

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

Newsletter for 4 July 2021 – Trinity 5

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our newsletter for the fifth 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 and preacher Nigel Guthrie

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

4pm Thrive: 'Thin Places'

Why do some places seem to enable a sense of 'God with us' and help us in our journey of faith? Explore the nature of these special places this afternoon at Thrive.

Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685738289?
pwd=WEh1dINCY3NRQTICcXFjK2ZlejR0UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685738289?pwd=WEh1dINCY3NRQTICcXFjK2ZlejR0UT09)

Meeting ID: 886 8573 8289 Passcode: 159821

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 6 July, 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 7 July, 9.30am Mattins and 10am Requiem Mass at St Michael's Church

Thursday 8 July, 10.30 Holy Communion at St David's Church

Friday 9 July, 9.30am, Morning Prayer, on St David's Facebook Page

Sunday 11 July – Trinity 6

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

11am Mass at St Michael's with celebrant, Nigel Guthrie and preacher, Ash Leighton Plom

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.

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 July 17th!

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.

Visiting Speaker from Clewer Initiative

On Sunday 18 July we are welcoming Chris from the Clewer Initiative. The Clewer Initiative enables Church of England dioceses and wider church networks to raise awareness of modern slavery, identify victims and to help provide victim support and care. Earlier this year during Lent, a group of women from our parish came together to learn more about modern day slavery in some of its forms; district lines, sexual exploitation, employment exploitation and many more.

We have invited Chris to come and talk about the work they do, specifically in and around Exeter, and how we as a community can become more involved and work alongside the Clewer Initiative to raise awareness of this insidious disease in our communities. Please may I encourage you to watch the introductory video from the Course we followed during Lent, 'Women in the Shadows' which you can see by following this link <https://youtu.be/7iXsZeGHFuM>

Part of the service is Q&A with Chris and so I would like to encourage people to ask their questions. If you could email me (bspeedandrews@gmail.com) a question you would like an answer to before Sunday 18 July that would be great. Please do come along and join us as we hope Chris will be able to hang around after the service to chat with people as well and perhaps continue to answer questions that we weren't able to air during the service.

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

Belinda is leading us in a group study based on 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 think and discern what God is calling us to for the next 5 years.

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

The dates for the meetings at 7.30pm are: Thursday 22 July 9at St Micahel's Church), 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.

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

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!

The team meet this week on Thursday at 2pm.

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

Cleaning at St Michael's Church

Thank you to all those who helped with the 'summer clean' yesterday, the church is looking great! We hope to have a similar gathering once a quarter to keep on top of the cleaning.

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

Pne Networks

Many of you appreciate phone calls from other members of the church community. If you 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.

St Michael's services and prayers

If you would like to access the services details and prayer list for St Michael's please contact Oliver Nicholson at virtualsaintmichaels@gmail.com and he can add you to their weekly mailing.

Your Prayers are asked for...

Please remember those who have died recently including:

Brenda Marsden, Peggy Vigurs

In the Parish Cycle of Prayer: Our cleaning teams and our vergers and caretaker, Mary Quest.

Please also pray for:

the people of Israel and the Palestinian Territories, 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;

those suffering from extreme heat and rising sea levels;

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

Prayers, Readings and Address for Trinity 5, 4 July 2021

Collect

**Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
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.**

First Reading – 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Gospel Reading - Mark 6: 1-13

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Address by Nigel Guthrie at St David's Church, Exeter, for Sunday 4 July 2021

As we begin July some of us are starting to look forward to summer holidays – or 'staycations' as they are being called this year. So for us it's out with Alsace and Annecy and in with north Wales and Norfolk! But we will be grateful to get away at all given the continued uncertainties.

I wonder what your approach is to packing for holidays? For many years with two boys going self-catering to the coast in France or Spain we really went large; estate car with top box, body boards, inflatable boat, a box of kitchen bits an empty wine box just in case we found a supermarket that sold it, chargers for electronic devices... and even a few clothes and shoes. But that has all changed and when Tina and I potter off on our own now we take a lot less stuff - and it is rather liberating!

Jesus was definitely in the light packing category. He ordered his disciples to take nothing for their travels except a walking stick; no bread, no bag, no money and just to wear sandals and a tunic.

Perhaps it was a sign to the later Church that we should also travel light? If it was we haven't done terribly well; with our magnificent buildings, byzantine hierarchies, church commissioners to manage the historic money and all manner of councils and synods. What could possibly go wrong? But then it's not that easy to live simply as a church. Usually when new churches start off in schools or other shared buildings they quickly become frustrated that they don't have space to use when they want to run activities. And when they start off in simple ways without structures of accountability they quite easily get hijacked by charismatic but unaccountable leaders or taken over by an unelected cabal of elders who decide the direction of the church. So, I can confidently say after more than 30 years of ordained ministry that the Anglican Church is the least worst option! And perhaps that is not a bad way of looking at it. Because the church is not meant to be an end in itself. But it should be a vessel in which we can traverse the seas of life in the company of those who share our faith, and in which we can nurture hope for a world which full of peace, justice and love and where forgiveness and mutual respect are evident everywhere – health warning – we have some way to go!

The Church of England has recently adopted the strapline – simpler, humbler, bolder and whatever we may think of straplines in general, or this one in particular, there's no doubt that it does resonate with today's readings. Jesus allowed no extra baggage when his disciples went out on their mission to call for repentance and bring healing. Their equipment was simple but their mission was bold.

In our epistle St Paul expresses how he copes with his 'thorn in the flesh'; that unknown affliction which stopped him from being too elated. God gave him these words 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness'.

Like St Paul the Church in the Western world is feeling its weakness. And the Church of England is certainly at a turning point where the trappings of Victorian religion are falling away and large changes brought about by the secularization of society over many decades are increasingly making themselves felt. And some of this is very good, when we are turning away from a culture of entitlement, from imperialistic attitudes in our faith and from condoning discrimination. But as Jonathan Draper said last week, there is a long way to go. Archdeacon Andrew Beane will be visiting our parish in October for a consultation about ministry in the city and we need to sharpen our thinking about what we are here for and how we can work with others. This is why we've been having discussion group looking at a book by Sam Wells 'A future that's bigger than the past'. It's a way of focussing our thoughts on how God may want to use our church in the coming years. We've made a good start but you would

still be very welcome to join the group if you would be interested. Please contact Belinda if you would like to join.

We know that the church is struggling in many places to connect with its local communities. But we also know that many people long to feel a greater sense of connectedness and community – and this need has been sharpened by the pandemic. It is not that churches haven't been offering these things it's just that they aren't connecting as they did when the Christian faith was taught in all schools and practised by many families. One of our tasks is to make stronger connections.

Then there is also a widespread recognition that the Church of England (and many other churches) face a great challenge of resources. And this is where a major spiritual challenge lies too, because if we believe, with St Paul, that God's grace is sufficient then we shouldn't be too concerned that we are going to run out of resource as God's grace can never be exhausted! And looking around we do have many resources, buildings, structures, connections, money, faith, worship, the Bible and the Christian tradition and above all people.

But it is with people where we, and many churches are struggling after the pandemic. Perhaps due to all the uncertainty people are reluctant to come forward for voluntary roles in the church, especially to take on responsibility as churchwardens and in other responsible roles. We are not the only church in the city to have only one churchwarden in office. The Standing Committee would like to suggest that we adjust the expectations of Churchwardens so that they would serve for a few years perhaps two or three, rather than five and six, but that they would be part of a supportive team where others who would be prepared to serve might learn and help and grow into the role. If you feel that this might be you and that you would be excited and willing to be part of this please have a word with myself or Glynis. She isn't here today so I can express my appreciation of Glynis's huge contribution to our parish life without embarrassing her - and also thank those of you who are supporting her in her role in a variety of ways. It is vital that we do find others to share in this work as a parish can't function effectively without any churchwardens so we do need to crack this one somehow! Thank you for your prayer and support as we look for a way ahead in finding one or more churchwardens and potential wardens.

When Jesus sent out his disciples two by two with very little equipment he wasn't setting up a church! But he was showing that we shouldn't be in ministry alone and that we need fewer resources for our work than we might imagine. Caring for each other as we travel together into the future of God's church is going to be vital if we are to connect with those around us and care for them. Let us pray

that God will renew his gifts of faith, hope and love in each of us that we may know ourselves to be fully equipped, even when we feel decidedly inadequate.

Closing Prayer

**Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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