

 *Online*

*…linking the Beacon Parishes*

**Sunday 19th July 2020**

 **6th Sunday after Trinity**

**Rector’s Voice**

 Last week Andrew spoke about Joshua being on the edge of the Promised Land looking in- and how that may relate to how we are at this moment as we begin to look towards opening our church buildings for services once again. This week I met with Andrew and the Church Wardens for a frank discussion on what it may be possible to offer as we go into August- mindful as ever of the limits and guidelines the Government and the Church of England place on us.

 Where possible we hope to offer two communions on a Sunday morning at 10am- one in Painswick and one in one of the other village churches on rotation and a third service of evening prayer at another village church again on rotation. Andrew is working on the rota for this and we will know by the beginning of next week what is possible, given that at the moment it is Andrew and myself who will be taking these services. This will be kept under review and there will be times when only one of us is available and so we won’t be able to offer all three services. We hope you will bear with us and understand the

constraints we are working under- as per the Moving Forward letter I sent out last week.

 At the same time the Sheepscombe Local Ministry Group will continue to offer a Zoom morning prayer service on Thursdays, which you are very welcome to join and I intend to continue to provide the Gospel reading in Beacon Light with some reflections as I have done throughout the last three months.

 Our buildings capacity will be reduced and the Church Wardens will be making contact in some way to establish who intends to join us physically in a building so we can determine how we can safely worship together.

We are in strange times – as I have said we have not been this way before and we will have to move slowly and carefully to keep us all safe as we work out the best way to worship together.

**Readings for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

***Collect:***

Creator God,

you made us all in your image:

may we discern you in all that we see,

and serve you in all that we do;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Psalm 86:11-17**

11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;

knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,

and glorify your name for evermore;

13 For great is your steadfast love towards me,

for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

14 O God, the proud rise up against me

and a ruthless horde seek after my life;

they have not set you before their eyes.

15 But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.

16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me;

give your strength to your servant

and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me a token of your favour,

that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;

because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

**The Gospel according to Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43**

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

As we read through this Gospel reading there are a couple of ways of looking at what Jesus is saying:

1. The seeds represent good and evil and the servants let the good and evil seed grow together before the harvest when the evil is destroyed

2. The seeds represent a world of ambiguity and mixture- our lives are full of ambiguity and mixture-

A. do I wear a mask to protect myself and others, but if I do those who have difficulty in

hearing won’t be able to lip read?

B. Do I go out and shop, eat in a restaurant, go on holiday to help the economy or do I

think about the early days of lockdown when we were rejoicing that this may be an end

to our consumerism, and means of healing our planet with less consumerism and use of

fossil fuels etc?

C. What have we lost during the last few months which should remain lost and what do we

want to recover?

D. What have we gained in the last few months and want to retain?

E. How do we see our future as individual village churches, as a Benefice and as individual worshipping Christians?

**Sunday Worship**

 <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/>

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship

BBC1 1.15pm Songs of Praise

**Weekday Worship**

9.45am Daily Service - Radio 4 (Long Wave)

3.30pm Wednesday Choral Evensong - Radio 3

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

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. 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.

Daily, across our parishes, you may wish to join a time of prayer together at 6.30pm by lighting a candle, saying the Lord’s Prayer and praying for all those who are in need especially those affected by Covid19.

Weekly on a Thursday morning at 9.30am a number of the congregation of Sheepscombe St John’s gather at a distance via Zoom to share in their customary simple form of service.   If you would like to join them or would like a copy of the service sheet please email Karen Riding kriding07@yahoo.co.uk.

**Church Buildings Open for Private Prayer in the Beacon Benefice**

**St James the Great Cranham-** open Tuesday 2-3.30pm and Saturday 10am-11.30am

**St John the Baptist Edge** – open for individual prayer from 10-11am on Wednesday mornings . Please could you let us know which Wednesdays you will be attending by contacting either: Malcolm Hollingsworth - email: Malcolm.Hollingsworth@optimumoils.com or tel: 01452 812780 or Viv Barrett - email: vebarrett@btopenworld.com or tel: 01452 814564.

**St John the Baptist Harescombe**- opening by appointment, please contact Tamsin 07880 791012 or Brian 07790 886307 who will be as accommodating as possible.

**St Mary the Virgin Painswick**- open Monday and Friday 11am- noon

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**Cranham Covid-19  Community Response Team:** The initial contact for Cranham residents is: nigelrobincooper@gmail.com Tel: 07973 340227

**St. Mary’s Pastoral Link system:** Anyone who is self-isolating or unable to get out, we can help you by getting shopping, prescriptions etc. Please contact Delyth Allen (St. Mary’s Pastoral Link Coordinator) on 813182 or 07854262517 or email delyth\_allen@hotmail.co.uk

**Painswick COVID-19 Community Support:** If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 or painswick.covid19@gmail.com

Beacon People

* Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Ursula Daws, William Daws, Gina Griffiths, Angela Harris, Andrea Linsell, Rowland** and **Maggie Oxland**.
* Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes and for all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes.
* We also remember before God all who have died recently, especially **Pam Bentley** as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord*

*And let light perpetual shine upon them*

Notices

 **STROUD WOMEN’S REFUGE – coping in the lockdown -** During ‘lockdown’, incidents and reports of domestic violence have hugely increased as families and couples have been trapped together and women’s opportunities to escape abuse have been dramatically reduced. Sadly, as lockdown eases, there is the expectation that many more cases will come to light.

 The Covid-19 ‘lockdown’ has also presented Stroud Women’s Refuge with additional challenges and expenses. Initial difficulties related to the absolute basics: struggling to get food and hygiene items, such as sanitiser and additional cleaning materials. There’s also the need for additional hygiene equipment to keep the refuge as safe as possible. Local charities responded quickly by giving some immediate help, including food from ‘The Long Table’ and the Food Bank in Stroud.

 The refuge is always full, with nine women and about 14 children living there, while they get back on their feet. Each family has one room. Imagine home schooling in these circumstances and the additional costs of frequently having to print off school work for 14 children. Living in a refuge all day, every day, with no school or external activities is not easy.

Stroud Women’s Refuge has to find £300,000 a year to keep going. £5 buys emergency food for a woman on arrival. £10 buys toys for children who have left everything behind. £25 buys emergency toiletries, sanitary items and nappies. £50 buys bedding and pillows.

If you wish to support Gloucestershire’s ONLY women’s refuge, please donate on-line at: justgiving.com/stroudberesford. Or … make a cheque payable to ‘Stroud Women’s Refuge’ and post it to: PO Box 35, Stroud GL5 1YL. THANK YOU!

Contacts

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Website: [www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk/)

*The Benefice Office is* c*urrently closed .*

Information for next week’s Beacon Light Online to ajpleach@gmail.com by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest,** please.