



St Mary's Church

Prestwich

GROWING · GIVING · SERVING



5th July 2020

4th Sunday after Trinity

please join us for this week's All-age service with contributions from Year 6 and Susie.



Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen

Opening of churches for private prayer

the church will be open again for one hour between 12 noon and 1:00pm for individual private prayer. Please do come along if you are able and please respect the social distancing guidelines and measures we have introduced.



you may have heard that the Diocese have now purchased a new property for our new incumbent. Shaun is very happy with it and has now begun to make preparations to move in at a date yet to be confirmed.



The Mid Week Music Organ Recitals on our YouTube page will continue each Wednesday in July.

Each recital will include a piece based upon a hymn tune (sung at St Mary's), do listen out to see if you recognise the hymn melody. Enjoy! Gary.



Lord Let your love shine on those in need of our prayers: Lily-Rose Ahmadi; David Arnold, Lorayah Bevan, David Burwin, Graham Coward, Graham Fleet, Helen Hicks, Perry Hinton, Deborah Kane, Heather Kay, Elaine Kirk, Poppy McLaughlin, Jean Murphy, James O'Meara, Rev'd Deborah Sandercock-Pickles, Maryam Sedeghi, Peter Simpson, Gill White, Ryan Woods



Barbara Wood who died 1 July 2018 & Jon and Anne Brumby who's anniversaries both fall in June

Please continue to pray for the Milnes family and for Jo as she passes into God's eternal kingdom.

Opening of churches for public worship

Following guidance now issued by the Diocese and the Church of England, plans are progressing towards opening for public worship at the earliest opportunity. More details will be sent out as soon as they are available.

When we re-open we would like to re-introduce the rota for Readers and Intercessors. If you are on this list but are unavailable to be included at this time, perhaps because you are shielding or for some other reason, could you please let Catriona know as soon as possible. (Please note that, initially, we will only be having one reading (plus the Gospel reading) each week as part of a shortened liturgy whilst worship returns to some form of new 'normality').

Whilst some cleaning of the church has already taken place, more will be needed before we open for public worship. We are planning to meet next Saturday morning, 11th July, 2020, from 10:00am. If you are available, could you please let Susie know. The building is large enough to accommodate safe distancing and you are welcome to wear face masks if that is your wish. More hands make light work, so please do come along.



We would like to keep in touch with people at this difficult time. If you are lonely or need a chat, or if you require any help, support or information just give us a call.

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Readings for the 4th Sunday after Trinity

Collect

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

A reading from the book Genesis *Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-end*

Abraham's servant said 'The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son." 'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'— let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son." 'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally

and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.' Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans *Romans 7.15-25a*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind,

making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew *Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end*

But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.' At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Post-Communion 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.