St. Mary's, Stoke D’Abernnon

Third Sunday after Trinity

See page 3 for details

28th June 2020
A Message from our Rector

Water is central to life. Since the beginning of human society, safe drinking water has been essential. The locations of villages, towns, and even our contemporary cities are based, in part, on access to this precious resource. And yet, for some, water remains a scarcity.

Jesus was born into a family that, although it did not have much, at least had access to this most basic human necessity—water. Their access, however, depended upon visiting public wells and drawing water to fill their daily needs.

For those in society who were outcast or vulnerable, this task could be a major undertaking. Being cast out from a village could also mean losing access to such public resources. Such vulnerable populations, not so different to comparable populations today, were thus left to find alternative times and locations for drawing their water, with the potential that the water they found may have been more likely to have been contaminated than that at the public wells.

Scarcity of water continues to be a major concern in our contemporary world, with around 1.2 billion people across the globe lacking access to clean drinking water in our world. However, the same basic truth remains that water is central to life. And so, to offer an apostle water was to offer life. It was to acknowledge the basic human dignity and right to life of this other in others in our midst and, by extension, to affirm the life of our Living God.

As we ponder the welcome that Jesus calls us to extend and to receive one another in love and fellowship. If we wish to provide a safe and healthy future for our world’s children, if we wish to proclaim and enact God’s Kingdom in the tradition of the apostles, if we wish to serve alongside and care for Jesus, who promises to come to us in those who are vulnerable and underserved, then we must remain committed to protecting the basic rights and the basic dignities of all. We must be willing, even in the midst of gross injustice, to start small: to offer a cup of cold water, to affirm the right of all God’s children to life, and to life in abundance.

Water is a right, not a privilege. It is not something won for right belief or fortunate circumstances of birth, but rather a gift of sustenance and refreshment that comes from our Living God.

Thoughts and prayers
Godfrey
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**Hyperlinks to forthcoming Guildford Cathedral Services:**
Join the 09:45 Cathedral Eucharist Service for The Second Sunday after Trinity
[https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/worship/services/2020-06-28](https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/worship/services/2020-06-28)

**Front Cover:**
The Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul
Collect

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
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.
Parish Notices

• **St Mary’s is now open for Private Prayer:**
St Mary’s is again open to parishioners for private prayer. Specifically, the church is open on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00am and 2:00pm.

In order to meet Government and Church of England personal safety guidelines, parishioners are requested to observe the following protocols when visiting the church.

- Enter through North and leave by South doors
- Always use hand sanitizer (provided inside both door portals) when entering and leaving church. Antibacterial wipes are also available inside North door entrance for use at parishioners’ discretion.
- Refrain from touching any books or other publications in the church. You are invited to bring your own Bible and Prayer book with you. You may also wish to bring a printed copy of the weekly Parish leaflet to guide you to the appropriate prayers and Collect for the day but please take these away with you on leaving church.
- Observe 2 metre social distancing guidelines at all times whilst visiting church.
- Use only the pews which have not been taped off. (This is to maintain social distancing and also limit church cleansing requirements).
- Leave lighting on when leaving church and refrain from touching control panels during your visit.
- Lighting of Votive candles in the Norbury chapel is permitted.
- The Church hall will remain closed. Please be mindful that no cloakroom facilities will be available.

We hope to be able to give news of reintroduction of communal worship in the near future.

• **APCM**
Sunday 18th October is the revised date set for this year’s APCM. The meeting will follow the 10:00 service.

• **Cobham Foodbank Collection Point**
Please note that the temporary Foodbank collection point established at the Rectory has been moved back to the church inside the North door entrance.