

1st November 2020

At St Peter & St Paul

also for the Joint Benefice

All Saints & All Souls

Service Sheet

Rev'd Sarah Colver

Sarah's "Institution" is currently scheduled to take place on 23rd November remotely by Zoom. So we will be able to welcome her to our three parishes before Christmas, and, in particular, for Advent.



Sunday Intercessions:-



For church and community: Pray for the Church of the Province of West Africa; The Most Revd Dr Jonathan Bau-Bau Bonaparte Hart - Primate & Metropolitan, Church of the Province of West Africa; Archbishop of the Internal province of West Africa and Bishop of Liberia.

For the People of the Parish: Wardgate Way, Mercarton Close and Hanbury Close.

For the sick & suffering: Maureen Cooper, Paul Woodhouse-Severn, Christopher Wright, David Ross, James Taylor, Daniel Taylor, David, Margaret Baxter, Val Sygrove, Christine Gaskin, Elaine and Bernard Sproston, Ros and Brian Smith, Rev'd Janet Quick, Janet Martin, Luiz and Susan Rodriguez, John East, Harry Wilson, Pam Wilson, Judith Coker, Stanley (Kate's new grandson), Tom Graham, Julie Ferreday. Brenda Stenton.

If you feel you no longer need your name here, please let us know.

Year's mind:- None

Rest in Peace: Terry Harrison

Collect:

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion:

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Age Service
All Saints and All Souls

Welcome and Theme

Time for reflective music as we prepare to Worship God

Grace, mercy and peace be with you all

All: And also with you.

Let us pray: Eternal God and Father, we praise you that you have made people to share life together and to reflect your glory in the world. We thank you now for those whom we come to remember today, for all that we saw of your goodness and love in their lives and for all that they have meant to us. As we too journey towards death may we do so in the company of Jesus, who came to share our life that we might share the life of eternity. To him be glory with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Collect for All Saints' Day. **Amen.**

Saying sorry to God

God asks us to act justly, to be merciful and kind to one another, and to serve him with a humble spirit. As brothers and sisters in God's family, we ask God and each other for forgiveness for the times we fail.

Jesus came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride.

All: Lord forgive us.

Jesus came with good news for all people, forgive our silence.

All: Christ, forgive us.

Jesus came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness.

All: Lord, forgive us.

The Absolution

The Word of the Lord and reflection.

All Saints: Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is

great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Talk

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy^f shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

All Souls: John 6: 37-40

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Talk

Time for reflection in silence

We affirm our faith together as a community, uniting ourselves to all Christians, in the past, present and future:

We believe in God the Father,

All: from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,

All: who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

All: who inspires us with power from on high.

We believe in one God;

All: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Due to COVID lighting candles will have to be done in a different way, so when you came into church today you would have been offered a battery-operated candle. If you would like to turn these on so you can remember those close to you and take them home with you to light within your homes.

In faith, hope and love, let us remember those who have died.

(Candles will now be lit as the names of those to be remembered are read out. The main lights will be dimmed at the end whilst reflective music is played).

Let us pray: Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love those whom we have placed in your hands. Enfold them in the arms of your mercy, in the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and in the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

(Lights back on).

Prayers

Lord in your mercy, to which the response is:

All: hear our prayer.

.....ending with the Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Christ's Peace

God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you:

All: and also with you.

Going out to serve God

Lord, surround us with your love as we go from this place.

Let lips that have sung your praise always speak the truth and let ears that have heard your word always listen to your will.

Give us the grace to work for the coming of your kingdom here on earth, for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Closing Words

Let us say the Grace together:

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Ending in music including the tune of "Great is thy faithfulness")

Rev'd. Janet's Reflection for Sunday 1st November 2020

I recently saw a news' item about the stone-work refurbishment of Salisbury Cathedral. The item was current news because the cathedral had been severely hit by a cash-flow downturn: after visitor numbers had started recovering from tourist shortages due to the Novichok poisonings, they then suffered the Covid 19 restrictions. However, despite a £2 million deficit, they soldier on to complete the substantial renovations.

Eight centuries of the cathedral's history have seen many catastrophic events, Covid 19 being the latest. A mention often made in sermons is the comfort we can all receive, in challenging times, from the knowledge that some things stay the same. The dean of the cathedral made the point that were a stone mason of eight centuries ago to visit the current stonemason's workshop, he would immediately feel at home: the techniques (hammer and chisel) are the same and the resulting chiselled figurines of angels, demons, foliage, and so on, identical. (There aren't many workers today, even in the other arts, who can make this claim.)

It is right and proper that these skills passed down through the ages should be employed for the embellishment of aged places of worship. This unchanging-ness speaks to us, not merely about the skills of a by-gone age that have been preserved, but of an unchanging spiritual dimension we call 'eternity'. Of course, the expression of this spiritual dimension in our lives, both private and public, may change: many consider some changing attitudes to how we relate to each other may undergo consideration: is, for example, gender quite the fixed entity in human life we traditionally have thought it? In a parallel way, the modern area of Coventry Cathedral is no less spiritual a place as its neighbouring ruin. (The same can be said of the many modern church buildings we worship in week by week.) Spiritual continuity continues! Sanctity is sanctity wherever it is found.

Today is All Saints' Day and, as such, we celebrate today, again, this spiritual continuity embodied in the 'living stones': those individuals we call 'saints', who have laboured throughout the ages – and still do today – to preserve and be witnesses to that truth within the words of the Beatitudes – our Gospel reading for today. (We usually think of saints as being martyrs to a cause but the word, 'martyr', means 'witness.') Sticking to what you know to be the truth always comes at a price, as Jesus tells us in the closing Gospel sentences. But, as Jesus also knew and lived out, a gospel of love is always, in the end, the victor.

Amen.



Bishop Libby 's Updates

27th October

From Archdeacon Christopher

Freedom is on the agenda at the moment. Some people in this country are complaining that the continuing lockdown restrictions are unjustifiably impeding their freedom to move around and meet people, to do what they like. Many people in the United States are worried that constitutional structures, the checks and balances that underwrite their freedom, are being dismantled.

But what kind of freedom, exactly? Archbishop William Temple, writing in 1935, distinguished between two types of freedom, one rooted in human selfhood, the other in humans being the children of God. If the former predominates, he says, it expresses itself in almost exclusively negative freedom, the freedom not to be hampered by irritating regulations. It is an idea of freedom which is self-centred. If we believe ourselves to be the children of God, however, 'we can never allow that any earthly authority has an absolute claim to our allegiance or loyalty.' This kind of freedom is not self-centred; rather, it 'will appear chiefly in demands for the emancipation of others – as in the abolition of slavery – rather than in demands for the concession of fuller freedom to those who make the demands.'

It is the manifestation of this second kind of freedom which we honoured on Sunday at the presentation of Bishop's Badges to those who thought of others, rather than themselves, during the lockdown, bringing hope and light to those in need of it. No-one is free until everyone is free – that is what building the Kingdom involves.

Christopher

God for freedom

God of hope, it is for freedom that Christ has set us free,
yet so often we choose to bind ourselves and others
to a yoke that is not yours.

Breathe your Spirit into us,
and give us eyes to see the invisible chains
which constrict and constrain your image in us and in others.

Give us ears to hear the silent cry
of those whose lives languish in the darkness of despair.

Give us hearts to feel the pain
of lives whose iron bars hide all horizon of hope and healing.

Lord Jesus, who bound the Strong Man,
who conquered the grave,
and who has freed all captives from the slavery of sin
in your powerful name:

we renounce our own self-destructive habits of hopelessness;
we denounce a world which coerces and compels with fear and false obedience;
and we pronounce the dawning of your kind and compassionate kingdom,
the hope of all who walk expectantly with you in your exodus
from the darkness of dependence into the light
of your new life.

In his name we pray.

Amen

