

BRO FAMAU GROUP OF CHURCHES MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2018

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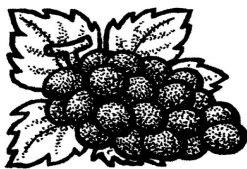
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September
2018

IN THIS EDITION

- Letter from the Rector
- The Letter of James
- Lay Reader Training
- Around our Churches
- Prayer Diary September

James Henry Stroud

Henry was born on Sunday 8th July and is a welcome and very much loved addition to the family at the Rectory.

All the signs are that Charley is delighted to have a small brother, and grandparents have already visited him from the United States and Germany. Henry's baptism will be announced in due course.

We congratulate Lara and Daniel on Henry's arrival and will understand if night-time duties influence daytime events!

The Bro Famau Magazine is produced by the
Editorial Team: Tracy Davies, John Foxlee, Kathleen Mason,
Daniel Stroud, Wendy Shillito, Liz Thomas,
Janet Wright and Cath Yeardley
Please contact team members individually in parishes.

Articles printed in this publication may not represent the views of the church or all of its members. Final date for receiving material is 15th of each month at 12 noon. The right is reserved to edit submissions and the editorial team's decision about the content of the magazine is final.

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

It has been a long, hot summer here. Summer should be warm, of course, but between the temps and the lack of rain, I don't think I'm alone in being excited for the cooler temps and the bit of nip in the air as autumn begins to creep up on us.

And as summer draws towards its close, there is much to do. School is starting back, holidays are winding down, and we look towards another year of programming and work.

As the quiet of summer yields to the business of "real life" it is good, I think, for us to remember what it is that makes the summer seem so lovely. Sure, it's nice having the sun up for ages and being able to be comfortable outside, but what really makes the summer so much fun for us is that it's a time for recreation. By this I don't just mean that it's a time for fun, but that it's an opportunity for us to take some Sabbath rest, a chance for us to restore and revive ourselves.

In our world that idolizes busyness it's easy to get sucked into the idea that how busy we are and how occupied our time is are the things that give us worth and value. It's easy to forget that on the seventh day even God rested. We all need time to enjoy the fruits of our labours and rejuvenate ourselves so that we can be the person God created us to be.

These coming months, be sure to take time to refuel yourself and remember who you truly are. Find time to rest and be still. Take moments out of your day to pray, and don't forget to spend time with your friends and neighbours worshiping the God who made us all, who loves us, and who wants us to find our rest in him.

With every blessing,

Daniel+

WORSHIP in September 2018

Sunday 2nd September

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Morning Worship

11.00 Morning Worship

18.00 Holy Communion (Healing Service)

11.15 Holy Communion

09.30 Holy Communion

09.30 Morning Worship

Wednesday 5th September

09.30 Mission Area Eucharist

St Eurgain and St Peter, Northop

Sunday 9th September

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Morning Worship

18.00 Evening Prayer

09.30 Morning Worship

09.30 Family Service

09.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 16th September

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Morning Worship

11.00 Holy Communion

16.00 MESSY CHURCH in the Church Hall

18.00 Evening Prayer

09.30 Holy Communion

09.30 Morning Worship

09.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 23rd September**Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

Cilcain

11.00 Holy Communion

Gwernaffield

09.30 Family Praise (in Church Hall)

18.00 Evening Worship

Llanferres

09.30 Morning Worship

Nannerch

09.30 Family Holy Communion

Rhydymwyn

16.00 Family Holy Communion

Sunday 30th September**Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity****Nannerch****10.30 Bro Famau Group Eucharist**

Gwernaffield

18.00 Evening Worship

Mid week services**Tuesdays 9.30** at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield**Wednesdays 10.30** at St Mary the Virgin, Cilcain**LAY READER TRAINING**

I have just completed two years of training at St Padarn's Institute and I will shortly become licensed as a Lay Reader.

The motto for St Padarn's is 'Formation in Community for Mission', and I feel that, over the two years, the students have all had a transforming experience.

When I first went to St Padarn's for my first residential weekend, it was striking that there was a very large intake of students, of all ages and from all walks of life. These numbers have continued to grow and we have outgrown the accommodation at St Michael's College. Firstly we had to stay in a local university campus and meet in a marquee, and we have now met at Newport University, Trinity St David's, Lampeter, and

we had one glorious and luxurious meeting at a rather grand Hotel in Llandudno!

The residential training was intense and varied. We had lectures and talks from the academic tutors as well as visiting experts, including Jill Duff, the newly appointed Bishop of Lancaster (who happens to be married to the Principal of St Padarn's). Lectures focused on themes such as rural ministry, dealing with bereavement and discipleship. We also studied themes of preaching and teaching, pastoral work, children and youth ministry and pioneer ministry.

As well as the studying, there was a great emphasis on worship, prayer, bible study and spirituality. We learned from our tutors but also from each other. Many of the students in training had an immense breadth of knowledge and experience and we were able to gain from all of this. In addition the students have all continued with academic study, mostly with the 'Theology for Life' degree course which is available to all. The subjects have ranged from studies of biblical themes such as the Old Testament to more applied courses such as the recently completed pastoral module.

And then there was the practical parish experience, guided by our long suffering and patient local ministry team. I have been fortunate to be guided by Rev. Kevin Horswell, who has critiqued my sermons and encouraged me through the last two years, together with John Foxlee, Adrian Copping, Richard Hainsworth, Carole Poolman and many more. I have also gained immeasurably from the experience of working with many different people and congregations.

It has been a privilege to share this journey with you all, a journey which is really only just beginning as I start my new vocation as a licenced lay reader. It is an exciting time for the Church in Wales and there is a tremendous opportunity to feel the Holy Spirit work and grow in our Mission Area.

Thank you for all of your help and encouragement thus far.

Wendy Shilito

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

On July 15th Rafferty Dylan Crumpton was baptised
at St John's Rhydymwyn

On August 26th Ernest Stanley Hilton was baptised
at St Mary's Cilcain

Weddings

On July 28th Caroline Hoppe and Sean Conway were married
at St John's, Rhydymwyn

On August 8th Hannah Hunter and Craig Tordoff were married
at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield

On August 18th Jessica Jones and Matthew Zabinski were married
at St John's, Rhydymwyn

On August 24th Emma Hughes and Nick Stevens were married
at St Mary's, Cilcain

On August 26th Christopher Jones and Emma Morrey were married
at St John's, Rhydymwyn

FUNERALS

On July 11th the late Margaret Mary Jones, formerly of
Rhydymwyn, at St. John's Church, Rhydymwyn with burial in the
cemetery.

On August 22nd the late Dr Guy Starkey
at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield

***'Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and let light perpetual
shine upon them'***

'IN LOVING MEMORY'

This year's services for those who are bereaved.....

***TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER
AT 7.00 PM
AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, GWERNAFFIELD***

***FRIDAY 2ND NOVEMBER
AT 7.00 PM
AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN,
CILCAIN***

Each similar service will include music and readings,
together with the opportunity to have
the names of loved ones read, and to light a candle.

At each of the five churches in the group there will be a folder with
slips to complete if you would like a name, or names, read out.

Slips can be left in the folder or returned to the
Rector at

The New Rectory, Rectory Lane, Llanferres, Mold, CH7 5SR

**ALL ARE WELCOME WHETHER YOUR BEREAVEMENT HAS
BEEN SOME TIME AGO OR MORE RECENT OR WHETHER
THE FUNERAL WAS AT ONE OF THE GROUP CHURCHES
OR ELSEWHERE**

THE LETTER OF JAMES

Throughout September we hear passages from the Letter (or Epistle) of James as the second reading in our lectionary sheets, where we would normally hear passages from Paul's letters.

There are no less than six men called James named in the New Testament, but the consensus among scholars is, and has been since early times, that this author is James, the brother of Jesus. He became the Bishop of Jerusalem and is also called James the Just. There are several accounts that he died as a martyr in either AD62 or 69 by being thrown from the pinnacle of the temple and then stoned or beaten with clubs.

His letter tells how a Christian should behave in helping those in poverty, and live a life of holiness. He warns against abstract belief, but says that intention should be converted into practical help for those in need. This latter principle is expressed in the following passage (James 2: 14 -17)
What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm and eat your fill,' and do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

This brought him into conflict with Martin Luther (1483 - 1586) who upheld St Paul's doctrine of salvation by faith rather than good works, and he called the letter of James ' a right strawy epistle,' meaning that there was nothing in it to feed the people of God. At another time, he wrote that it is 'a good book, because it sets up no doctrines of men, but vigorously promulgates the law of God.' However, in the Lutheran Bible it is in their *Antilegomena* similar to our *Apocrypha*. In the Bibles of nearly every other tradition, it is in the main canon as it is in our New Testament.

Although it is thought to have been written very early, it was almost certainly after Jesus' death, resurrection and Ascension, yet there is no mention of these events. This has puzzled scholars. My explanation, which is mine alone, is that James, if he was Jesus' brother (and some say he was a step-brother or cousin of Jesus) was not allowed to be a witness to these things in the Jewish court. There is no biblical record of him being at the Crucifixion, so his knowledge would in any case have been hearsay. It

might have been construed he was acting as a witness if he had written about it, so he left it to the true witnesses who had been appointed by Jesus, that is, his disciples.

The letter was probably written before any of the gospels, but contains phrases like those used by Jesus and reported by the gospel writers. It is possible that James either heard them directly, took them from some earlier written source, or heard them from witnesses - e.g.

Do not swear at all, either by heaven...or by the earth...Let your word be Yes, Yes or No, No, anything more than this comes from the evil one. (Matthew 5: 34, 37)

Do not swear either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your word be Yes be yes and your No be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. (James 5: 12)

Some of the advice James gives might sound strange to us; for instance, his condemnation of the tongue (James 3:4-12) seems harsh. However, we need to remember the conditions of the time, when opposition to the Roman occupation was building in Jerusalem and militant Jewish groups were talking up the possibility of an armed uprising. James probably perceived that the gossip going around had the potential to cost many lives.

Conditions in Jerusalem became increasingly difficult between c.AD50 and the insurrection of AD66.

Turmoil and violence grew and it is likely that through shortage of food the poor suffered terribly. The letter of James encourages Christians not to respond to violence with violence and to stay focussed on the prospect of heaven rather than get involved with matters of the world. Looking after the poor and underprivileged was their duty just as it is ours today and we would do well to take note of James' advice on how to be a Christian.

John Foxlee

LETTERS:

If you wish to submit a letter for publication please use the contact details above.

All letters must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. Letters may be edited and shortened.

The magazine panel welcomes the submission of relevant articles for consideration for publication.

email to brofamauchurches.magazine@outlook.com

Mission Area News

Important dates for your diary

25th October Extra-ordinary Vestry Meeting
7.00 pm Christ Church, Pontblyddyn

25th October Mission Area Conference
7.30 pm Christ Church, Pontblyddyn

Mission Area Conference

At the Mission Area Conference held on 8th August among the items discussed were

- ◆ Diocesan Elections 2018
- ◆ Diocesan under 25s rep for Diocesan Conference
- ◆ Sharing examples of Growth in the Mission Area
- ◆ An update on the Wellfield Charity (House for Homeless)
- ◆ The latest developments at Northop Hall re survey
- ◆ Consolidation of the Mission Area accounts and thanks to Emily Clarke-Jones and Sue Churm for their hard work.
- ◆ Approval to examine a way for paying some bills from a central fund
- ◆ Accepting the kind offer from Rev Kevin Horswell of leading a Stewardship Campaign
- ◆ As a Mission Area signing up to the Mold Town of Sanctuary and asking each congregation in the Mission Area to sign up individually

For further information contact your Church Committee rep
to the Mission Area

The
Tale of the
**TWO
BUILDERS**



**JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS**



**ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES**



**THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH
AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON
WHICH TO BUILD HIS HOME.**

**AT LONG, LONG LAST HE
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.**



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

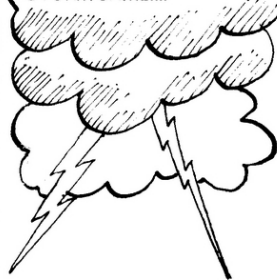


**THE OTHER BUILDER
DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE
BUILT HIS HOUSE**

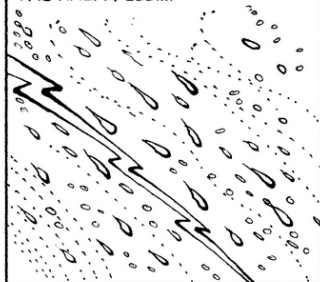
**HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND
WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.**



**BUT ONE DAY THE
STORM CAME....**

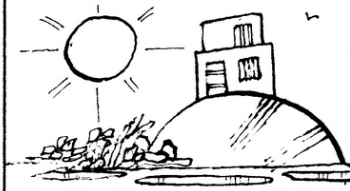


**...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND
THE RAIN FELL....**



**...AND THE HOUSE ON
THE SAND COLLAPSED!**

**BUT THE HOUSE ON THE
ROCK STOOD FIRM.**



**JESUS EXPLAINED -
IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE
A FIRM FOUNDATION.**

PRAYER DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

ON THESE DAYS IN THE MONTH LET US GIVE
THANKS AND PRAY FOR

- 1 Man vs Mountain Day (North Wales)
- 2 Tour of Britain Wales stage (Carmarthenshire to Newport)
- 3 St Gregory the Great, Bishop & Doctor, 604
- 4 In Loving Memory service at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield
- 5 The Collage of God and the Splash of Words, Diocesan
course
- 6 Read a Book Day
- 7 Gladfest literary festival at Gladstone's Library, today and
the next two days
- 8 **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Whist Drive in Gwernaffield Church Hall
- 9 Racial Justice Sunday
- 10 William Salesbury, Translator 1584 & William Morgan, Bish-
op & Translator, 1604
- 11 St Deiniol, Bishop, 6th century
- 12 Governing Body meeting today and tomorrow at Lampeter
- 13 St Cyprian, Bishop, Doctor & Martyr, 258
- 14 **Holy Cross Day**
- 15 Tea Dance in Gwernaffield Church Hall;
Mold Food Festival today and tomorrow

- 16 Messy Church in Gwernaffield Church Hall
- 17 International Country Music Day
- 18 Nannerch/ Rhydymwyn Mothers' Union at St John's
Rhydymwyn
- 19 Gwyl Cilcain AGM
- 20 Bishop's Staff meeting
- 21 St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
- 22 Worm Charming in Nannerch
- 23 St Berres Llanferres Morning Worship
- 24 Family Day
- 25 Gwernaffield Mothers' Union Social Evening in the
Church Hall
- 26 St Cadoc, Abbot, 6th century
- 27 Clergy Synod
- 28 Ember Day: Croeso Pawb in Ysgol Nannerch
- 29 St Michael & All Angels;
Wendy Shillito, who is being licensed Reader at Holy
Trinity, Gresford today
- 30 Bro Famau Group joint service of Holy Communion at
St. Michaels, Nannerch

Word Search

On 4th August 1918 King George V met to pray with members of the Houses of Parliament. One hundred days later, the war ended. Last month, 4th August 2018 was the first day of 100 days of prayer across the country, running until Armistice Day in November. Thousands of Christians across the country are using daily prayers, Bible readings and reflections from *100 Days of Peace and Hope*, which can be downloaded, a week at a time from <https://www.remembrance100.co.uk/100-days/>.

HOPE has also published a beautifully illustrated booklet called *Silence* to give away at Remembrance events. *Silence* invites readers to look back with gratitude, and to reflect on eternal themes of faith, hope and love. Find out more at: www.remembrance.co.uk.

August
George
Parliament
prayer
hundred

country
armistice
day
November
Thousands

Peace
Hope
Remembrance
Silence
Gratitude

Eternal
Themes
Faith
love
look
back



AROUND OUR CHURCHES

NANNERCH

Mothers' Union

Nannerch/ Rhydymwyn Mothers' Union will meet on Tuesday 18th September at 2pm at St John's, Rhydymwyn. Daniel will speak on his Faith Journey. Please join us if you are interested.

Worm Charming followed by a BBQ- Saturday 22nd September, 2pm onwards

Whistles, music, jumping and tapping the ground will be employed on the area in front of the Pensioners' bungalows on Saturday 22nd September afternoon, in hope of coaxing worms to the surface. Those who collect the most worms in 30 minutes will be the winners. If the tactics from 2 years ago, are anything to go by, it will be a highly competitive occasion! Passers by, on foot and in cars, were astonished! The worms are released in a safe place at the finish.

The afternoon/early evening will be completed with a BBQ. Worm Charmers and others who have not charmed will be able to relax and enjoy a sociable time together in and around the Memorial Hall.

Croeso Pawb- Friday 28th September, afternoon

Members of the Mothers' Union will be in Ysgol Nannerch on Friday 28th September afternoon to work with the children on Harvest craft activities. The afternoon will finish with a short Harvest service in church to which the parents will be invited.

Joint Eucharist Service

Joint Eucharist Service for the Bro Famau Group and will be 10.30am Sunday 30th September.

GWERNAFFIELD

Mold Food Bank

Donations are very welcome and can be brought to the back of the church.

Mothers' Union

The next Meeting will be on Tuesday 25th September - this will be a Social Evening where everyone is welcome, so please come along for refreshments and a chat. New members are always welcome – we meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Church Hall. Please telephone Mrs Gaynor Morgan (secretary) on 01352 741515 for more information

Open Church

Congratulations, we have now kept our lovely Church open every day for the past six years. What a splendid achievement and thank you to all!

In Loving Memory Service

The 'In Loving Memory Service' takes place at Holy Trinity Church on Tuesday 4th September at 7.00pm (also Friday 2nd November at 7.00pm at St Mary's Church, Cilcain). If you would like a name/s to be read out at these Services, would you please complete the form which has been placed in a folder on the table at the back of the Church – forms to be returned to Holy Trinity no later than Tuesday 28th August, please

Village Carnival

A big thank you to those who helped to man our bric-a-brac stall at the village carnival in July – we raised £127.00 for church funds

July Fundraising

Our July fund-raising events proved to be fruitful and fun, with great weather on both occasions. The Strawberry Tea realised £625.00 and the Church Hall was full, with lots of chat and laughter. Many thanks to all who helped to organise, donate, and support our events. Your time and effort is very much appreciated

New Bible Study Group

Chris and Ellie Jenkins are going to be starting a bible study group in September – further details to follow as soon as we have them

Upcoming Events

Saturday 8th September - Whist Drive to commence at 7.00pm in the Church Hall - Tickets £2.50, including tea and biscuits

Saturday 15th September - Afternoon Tea Dance. This is a joint fund-raising event between the Church and the Church Hall - Tickets £7.00 to include tea and cake

Saturday 6th October - Harvest Hotpot Supper and entertainment by Angela Parker. This starts at 7.00pm in the Church hall - Tickets £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children and are available from 10th September
Contact Carole - 01352 740550 for further details and tickets

RHYDYMŴYN

Wedding

Saturday 28th July saw the wedding of Zen and Alison's daughter Caroline, to Sean Conway. St.John's was full to the main doors, with Cor Cilcain performing and Greg Morris doing the honours on the church organ. Rev.Daniel officiated at their marriage in a beautifully decorated setting with a suitably light touch, the whole service being admired and enjoyed by all present. The guests included family and friends from Zimbabwe, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland and more. Of particular note and interest, entries in the Registry included Sean's occupation as 'Adventurer and Author ' and his father's occupation as 'Rhino Conservationist!'

The celebrations continued at Penbedw Estate where the party were greeted by a harpist playing gently in the open setting and all celebrated together with international food cooked on a massive barbecue or Brie as our South African friends referred to it, with dancing to a Welsh Ceilidh band 'til late.

A happy and memorable day.

Farewell

We were sorry to say farewell to John and Julia Lorkin on Sunday 12th August. They are leaving the area and moving to Sussex to be closer to their family. They will be missed and we wish them all the very best in their new home.

Kids Club.

This is held on a Friday evening in Rhydymwyn Football Club from 6 - 7pm. Anyone welcome from ages 5 - 11. Contact 01352 741226 for information

Flintshire Food Bank.

Please put all food items for the Foodbank into the box which is left at the back of church.

CILCAIN

Coffee morning in the Daniel Owen Centre

We are holding a coffee morning in the Daniel Owen Centre on Saturday the 13th of October. There will be lots of homemade cakes to enjoy with your tea or coffee, so do pop in and see us if you are in town.

“In Loving Memory”

The ‘In Loving Memory Service’ takes place at Holy Trinity Church, Gwernaffield on Tuesday 4th September at 7.00pm. At Cilcain it will be on Friday the 2nd of November, All Souls’ Day at 7.00 pm. There will be forms to fill in available at the back of the Church. Sometime before hand them in if you would like your loved one’s name read out during the service.

Mold Food bank

If you have any donations for the Mold Food bank please place them in the box at the back of the Church. It will all be gratefully received.

LLANFERRES

Harvest Service (advance news)

Our annual Harvest Evensong Service will be on Thursday 11th October at 7 pm, followed by a Festival Service on Sunday 14th. We will be having a Harvest Supper on Thursday 18th October at 7.00 pm. All are welcome. This year we would especially like to thank the village for rallying round when we were struggling to man and stock the cake stall at the Village Carnival.

The Church always looks especially lovely at Harvest, and any contributions (financial, decorative or Harvest produce) would be most gratefully received.

Churchyard

Hugo and Ieuan Watts work exceptionally hard in the churchyard to maintain the safety, beauty and sanctity of this area. We would like respectfully to ask that everyone co-operates in helping to keep the churchyard as it should be kept. In particular we would ask that glass jars and vases are not left at graveyards. They can be a haz-

ard when mowing and maintaining the grass and, of course, any broken glass would be a safety risk.

Unfortunately we are still having a problem with plastic wrappings in the recycling bins, particularly in the area for cremated remains. It's easy to get it right- the bins are near to the main church door and are clearly marked!

Thank you

To everyone who has manned the depleted rota to keep the church building open in daylight hours during the summer months. Many people have appreciated the opportunity to have a quiet moment of reflection in our beautiful church. The church will remain open during daylight hours throughout September and most of October. Please visit if you are passing through. You can also take the opportunity if you wish to donate to the foodbank at the collection point at the back of the church. We have just made our third donation for this year.

Thank you also (you know who you are) to the people who have cleaned and decorated the church over the past few months. All volunteers are always welcomed!

Licensing Service

Wendy Shillito will be licensed as a Lay Reader at Gresford Church at 11 am on Saturday 29th September. All are welcome to attend the service (it's a very big church!) and there will be a get-together at her home afterwards to which all again are welcome (tel. 01352720377).

And finally- money

Gift Aid Direct leaflets are now being distributed throughout the village. If you can afford even a small regular donation to help to assist our depleted church funds, please complete and return the leaflets to Rob, Anne, Noel or Daniel.

Do you have any old £5 or £10 notes or other old coinage? UK or even foreign stuff? If so, please feel free to leave in the church as a donation and we will do the rest. Thank You!

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS PREVIEWED

Please use these introductions to prepare for worship. If you are a reader at home who is unable to come to church, you might like to use these pages, with your Bible, to join the congregation on a Sunday in the reading of the same passages

Sunday 2nd September - 14th after Trinity

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 The injunction from Moses to the Israelites was to obey every detailed commandment in God's Law. This would be good not only for them, but also a witness to other nations. But Jesus, we shall hear, had a rather different approach to the minutiae of legal systems.

James 1: 17-27 We will hear passages from this letter for several weeks. It is a kind of manual for Christian conduct. This section exhorts us to behaviour worthy of the truths we have received.

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 After a few Sundays listening to St John, we resume our reading of St Mark at a point where religious leaders begin to be troubled by what they hear of Jesus. The question they pose seems trivial, but to the Pharisee every detail in the Law was necessary for righteousness.

Sunday 9th September - 15th after Trinity

Isaiah 35: 4-7a When the Lord comes, says the prophet, every ill and every pain will be healed. Moreover, when Jesus came these words came true wherever he went.

James 2: 1-10 [& 11-13] 14-17 This letter is characterised by exhortations about putting faith to work. This passage deals with how the church should welcome visitors, and the uselessness of faith without charitable action.

Mark 7: 24-37 Jesus moved for a while away from Jewish people into Gentile territory. His compassion and his healing power still reached out to all who came with faith at their time of need.

Sunday 16th September - 16th after Trinity

Isaiah 50: 4-9a Isaiah pictures a faithful servant of God who is deeply and unjustly humiliated, but remains dignified in suffering. Whatever the original context of these words, the Church has always seen them as foretelling the suffering of Jesus.

James 3: 1-12 This general letter of instruction in Christian behaviour now tells us to take great care not only in what we may teach others but also in everything we say. Our tongue can be greatly influential for good or ill.

Mark 8: 27-38 Mark has already shown that opposition to Jesus simmered beneath all the popularity. Now we come to a turning point in his gospel. He introduces the darker themes of cross and rejection - which in some way every disciple must expect to face.

Sunday 23rd September - 17th after Trinity

Wisdom of Solomon 1: 16-2: 1, 12-22 Those who have rejected God are both foolish and wicked, says this writer. Although they mock the godly, and even kill them as they did to Jesus, they should learn that holiness has its own rewards.

Or

Jeremiah 11: 18-20 Jeremiah in his time suffered greatly, and, like Jesus, endured plots to kill him and destroy all he stood for. He was, he says, like a lamb being led to slaughter.

James 3: 13-4: 3, 7-8a The writer asks his Christian readers always to consider their motives. So much harm is done when jealousy and envy determine our actions. The wise want only what God wants for them.

Mark 9: 30-37 Jesus tries to make his destiny clear to his disciples, but they are still thinking there is only glory ahead and arguing about greatness in the kingdom. They do not understand that a leader must always be a servant.

Sunday 30th September - 18th after Trinity

Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Moses laboured under the weight of leadership of the travelling Israelites. He chose some elders to share the work. It became clear, as in today's gospel, that beside those who are obviously chosen and set apart, others too can be seen to serve God's purpose.

James 5: 13-20 Week by week we have heard James' letter of instruction. Finally, he begs us always to turn to prayer in any sickness or distress. This passage is a familiar one to all engaged in the Christian ministry of healing.

Mark 9: 38-50 There are many people, says Jesus, who do good work without acknowledging him, as Lord, and we are not to despise them. The people to beware of are those who cause trouble not those who do good.

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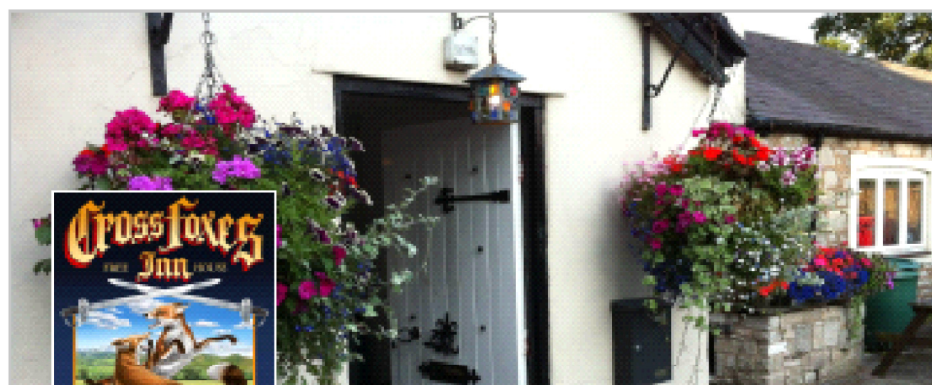
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