

Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people – Matt 4:19

St. George's, Brockworth_

Sunday 8th November 2020

Notices:

As you will all know for the next four Sunday's, we will **no longer be able to worship** together at our 9am, 1030am, or Wednesday 930am service. I know this is really hard not to be able to worship in church as a community of faith. There will be videos being uploaded over the next few weeks – watch out for details on our website, Facebook page, YouTube channel, e-service, and even email!!

I thought it would be a good idea to restart our 930am Wednesday morning Zoom meeting (0930 Wednesday 11th November). All are welcome, and I will look forward to meeting up virtually!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95217873356?pwd=MlFQUkxRWlWVW1JT0NmU2RYV3VXQT09>

Meeting ID: 952 1787 3356

Passcode: 425514

Sadly, on Thursday 27th October **Norman Holland died**. Gordon Clifford remembers some of Norman's commitments and services to the life of St. George's and the community:

"Norman was born in Bristol, the family moved to Cheltenham and he attended Cheltenham grammar school where he was head. Norman and Lesley hand made and sold occasional cards the photo's of which were taken by Norman, as one of his hobbies was photography at which he excelled. The proceeds of card sales purchased items to beautify St George's Church e.g. the figurines which are used for the Nativity scene each year and altar coverings.

Norman was Lay Chair of the PCC for many (40) years also Choir master for the same amount of time and was involved in many and varied aspects in the life of St George's Church. They were always there to help anyone in times of trouble and Norman will be greatly missed with Norman's passing - May he Rest in Peace and rise in glory"

Let us keep Lesley and the family and friends of Normal in our prayers.

And let us pray ... For 28 days starting this Thursday people across the country will be committing to pray every evening at 6pm (you might choose a different time and schools will be encouraged to pray during the day). User-friendly resources are being produced and there will be a different theme for each day of the week.

Cathedrals will ring their bells at 6pm as a call to prayer and if you have the capacity to ring a church bell at 6pm then please do join in. Phone alarms can also be effective! Children and adults alike might like to switch on a torch as prayer is offered – a reminder of the light shining in the darkness. Amid our lament and hope; longing and trust, we will proclaim that we are held in the unchanging love of God who hears our cries and walks with us through both our laughter and tears - God is with us.

Laptop Update: A Massive Thank You and Well Done. Having raised £435 for our laptop appeal we have just purchased a new laptop. This will significantly help delivering reliable live broadcasts from church. I know there have been a few issues with the sound quality on YouTube, we are looking into it and will feedback our thoughts and potential solutions. Thank you for your patience.

Please could I encourage you, as you think of people over the next few weeks, to call, text, email people to encourage and support them. Even a brief message could mean the world to someone. Let us be that shining light of hope – AMEN?

- 1 You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**.
Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether.
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay **your hand upon me**. *Ps139:3-6*

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)*

Oh God Our Help in Ages Past

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.

- 2 You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**.
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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.

Collect

God, our refuge and strength,
 Bring near the day when wars shall cease
 And poverty and pain shall end,
 That earth may know the peace of heaven
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

The Parable of the Ten Virgins - "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

3 You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**.
 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether.
 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay **your hand upon me**. *Ps139:3-6*

Louisa Messenger reflects on this passage and how it relates to our lives today.

The motto of the scout movement is be prepared , it is based on the initials of its founder Baden Powell.

This gospel story is I believe is all about just that. To be alert and ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus. We are told again about a wedding taking place which then like now is a great occasion . At that time the whole village turned out to accompany the couple to their new home, and they went by the longest possible road ,in order that they might receive the glad good wishes of as many as possible .

Like so many of the parables that Jesus taught this has a an immediate and local meaning. In its immediate significant , it was directed against the Jews. They were the chosen people, their whole history should have been a preparation for the coming of the son of God, they should have been prepared for him when he came and as they were not hung him on a cross to die.

This parable has at least two universal warnings.

First it warns that there are certain things which cannot be obtained at the last minute . It is far to late for a student to be preparing when the day of the examination has come. By the same token , it is so easy to leave things so late that we can no longer prepare our self to meet with God.

When the queen of England ,Mary of orange , was dying , her chaplain sought to tell her the way of salvation. Her answer was "I have not left this matter to this hour." To be to late is always a tragedy. Are we living our lives in preparation for our death? God is good and merciful to all who seek his love and forgiveness and like the Jews we to know about him through the words of scripture and so have no excuse once we decide to follow him to make our self ready to meet him.

Hebrews 11 verse 1 Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.

Our Christian faith is built on HOPE and at our lovely moving All Souls service on Sunday as candles were lit and names read out that hope shone through knowing that those we love and no longer see are at peace, and that fills me with hope.

"Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others 1 Peter 4 verse 10. That's a good place to start!

He comforts us every time we have trouble. So when others have trouble we can comfort them. 2 Corinthians 1 verse 4.

Love one another as I have loved you.

As we go into another lock down lets be kind to each other .When the master comes and finds the servant doing his work , the servant will be blessed.

To the king that rules forever ,

Who will never die , who cannot be seen , the only God , be honor and glory for ever .Amen

Let us declare our faith with confidence:

- 4 You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**.
Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether.
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We believe in God the Father,
 who created all things:
 for by his will they were created
 and have their being.

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.

Mike Smith leads us as we pray for the needs of the world, the church, and for our family, friends' & our neighbours':

Use these prayers to help inspire and encourage your own prayers this week:

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

For those who have died: Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

We pray for those on active service in our forces: O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service: in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

- 5 You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**.
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For those people working on the frontline our healthcare system: Almighty Father, protect those working in our care homes, GP surgeries, Pharmacies and hospitals. Thank you for their service caring for those who are vulnerable.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick or unwell at the moment and need to know and experience the healing touch of Jesus. In particular we pray for Jenny Farmer in hospital in Bristol follow a car crash last week. We pray for swift healing for her smashed hip and broken ribs, heal her swiftly.

We also pray for Lesley Holland, and the friends and family of Norman. Would they all know and experience the peace and comfort of Jesus. We pray for that same peace and comfort for any remembering and grieving a love one.

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.

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

6 You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**.
Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether.
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Onward Christian Soldiers

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.'

7 You search out **my path** and **my lying down** and are acquainted with all **my ways**.
Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, **O LORD you know it** altogether.
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay **your hand upon me**. *Ps139:3-6*