Sunday 14th June - First Sunday after Trinity

From Simon

We bade farewell to Nicola last Sun. and she was delighted with her gifts and the 'e-card' signed by many of you. It was a rather low key celebration of Nicola’s time with us, but the best we could achieve in the current circumstances. She and the family will be moving to Cottingham over the summer, as soon as the house there is ready.

We now know that as from Mon. 15th June we will be able to reopen St Mary’s and welcome individual visitors for prayer and reflection. The usual access conditions will apply with social distancing and the use of sanitising gel. Full information about access will be found in the porch. This is a really welcome development as I know that many of you would like to just spend a few moments within the church at times during the week.

As part of the reopening announcement, the government is also now allowing small scale funerals, marriages and Baptisms to be held in churches under fairly tight conditions. I know that this will be welcomed by bereaved families in particular.

It is likely that we shall be able to hold regular services again in the church in the coming few weeks. There will be a number of logistic problems to overcome, but we will keep you informed.

The school is open again for a limited number of year groups and all seems to be well in the early stages of the return. Mr Grey and his staff colleagues have worked so hard to ensure things go smoothly - well done to the team!

Hymn: For the healing of the nations

1 For the healing of the nations,  
   Lord, we pray with one accord,  
   For a just and equal sharing  
   Of the things that earth affords.  
   To a life of love in action  
   Help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us, Father, into freedom,  
   From despair your world release;  
   That, redeemed from war and hatred,  
   All may come and go in peace.  
   Show us how through care and goodness  
   Fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,  
   Let it from the earth be banned;  
   Pride of status, race or schooling  
   Dogmas that obscure your plan.  
   In our common quest for justice  
   May we hallow life’s brief span.

4 You, creator-God, have written  
   Your great name on humankind;  
   For our growing in your likeness
Bring the life of Christ to mind;  
That by our response and service  
Earth its destiny may find.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i19LgSpPxmo

Hymn: Love Divine, all loves excelling

1 Love Divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restored in thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sw5ZCZeS32M

Collect: O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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

First Reading: Exodus 19.2-8a
The Israelites had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.’ So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. The people all answered as one: ‘Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.

Second Reading: Romans 5.1-8
Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though
perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

**Gospel: Matthew 9. 35 - 10. 23**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town. ‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

**Reflection on this Sunday's readings:**

Every time we check the news it seems that we are seeing people like sheep without a shepherd. At the time of writing, cities in the USA were in uproar because of the death of yet another African-American at the hands of a white police officer, and in the UK, we were all wondering what it's sensible to do, and what we should not yet do, as the lockdown begins to ease.

Across the world, governments struggle to know how to balance the need to keep people away from each other in order to contain the pandemic, while on the other hand, finding ways to allow people to work and so support themselves and their families.

Across the world, governments struggle to balance the demands of those who put them in power, and perhaps keep them there, with the needs of those who are powerless.

It doesn't always appear to be so, but we must remember that human power is limited, and human wisdom more so. No government wants to have to deal with the kind of crises that seem to erupt almost daily at present, knowing that their powerlessness will be exposed. No government can automatically know what to do for the best during times of great change, and especially in times of crisis.

We may all think we could do better! Well, maybe, maybe not.

Whoever we are, whatever the scale of the problems that face us, if we make decisions based purely on our own interests, that is probably not going to be great for everyone else. That's why governments which focus on the interests of one group of people, while appearing to ignore others, are found wanting. That seems to be what is happening in the USA, as the #blacklivesmatter movement makes clear.

Of course, it's always easier to see the faults of someone else, to look at another nation and make judgements on what they're doing wrong. It's harder to look inside our own nation, and inside ourselves. It's also hard to see how ordinary people like us can do might make a difference.

The example of Jesus and the disciples helps us to see that what lasts is not the power of governments, or of the rich, but the power of love and compassion.
We, the church, are the successors of the disciples for this time and place. And our mission is the same as theirs – to tell people about the good news of Jesus and his kingdom, and to show evidence that it is for real. That is what will make a difference in our communities, in the same way that police chiefs who understand and empathise with the anger of the American crowds make a difference.

During the pandemic, churches all over the world are finding ways to worship without being physically present together. Many services are put together from a recording of a song by one person, a recording of a reading by another, with a prayer from someone else, and a message from yet another person. Together they create a complete service. Each individual contribution isn’t much on its own, but together it becomes something much greater than the sum of the parts. So it is for us. We do our bit, and God weaves it into something much greater.

Sometimes it can be hard to see that God is at work though. Maybe the miracle we’d like to happen just doesn’t, maybe our prayers and witness just seem to fall on deaf ears. But seeing God at work isn’t about us persuading him to make things happen the way we want them to, at the time we think would be just right. It is God who works miracles, not us, and they happen in God’s time and in God’s way, not ours.

Our job is to look, to see, and to tell. God is at work, there’s no question about that. The question is whether we recognise his work, see his miracles, and tell others about them.

During the lockdown, there has been an enormous outpouring of neighbourly love – God at work! Who would have expected that so many people would rush to put themselves forward to volunteer to help others? It truly is a miracle!

Jesus did not tell his disciples just to talk, he told them to help people. It is through showing the love of God that our message has power, and is not just empty words. And, like them, we need to do it without expecting reward of any kind: “You received without payment; give without payment.”

If the love of God is in us, then that is God’s gift – and he has given it to us so that we can pass it on to all with whom we interact. We don’t need to be specially trained evangelists or healers, we just need to know the love of God, and to want – with all our hearts and with all our strength – to pass that love onto others.

Jesus told the disciples to pray for more labourers because the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. They found that they were the answer to that prayer.

So too, we pray for labourers because the harvest is still plentiful – there are still plenty of people who are like sheep without a shepherd, harassed and helpless. They need to know the love of God in their lives.

We are the answer to our prayer – we are the labourers. If we want to live in a better society, in a society where all are valued, then we need to work with God to let his love loose in our communities. We need to be his witnesses, proclaiming his love, making his love known to all.

Hello Children  Mary Mouse has gone to ground until we can all meet together again, but she will be sending regular letters.

Sunday Club will not meet until further notice. We will be offering a regular Mary Mouse letter. For details contact Gillian, gillian.pett29@gmail.com

INTERCESSIONS
Please refer any pastoral concerns for members of the congregation or members of the local community to any member of the Ministry team including our Co-ordinator for Pastoral Services, Mrs Frances Simms.
Please pray for the sick, frail, housebound and those in care. Please let the Vicar know about all cases of sickness and others for whom we should pray.

PLANNED GIVING: If you would like to give by direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme (our preferred option) please contact Pat Brown on - Mobile: 07811 563597 Email: patbrown2591@yahoo.co.uk. To give by other means please contact Mrs. Ann Seaman, mobile no. 07710 452647; email juliet.a.seaman@outlook.com. We are shortly going to provide a Giving Page on the parish website, which will enable you to donate directly.
Giving during the 'Lock-down’: We all deeply miss the opportunity to gather together for Sunday worship and the fellowship that this provides. One of the elements of our weekly coming together is the chance to making our regular offerings of money to support the work of the parish church. For some, donations will be continuing by arrangements with our banks, but a number of you give regularly by weekly envelope or open cash donation and no longer have this opportunity. We still have all our weekly costs to meet and your valuable and regular help is essential in seeing that this is funded. Please consider if you could continue to forward your envelopes and cash by asking a friend or neighbour to put them through the Vicarage letter box. Thank you in anticipation.

ST. MARY’S GREAT SHELFORD - WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Praying together as a community

At a time when we are all missing meeting to worship together perhaps there are things that we can do to help us feel that we are still a worshipping community, and that we are all thinking of one another. Here are three simple things that we could all do to pray together for each other and our community.

1. At noon each day we could say the Lord’s Prayer. You might like to go to the front door and stand in the doorway because we are praying not just for ourselves but for the whole community.

2. If you have a candle, light it at 7pm on Sunday evenings and put it in your front window. Pray for all those who are ill, all those who are alone, and all those who are caring for others. This looks beautiful and is a sign to other people that we are keeping the light of hope for them.

3. In the evenings before bed we could pray for each other, perhaps by saying the wonderful collect for aid against all perils from the Book of Common Prayer.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Services on video:

I am continuing to celebrate Holy Communion and other services for the whole community on Sundays. The videos and recordings are on our web site. In addition you can see them on our Youtube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTxJ8vYmoDeV0r4KAY5UYw ) or on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/Stmarysgreatshelford/ - you don’t need to use facebook to see our posts).

As you watch you can make a Spiritual Communion. The term ‘Spiritual Communion’ has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The form of prayer below offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with him, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly ‘eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ’, although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. Making a Spiritual Communion is particularly fitting for those who cannot receive the sacrament at the great feasts of the Church, and it fulfils the duty of receiving Holy Communion ‘regularly, and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun or Pentecost’ (Canon B 15).

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, ‘I am the Bread of Life’.

Daily HOPE: This is a excellent new national Church of England initiative for those who are especially isolated and do not have access to the internet. Launched last Sunday, Daily HOPE is freephone line, available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England’s weekly national online service. A section called Hymn Line will also offer callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled ‘Hymns We Love’, provides a hymn and reflection.
Great Shelford Parochial Charities: Delighted to report that the Parochial Charities this week received full planning permission for their proposals to build 21 new properties on their land adjacent to Mores Meadow. Full details of the scheme can be found here:-
https://gspc.org.uk/planning-approval-granted/

It is hoped that construction will begin in the autumn and that the first residents will occupy their new homes in Spring 2022. The Trustees are delighted that their long quest to gain planning permission for these genuinely low rental alms houses is about to come to fruition. The project will also deliver a park space and new allotments.

Cambridge City Foodbank: The Foodbank still very much needs our support at this difficult time. As St Mary's is closed until further notice, and Great Shelford Free Church are offering a collection point outside their front door, please can food donations be left there for the time being. You can also donate money directly to the Foodbank; the details of how to do so are on the Cambridge City Foodbank website.
https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

We are delighted to welcome visitors to St Mary's for private prayer and reflection.

Vicar: Simon Talbott
The Rev’d Simon Talbott 01223 847068

Contact Churchwarden: Mrs. Stella Nettleton
Mrs. Stella Nettleton 07763 887953

Reader/Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs. Maureen Dobson
Mrs. Maureen Dobson 01223 840076

d-mdobson@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Katharin Page
Mrs. Katharin Page 07710 518220

Pastoral Services Co-ordinator: Mrs. Frances Simms
Mrs. Frances Simms 01223 845895

Children’s work contact: Gillian Pett
Gillian Pett 01223 845895

gillian.pett29@gmail.com

Applications for baptisms, marriages and the calling of Banns of marriage should be made please to the Parish Administrator.

Small scale marriages and Baptisms are now permitted under quite strict conditions. Please make contact with the Parish Administrator in the first instance.

14/06/20