there has been a dramatic fall in our income from lettings.

If you already give by Direct Debit or Standing Order, thank you! Of course, if you are able to increase the amount you give, that would be very welcome. We do not hold Gift Aid declarations for some people and if this applies to you, we will be in touch to ask if you can fill one in for us.

If you are not already a regular giver, please consider starting a Direct Debit through the Church of England's Parish Giving Scheme. They offer a very friendly service and will help you set everything up over the phone. They make sure that Gift Aid tax relief is claimed (this adds 25p to every £1 that you give), and they pass every penny of your donation straight through to St James the Greater.

You can contact the Parish Giving Scheme on 0333 002 1271 (local call rates apply).

**CONTACTING THE TEAM** Andrew can be contacted by email at: [revdaquigley@gmail.com](mailto:revdaquigley@gmail.com) or 0116 254 4113. The Church Office can be contacted by email at: [office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk](mailto:office@stjamesthegreater.org.uk) or by telephoning 0116 254 2111 and leaving a message. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, further details are on our website [www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk](http://www.stjamesthegreater.org.uk)

# 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
Songs of Praise	Sun – check schedule for time	BBC1

## Online

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

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

**DAILY HOPE TELEPHONE SERVICE** 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 selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides an increasing range of hymns and reflections on them. More options have been added.

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. Chair exercises – a different set of exercise for each day of the week.
4. Daily Reflection for these times – read by Pam Rhodes.
5. Access to more options (6 – 9).
6. Weekly service from C of E.
7. Morning and Evening Prayer from Common Worship.
8. Latest Government advice on Coronavirus.
9. Mother's Union Midday Service.

Pressing 0 returns you to the top menu (1 – 5) 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**