

**St. David's Church Exeter and S. Michael's and All Angels,
Mount Dinham, Exeter.**

Newsletter for 27 June 2021 – Trinity 4

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our newsletter for the fourth Sunday after Trinity.

Our services today are:

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's (live streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page) with celebrant, Belinda Speed-Andrews and preacher, Jonathan Draper.

11am Mass at St Michael's with celebrant, Dominic Cyrus and preacher, Nigel Guthrie.

4pm Thrive: It's your call

Wherever you're at with life right now, join chaplain and spiritual guide, Deborah Leighton Plom and children's and families worker, Fiona Lang on an exploration of 'call' as we seek together to discover your skills and gifts, what you love doing and what are the needs around you.

Zoom Meeting:

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685738289?
pwd=WEh1dINCY3NRQTlCcXFjK2ZlejR0UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685738289?pwd=WEh1dINCY3NRQTlCcXFjK2ZlejR0UT09)**

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289 Passcode: 159821

Services in church and online this week

**Tuesday 29 June, St Peter & St Paul, apostles, 9.30am Zoom Morning Prayer.
Please join us using this code:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?
pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09)**

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392 Passcode: 196651

**(prayers are from Common Worship Book or Daily Prayer app which can be downloaded here: ([https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?
id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en_GB&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&hl=en_GB&gl=US))).**

Wednesday 30 June, 9.30am at St Michael's Mattins (we are sorry that there is no Mass today due to a Bishop's training day)

Thursday 1 July, 10.30 Holy Communion at St David's Church

Friday 2 July, 9.30am, Morning Prayer, on St David's Facebook Page

2pm End of year Eucharist for St Wilfred's School at St David's

Sunday 4 July – Trinity 5

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's with celebrant and preacher, Nigel Guthrie

11am Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher Dominic Cyrus

4pm Thrive

Whether you're already a regular or have never been before, we'd love to welcome you and look forward to you joining us at Thrive.

Covid-19 Safe for Public Worship

Please avoid touching door handles – Thank you.

Hand sanitizer must be used on entering and leaving church.

Please wear a face covering in church unless you are exempt.

At St David's we are encouraging people to wear face coverings to come forward to receive Holy Communion and then to consume the host after moving away from the altar rail.

At St Michael's the priest will distribute Holy Communion to people in their seats.

Seating will be distanced to approximately 2 metres. Please sit on the seats where service books are placed. Seating is also marked by white labels at St Michael's.

Services should be 'no longer than necessary'; and congregational singing is still not permitted indoors.

Toilet facilities will be available and please follow the instructions for use.

Please avoid mingling inside church before or after services.

Please do not attend church if you are feeling ill or are shielding. Although we will do all we can to make the church safe you attend at your own risk.

Warning of fake messages

If you receive a text or email from a member of the clergy or church official asking for an unspecified favour please ignore it! But it would be useful to hear about it by another means ie not replying to the bogus message.

Exeter Prison

Some members of St David's congregation are visiting Exeter prison this morning to worship with some of the inmates and meet the new

Managing Chaplain at the prison, Leon Dundas.

Food for the Vulnerably housed in Exeter

Working through St Petrocks we have now agreed to take on the provision of suppers on Thursday evenings for those in transitional accommodation at the Crescent. We will be providing 16 packed suppers each week and a small team has got together to buy/make them. We don't need any additional support at the moment as there is a significant amount in our 'Soup Evening' kitty which can fund this for the time being. Please pray for those who are moving from being homeless or insecurely housed towards greater stability in their lives.

Living in Love and Faith

Thank you to those who took part in our parish course. If you would be interested in this course and haven't yet done it please let one of the clergy know as we will consider setting up another opportunity to look at the material together. Our feedback to the House of Bishops is important as it may influence decision about how the teaching and practice of the Church of England will evolve. All the material can be found online by searching for 'Living in Love and Faith' and accessed free through the LLF learning hub.

Time for Quiet Reflection

Belinda will be leading times of corporate Silent Reflection on Friday 9 and 23rd July and 6 August at 5.30pm in person and on Zoom. Please email her for further details and joining link at bspeedandrews@gmail.com

Help with Churchwarden tasks

Often Churchwardens pick up tasks which could be done by others. We have already had some kind offers but there are a number of jobs which we will advertise in the coming weeks.

Would you be willing to help with one of these, please, even if you can't do every week?

Opening and closing the church on Sunday (weekly)

Clearing the churchyard on Sunday mornings before the service (equipment provided).

Thank you!

Fête Cancellation – but the Prize Draw is still on!

We are very disappointed to have to cancel the planned parish fête due to the government pushing back the end of Covid restrictions. It would have been too hard to run the fête in an open public space (the churchyard) with sufficient precautions in place. Thank you to everyone who had already volunteered to help. We just hope that we can hold it next year!

But we are still running the Prize Draw as we have a licence, prizes and have sold some tickets. So please buy plenty of tickets and sell them to your family and friends if you can! We will have the church open from 1 -2pm on Saturday July 17th and make the draw publicly at the end of that time. We hope to have refreshments and some small stalls available. If you would be willing to donate a prize please bring it to church by Sunday 11th July or drop it off at the vicarage.

We also plan to open St David's Church from 11am -12noon on Saturdays during August. Please have a word with Glynis if you would be willing to help staff one of these occasions so that we can have the church open and perhaps have a small stall, too.

The next 5 years - who are we and where are we going?

In the last year our whole world has been turned upside down by COVID and as individuals and as a church community we need time to reflect on the situation and seek God's will for the future. What does community mean for us here in our parish? What is our ethos? How are we to live God's kingdom now? Covid has opened the door for all of us to re-think and re-set what it is we say we are. I would like to encourage an open discussion about what the next 5 years could look like for our parish.

Are we a blessing to the community around us?

Are our two churches places of encounter, or just places for those who belong?

In light of this I would like to bring together a group from across the breadth of the community, to read through and discuss the book 'A Future that's bigger than the past' (https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07YNTLDKB/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1) as we begin to think and discern what God is calling us to for the next 5 years. This would of course mean a solid commitment to meet once a month for up to an hour and a half to discuss one chapter at a time, to pray together, to share openly and honestly about our life together as a parish and how we become a blessing to and receive gifts from the wider community.

If you are interested in joining in the conversation please do email me directly at bspeedandrews@gmail.com

The dates for meeting at 7.30pm are: Thursday 22 July, Thursday 26 August, Thursday 23 September and Thursday 14 October, before a parish meeting with Archdeacon Andrew Beane.

Traidcraft Stall & St Michael's Bountiful Table

We are delighted that our stalls are running again but please be careful to maintain social distancing and just approach the stalls one at a time. Thank you for your support.

The next Traidcraft Stall will be on Sunday 27th June.

Men's Breakfast

We plan to hold the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday July 24th at 10am at the Famers' Union. Unfortunately due to uncertainty over Covid restrictions we can't book a table yet so please watch this space and we'll hope to meet in person!

Parish Magazine – New Leaves

The deadline for articles for the July/August magazine is today so please get writing if you would like to contribute. We value a range of views and opinions!

Green Team

*News from Chris Keepie about climate pilgrimage in Exeter next week:

The Young Christian Climate Network is an inspiring group of 18-30 year olds that only formed last year. From their inspirational vision, energy and love, they've designed a '[Relay](#)' - or pilgrimage perhaps - of walkers going from Cornwall (G7) to Glasgow (COP26 UN climate conference). They're taking a 7 foot boat - symbolising both rising sea/river levels which typically batter the "poorest worst and first"; and hope and prayers for us all to rise above these huge challenges. They also bring awareness about "[climate justice](#)" and four specific [Asks](#) to world leaders for increased aid and climate finance budgets, a 'climate loss and damage mechanism', and debt relief. Relay walkers and the boat recently set off from [Truro](#), will soon be walking through Dartmoor, and will stop in Exeter from 29th June to 4th July, before heading off on the leg to Bristol.

Tuesday 29th 6pm Cathedral Green welcome picnic; Wednesday 30th 5pm a [cathedral service](#), led by Canon Cate Edmonds; Thursday 1st July 7.30pm [prayer service](#) at the university chapel; Friday 2nd July [online talks / film / panel discussion](#) introduced by Chris Manktelow of YCCN, chaired by university chaplain Hannah Alderson, and streaming from St Matt's, with a great range of experts and activists; and are going to the Saturday 3rd of [Devon County Show](#), with boat procession, and short talks led by Rt Revd Mark

Rylands by the churches tent. Primary and secondary schools will also be visited en route and in Exeter.

We very much hope as many people as possible will come to the events advertised – anyone, not just young people, and not just Christians! Please do promote, and sign up to the online event on Friday 2nd via [Eventbrite](#).

*The Green Team are planning a morning focussed on the environment, with lunch of locally sourced food, for 11th September 2021. Please keep the date!

*Thank you to Adrian Hewitt who is taking the paper collection from St Michael's for recycling at the moment.

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Cleaning at St Michael's Church

We will be holding a 'summer clean' next Saturday, 3 July from 9.30-11.30am so please put the date in your diary and come along if you can to help. We hope to be able to provide refreshments (regulations permitting!).

Fundraising for Hospiscare

Howard and Helen Friend would like to express their thanks to everyone who supported their 'Lockdown Painting Giveaway'. A great total of £2,600 was raised between Hospiscare and North Devon Hospice (where Howard worked before retirement).

Adrian Hewitt is cycling to Newark on Trent this week also for Hospiscare in memory of Lizzie and you can support his ride on this JustGiving page https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/adrian-hewitt5?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=adrian-hewitt5&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=b8b2ec32f88e435884400594f5052ef3&fbclid=IwAR0rwfNw-fW9z5Df_zfm2ih29GYOt-P-yg_GJ6hoHf9f5BoxnZORxFbEto

Phone Networks

Many of you appreciate phone calls from other members of the church community. If would like to be phoned by someone and haven't had any contact, or would just like to talk, please let me know at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com or by ringing me on 01392 660226 or Ash on 07855305519.

Your Prayers are asked for...

Please remember those who have died recently including:

Brenda Marsden

In the Parish Cycle of Prayer: All places of worship within our parish. Exeter Cathedral the Dean and Chapter and those being installed as Prebendaries today (the Cathedral will be praying for our parish at all their services today).

Please also pray for:

the people of Israel and the Palestinian Territories, giving thanks for the ceasefire and praying for reconciliation and a will to tackle underlying injustice;

the people of Ethiopia and Southern Sudan facing conflict and famine;

all of us as we discover our vocation as children and servants of the living God;

the Young Christian Climate Network Pilgrimage for the environment in Exeter this week;

the worldwide vaccination programme, giving thanks for all those who have enabled a rapid roll-out in this country;

those working in care homes, hospitals and hospices - giving thanks for their commitment and courage;

those suffering from Covid around the world, especially in India and Latin America; those adjusting to the prolonged restrictions in this country

May God bless you and those you care for,

Nigel Guthrie

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ayers, Readings and Address for Trinity 4, 27 June 2021

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading – 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,
'The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little.'

Gospel Reading - Mark 5: 21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Address by Jonathan Draper at St David's Church, Exeter, for Sunday 27 June 2021

Healing, fairness, generosity

This is the second sermon I've written this week for this morning. Right at the beginning of the liturgical year at Advent, I carefully worked out that we were in year B of our three-year cycle. Knowing that, I looked up the readings for this Sunday, and wrote my sermon. I had, in the meantime, written to Nigel just to make sure that I'd got the right ones. Just as well, really, as I had used the reading for the equivalent Sunday in July and it is, of course, June. Still, I've now got a sermon ready for the next time that reading comes round which is, as Nigel pointed out, in July 2024. Who says clergy don't plan ahead.

Healing is a word used, especially of late, to describe a great many needs. Many have commented that the great work of the Biden administration in America will be to heal the great divisions caused by the Trump years. Similar things are written about the need to heal the divisions in our country over Brexit, though, if anything, they seem to be getting deeper. Healing is even used to talk about the ways in which we in the present might re-examine the events of the past, not least around racism, the slave trade, and our imperial legacy. And healing is, of course, used to describe the process of recovering from the physical or mental harm of disease.

Healing is central to our Gospel reading, though it is mostly of the physical sort: of an adult woman of a haemorrhage, and of a young girl of a sickness unto death. I find two things very interesting about the story of the woman with the haemorrhage. The first is that even though Jesus would have been made ritually unclean by being touched by the woman – and this is why she came, as the reading puts it, ‘in fear and trembling’ – there is not the slightest rebuke on his lips when she finally confesses that she had touched him. Jesus was clearly unconcerned about his own ritual purity, and equally unconcerned about what anyone else thought about it. His focus is entirely on this woman and the need that drove her to touch him. She is accepted and loved, and I suspect that much of the healing she experiences is down precisely to this love and acceptance.

The second thing is that Jesus ascribes her healing to her faith and not to himself or even to God: ‘your faith’, Jesus tells her, ‘has made you well’. I find it intriguing, even if I’m not entirely sure what it means. It’s quite different from the approach of those televangelists who profess to heal people in God’s name – or as they put, ‘in the name of Jeeeesus’. There is no drama here in this story; there is nothing self-referential from Jesus. Just a simple: ‘your faith has made you well’. A lot of health practitioners will also understand how a person’s psychological state can have an effect on their healing process, but I’m not sure that this alone accounts for the meaning. And of course, there is some sense in which the woman’s faith in Jesus is the meaning: ‘if I but touch his cloak, I will be made well’, even if a part of this is semi-magical in the sense, almost, of touching a relic for healing, as took place at many a medieval shrine. I think, in the end, the meaning lies in the faith and hope this woman placed in Jesus and the unshakable depth of her belief.

This kind of faith in Jesus, bound up as it is with our own needs, is but one part of the faith that Jesus looks for in his followers. Perhaps the more important part is the faith we have in Jesus which is bound up with serving our neighbour, with seeking our neighbours healing. This is the point of the reading we’ve had from St Paul’s second letter to the church in Corinth. How they must have looked forward to receiving these letters from Paul. Not only are they hard

to understand sometimes, they are also full of rebukes and admonitions, and today's reading is one of those rebukes, even if it is couched in the language of advice and not command.

The context of this admonition is the support they might have for Paul's work. Chapters seven, eight, and nine of 2 Corinthians are a carefully crafted story: a story about bringing the Gospel to Macedonia, about how Paul had boasted of the Corinthians and their faithfulness to the Macedonians, about how that inspired the Macedonians to sacrificial giving, and about how that should spur the Corinthians on to even greater generosity, even if it is couched in terms of them giving according to what they have (even if the Macedonians, inspired by the Corinthians, went beyond that). They are to show the truth of their eagerness to support Paul by completing what they had begun the previous year. In the fundamentalist churches of my youth, where we supported missionaries all around the world, their letters home to us, pinned to the noticeboards and read out in church, were couched in very much the same terms: show us your love and maturity in the faith by sending us more money.

There is more to the reading than that, of course. Paul also articulates an understanding that in the Christian community there should be no great disparity of wealth.

'It is', he writes, 'a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance'.

The one who has much should not have too much, and the one who has little should not have too little.

This echoes, of course, the way in which the very first Christian community, as described in the opening chapters of Acts, had everything in common so that all could have what they need. It is echoed in the way in which the very first deacons, also in Acts, were set apart to ensure that widows got what they needed, and to distribute the food among the community fairly. From the beginning the Christian community understood itself and its mission in terms of proclamation and service, of fairness and equality. At least some of these ideas seem to have been lost in the intervening centuries, not least in the ways in which the church is organised and run. There's nothing like hierarchy and privilege to erode notions of fairness and equality. Throw power into the mix, and the church begins to look like any other self-serving institution. Add in some exemptions from even secular equality legislation, and the founding ideas are well and truly buried. If we, the church, want to speak to our world about fairness, equality, and justice, then we have a little bit of work to do first if we want our voice to be heard.

It's become something of a truism that this pandemic has exposed some of the glaring inequalities in our society: inequalities of opportunity, of health care, of financial, and even online resources. The inequalities and divisions have always been there, of course; the pandemic has merely exposed them in a harsh and unforgiving light. But it's even exposed those inequalities in the church, as so many parishes and even dioceses have struggled to find enough income to keep the show on the road. Some parishes and dioceses have sufficient resources to ride out this storm; many do not. But there seems very little interest in the rich helping out the poor, and certainly not in the way that St Paul was urging on the Corinthians.

The conviction we have today that the church needs to be at the forefront of working for fairness, equality, and justice – in church as well as society – has deep roots in the Christian story and the Christian community's earliest self-understanding. It springs from the sense of healing that Jesus offers; it is expressed in the institutionalised sharing of the earliest Christian community; it is, as St Paul notes, rooted in the astonishing, even indiscriminate love of God for the world, and for each one of us. It is our high calling; it is the heart of our mission; and it should be our way of life. Our faith can not only be healing for ourselves, it can be healing for the world.

Closing Prayer

**Eternal God,
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,
that all the world may acknowledge
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Do join us next week for our services in church and online!