

We are church.

Sunday 6th September
Trinity 13

Notices:

ISingPop - Excellent Resource for Family: look at their latest content "[Summer Challenge #4](#)" #Faith@Home

Wednesday Communion Service @ the Church Centre. From Wednesday 16th September we will be returning to celebrating our mid-week communion. We recognise that a number of those who normally attend this service are in "bubbles" which are particularly vulnerable. Therefore, is necessary we will use the main hall to ensure at least a 2m social distancing. Our normal practice at present for sharing communion is to use separate cups and wafers prepared in advance.

To help us safely plan for this service could you email me to let me know if you would like to attend. Also, if you would like to chat through our safety procedures call or email me.

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The APCM will be held on Wednesday 30th September 7pm in the Church Centre. We can only have 30 people present, including the PCC members. If you would like to be at the meeting please could you email me and I will allocate places.

We are church.

In the name of the Father,
And of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Grace, mercy and peace
From God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all – wherever we are.

Sing: (*click on the song title, and it should open up and play in YouTube*)

For the healing of the nations

Almighty God,
To whom all hearts are open,
All desires known,
And from whom no secrets are hidden:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love you,
And worthily magnify your holy name;
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Gathering our thoughts, we remember and confess:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said;
The first commandment is this;
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only
Lord. You shall love the Lord your God
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your
Mind, and with all your strength.'
The second is this, 'Love your neighbour
as yourself.' There is no other commandment
greater than these. On these two commandments
hang all the law and the prophets.

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Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

May almighty God have mercy on us and forgive us our sins and
bring us to everlasting life. Amen

*Take a few moments to sit and think about receiving that
unconditional offering of forgiveness through grace.*

Almighty God, you have searched us
and know us:
May we rely on you in strength
And rest on you in weakness,
Now and in all our days;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20 If Your Brother Sins Against You

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound

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in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

As we listen to the words of Jesus in this challenging gospel reading or read them on our screens at home from the electronic service sheet provided, about settling our differences and mending fences, our minds may wander to relationships that have gone wrong and turned sour in our own group of acquaintances. All of us are vulnerable, the strong as well as the weak. Maybe we are feeling the hurt and pain of a close friendship in tatters due to angry words or a betrayal. While we are left nursing our grievances, we forget what made us friends in the first place and precious memories of happy days are replaced by bitter thoughts of what caused the breakup. The sad reality in life is that most of our quarrels and conflicts are not with business institutions or church but with people with whom we come into contact with on a regular basis. While a stranger can bruise us a friend can break us. Relationships are never free from disagreements but sadly some of us need to go no further than our own immediate family to experience the havoc created by rows over the contents of a parent's Will, a strip of land or a boundary fence. I heard a saying once from the late Sir Terry Wogan rather than the well known saying, "Where's there's a will there's a way", Terry often quoted "Where's there a Will there's a family at war"! Sometimes, for good measure, children are drawn into the equation or, failing that, innocent mutual friends, as a test of their allegiance. Where there was once an atmosphere of friendship, joy and good cheer, there is now tension, coolness and a frosty silence. All of us know people whose lives have stopped growing because they focused their energy on something that someone did to them five, ten or twenty years ago.

This Gospel reading set for today from Matthew about conflict resolution is stressing the importance of compromise, of learning to give a little and to develop a sense of proportion and moderation in all things. It is telling us that rows and misunderstandings do take place and always will. We should do everything in our power to avoid such disagreements but when they do happen, how we handle them is most important. A little honest talking about how we feel wronged often clears the air before too much damage is done. With a bit of luck and good grace, we should manage to get ourselves out of most neighbourly disputes which might otherwise escalate into some unbearable minefield. In the cool light of day, a boundary line may not be worth disputing about with bitterness and acrimony. But if you are in the thick of things and family or personal honour is at stake, the whole issue becomes of immense significance and it is so easy to let slip the dogs of war.

When we are feeling hurt and upset it is most important to share our feelings with a faithful friend who will recognise the sacredness of the confidence being placed in them. Their offer of help and guidance with our problem should

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encourage us to handle the situation with Christian dignity. Experience teaches that keeping a dignified silence about what has happened is preferable to airing the matter in public, as the latter course of action leads to gossip which can cause more damage than the original fault.

This Gospel reading ends by giving us the assurance that, where-ever we are gathered together as a community rooted in prayer, Jesus Christ is present in our midst. For where ever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. In an age when religion has become increasingly privatised, God calls us in communion with him and one another.

I am a great believer in prayer. Prayer can change us, bringing about reconciliation by making us more aware and sensitive to the needs of others. In troubled times, when we pray for peace with others, we raise our consciousness to our Christian calling as peace makers in our parishes, our homes and in our personal relationships.

Allow me to finish with a prayer :

Heavenly Father, help us to lead truly Christian lives. May we imitate your goodness and be sensitive to one another's needs.

We make this prayer and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.....Amen

Sing: *(click on the song title, and it should open up and play in YouTube)*

God is working his purpose out

Let us declare our faith with confidence:

Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.
We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
for by his will they were created
and have their being.

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We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.

Rona Clifford leads as we pray for the needs of the world, the church, and
for our family, friends' & our neighbours':

In our need and human weakness, let us come to Almighty God with our prayers.

Unchanging God, it is our responsibility to encourage and uphold one another in
living by the standard of real love, change us from the heart until the whole Church
awakens to your love that reaches out, nurtures and celebrates, neither holding back
from what is difficult, nor rushing where angels fear to tread. We pray for sensitivity
and courage.

Lord, take us by the hand:
and lead us.

Almighty God, give us such love for the world that we may pray with longing and
desire, 'Your kingdom come'. Look with compassion on the world where many strive
to fulfil tasks that are too heavy for them. Give wisdom to those who have power in
disputes between nations, that they may count the cost of conflict before it is too
late. Give our leaders the grace to see their work as service and their role as
stewards; and sharpen both the recognition of needs and the commitment to just
provision.

Lord, take us by the hand:

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and lead us.

Merciful God, we pray that our human loves and loyalties may be blessed but never turn us from our spiritual duty, make us considerate of all who serve our daily needs. Have mercy on those who are distressed because they wrongly judged the consequences of what they desired to do, we pray for all who have fled from their homes, that they may find support and the way of reconciliation. We pray for all homes and families around the world, help break all habits of destructive behaviour among some homes and families, help them to nurture your care and loving kindness to one another, develop our ability to celebrate what is good and face what is not with honesty.

Lord, take us by the hand:

and lead us.

Loving God, we pray for all pupils, students and staff of schools, colleges and universities as they start the new academic year, help them to deal with all the changes that they will have to get used to in the 'new normal' of these strange and challenging times, be with them and their parents to give them courage, support, comfort and love.

Lord, take us by the hand:

and lead us.

Healing God, lay your hands on those who suffer, praying for all we know who need our prayers in a moment of quiet, whether they are in pain or are troubled in any way; we pray that they may know the support of your presence and find wholeness and peace in your love. We pray especially for those locked into the conviction that they are beyond your forgiveness, may they quickly discover the freedom of your acceptance.

Lord, take us by the hand:

and lead us.

Eternal God, in your unchanging love receive all those who have died in faith, that they may rejoice in you for ever. We give thanks for those who have fulfilled their work on earth and entered into rest, grant them eternal life through the cross that was borne for them. We pray especially for all who have recently died, some because of persecution! and for all whose anniversary of death is at this time and we also remember our loved ones who have come into your loving arms before us and who in the fullness of time we will meet again.

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Lord, take us by the hand:
and lead us.

Dear Father God, in a world where many are lonely, we thank you for our families and friends, in a world where many are in doubt or ignorance, we thank you for our faith. In a world where many are homeless, we thank you for the warmth and security of our homes, in a world where many are sick, we thank you for our health, in a world where many are afraid, oppressed or at war, we thank you for our peace, in a world where many are hungry, we thank you for our food.
Help us to be aware of the needs of other people and to share the good things which we enjoy!

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

We pray with confidence as our saviour has taught us:

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 forever. Amen.

We are church.

Sing: *(click on the song title, and it should open up and play in YouTube)*

We have a gospel to proclaim

Numbers 6:24-26

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'