

St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton

Sundays 9th and 16th August 2020

Ninth and Tenth Sunday after Trinity

**Join us in prayer this Sunday
and through the week,**

Collects

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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.

Amen.

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please 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.

Amen.

The Leicester Lockdown - When will we start to re-open the church building?

Now that we can think again about re-opening our buildings, I thought it would be helpful for you to have some idea of the necessary steps in the process; even though putting dates to each is not very straightforward as it depends on the progress of the pandemic and on another discussion by the PCC:

- PCC meet to review risk assessments , agree dates and provisional pattern of services - *w/b 16th August?*
- spring clean the church ready for use - *Wednesday 19th August (see below)*
- Re-open the Parish Centre for use by the St Mary's Pre-School - *25th August*
- open the church building for private prayer once a week
- open the church for Morning Prayer on Sunday
- open the church building for a service of Holy Communion on Sunday

Meanwhile we will continue to produce our Virtual Worship each week and of course the Newsletter will be emailed or posted out to everyone for whom we have contact details and permission.

Can you help with spring cleaning? As you'll see we are aiming to smarten up the inside of the building on the morning of Wednesday 19th August, starting about 9.30am. Everyone is welcome to join me! Volunteers should bring a face covering and gloves, please. There is no need for special cleaning materials as there is no reason to think that the church has any virus contamination,. Obviously many hands will make light work, but please think twice about coming along if you are in a 'vulnerable group'. Thank you!

Adrian

Church Family News

Josie Childs: news of Josie, who is very unwell, comes from Gill Tordoff, who writes:

"I met Josie in 1973 and we have been good friends ever since. She was in the choir at St James Aylestone Park - since demolished. Josie became involved with St Mary's producing and helping put on productions with the children for many years. Josie moved to Groby and being a non-driver found it difficult to keep up her connection with St Mary's. However, there are still members of the congregation who will remember her..."

Josie has lung cancer and has been in Glenfield hospital. She is now very unwell and is due to go home soon as no more treatment is viable. Should anyone wish to send Josie a "Thinking of you" card - her address is 2A Poplars Close, Groby, Leicester LE6 0FQ"

Holiday changes: Now that Leicester is free from the extra lockdown restrictions many of us are thinking about a holiday or time off at home, and this means a few changes in the next two weeks:

- this newsletter is a special 'double issue' to cover both Sunday 9th and 16th August;
- our website includes some links to Sunday Worship from a selection of churches, as we will have no Virtual Worship from the Benefice on 9th August;
- please contact others in the Ministry Team in case of urgent pastoral need when both Adrian and Matthew are on holiday;
- Emails and messages to the Church Office will be saved until 16th August;;
- Compline online on Wednesdays continues as normal however.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for Sunday, 9th August are: 1 Kings 19.9-18 and **Matthew 14.22-33**

Jesus walks on the water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'

²⁸ 'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.'

²⁹ 'Come,' he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Reflective Questions for you to think about:

The passage begins with '*immediately*' - what is it that has come just before and why do you think Jesus now wants to pray alone?

The disciples fear seems to stop them from recognising Jesus. What gets in the way of your faith? Is it fear, anxiety, envy, anger - or something else?

If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat!' Is there something you really want to be able to do at the moment? Where is God calling you to 'get out of the boat' ?

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible readings for Sunday, 16th August are: Isaiah 56.1, 6-8 and **Matthew 15.22-28**

The faith of a Canaanite woman

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.'

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, 'Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.'

²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.'

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. 'Lord, help me!' she said.

²⁶ He replied, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.'

²⁷ 'Yes it is, Lord,' she said. 'Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.'

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Reflective Questions for you to think about:

Why didn't Jesus answer this woman at first? What was her response and the disciples response to Jesus' 'silence'?

Be honest with yourself– do you tend to think of some types of people as more 'acceptable' to God or the church than some others? Have you any idea why?

How much faith do you think people should have before we welcome them into our church life?

Adrian

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Please note that Adrian and family are 'on holiday' until 16th August, and Matthew and family take some time off until 13th.

Please contact others in the Ministry Team in case of urgent need.



Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.

On-line worship Each Sunday we aim to have a short recorded, reflective act of worship by members of St Mary's congregation on both the website and our Facebook page—do have a look and join in worship together.

Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer) - Each week we are meeting virtually for Compline at 8pm on Wednesday. It has proven to be a meaningful way to have fellowship and prayer together as well as being quite good fun, especially as we find our feet with the technology and with more people joining us every week.

You can join by just phoning up and inputting the code or using 'Zoom' online. It has been democratic with several voices joining in with a line of liturgy each. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm on Wednesday.

To join by phone only, call this number **0131 460 1196** and when prompted input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

To join by Zoom on the internet, go to this address and click 'Open Zoom' <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 01162704272 or email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.

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Please pray..... *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. "* (Ephesians 6.18)

Praying for the World: Please pray for all those who work in the medical and care services in the developing world, where resources are scarce and coronavirus infection numbers continue to rise steeply.

Praying for the Church: Please continue to pray for all those in the national church and in the Diocese who seek to provide leadership and guidance to our churches in this time. Pray for their wisdom, clear thinking, compassion and refreshment. Pray especially for Bishops Martyn and Guli ,and for our Archdeacons Claire and Richard.

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on Knighton Lane East, Pendlebury Drive, Larchwood Close, Chadderton Close, and Dawson Way from 9th August...

and then Skelton Drive, Shrewsbury Avenue, Chiltern Green, Woodcroft Avenue, Barmouth Avenue, and Oakdene Road from 16th August.

Praying for those in need:

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit, and all those with troubling investigations and diagnoses. Please do continue to pray for **Josie Childs, Gary Joynes, Anne Squires, Ed Groves** and their families. We pray for all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

We give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends, as well as all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11.28.