

The Parish Church of
St Mary the Virgin, Great Shelford



Charity No: 245456

Sunday 22nd November, 2020 - Christ the King

From Simon

We are over half way through the present lock-down and I hope we shall find out fairly soon what we will be allowed to do after Dec 2nd. In the meantime, thank you for your generous appreciations of the recordings of the Sunday services; it is good to hear your feedback. Thankfully, at least we are able to keep the church open and I encourage you to make a visit during our opening times 9.30am - 4pm every day. Our Sunday morning services continue to be available as recordings on the website and YouTube channel. The Sunday evening services will continue to be live by Zoom link.

Do take care and look after yourselves in the coming week.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath.

Hymn: Rejoice, the Lord is King

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:
*Refrain: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*
2. Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above: *Refrain*
3. His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given: *Refrain*
4. He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet: *Refrain*
5. Rejoice in glorious hope Jesus the judge shall come
And take his servants up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice,
The trump of God shall sound, Rejoice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhEUCSzaU8M>

Hymn: Crown him with many crowns

1. Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of love!
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.
3. Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round his piercèd feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.
4. Crown him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
Glossed in a sea of light,
Where everlasting waves
Reflect his throne - the Infinite!
Who lives and loves - and saves.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kPkighup8E>

Collect:

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Post Communion Prayer:

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading: Ezekiel 34. 11 - 16, 20 - 24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the

lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1. 15 - 23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel: Matthew 25. 31 - 46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Reflection on this Sunday's readings:

Today we are celebrating the Feast of Christ the King. If you were to look up the history and background of this feast day you would learn that it is a relatively new addition to the church's calendar, being less than 100 years old. It was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI as the "Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe" and was originally celebrated on the first Sunday of October. In 1969 it was moved to the last Sunday in Ordinary Time (the Sunday next before Advent) which is where we are now. Next Sunday is Advent Sunday, the start of a new church year, when we begin our preparations for the birth of Jesus Christ.

So today marks the end of the church's year and as such it should be a good time to reflect on the year gone by and look forward to the year to come, just as many of us do on New Year's Eve. Except that we have had a most extraordinary year and looking forward to an uncertain future is particularly daunting right now. No-one's life has been untouched by the effects of the pandemic. Even those who have avoided illness will have been affected by the illness of others. Families have been unable to meet to celebrate or to mourn. Businesses have failed and jobs have been lost. Nothing seems certain any more.

One thing of which we can be certain, however, is that one day Jesus will return to earth from heaven, bringing with him the beginning of a new earth and a new heaven. We know this because he told us so himself. In our reading from Matthew's Gospel we hear him telling his disciples that the Son of Man will come in glory to judge all the nations of the earth. It's a very descriptive reading in which we can picture Jesus as King in all his glory and also as Shepherd among his flock. We can see the sheep and the goats milling around as the shepherd begins to separate them, sheep to the right, and goats to the left.

However, the narrative very quickly moves from that pastoral analogy to talk about judgement and to describe in detail the basis on which each person is to be judged on that fateful day. Nothing is left to doubt is it? Whatever you did, or did not do, to any member of the family of Jesus Christ, you did it, or did not do it, to him.

There are differing schools of thought about who exactly Jesus meant by “the least of these who are members of my family” (in some translations “the least of these my brethren”). Some commentators say that Jesus is talking about his disciples; those to whom he entrusted the work of his mission after his death, resurrection and ascension. Others say that they are the Gentiles, the Jews having rejected Jesus as the Messiah. Still others have it that it means all of humanity.

Actually, it doesn't really matter which definition you prefer. The instruction in the reading is clear and unambiguous. We are to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, tend the sick and visit the imprisoned. All of the hungry, thirsty, strangers, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. Because each act of kindness and generosity is given not only to the immediate beneficiary but to the Lord Jesus himself. If we fail to care for others, whoever they may be, we fail in our duty to Jesus.

But, of course, it is not always easy to fulfil these instructions. We can give to charities, help out at food banks or lunch clubs, raise funds for good causes. In normal times we could even visit hospitals and prisons. All good stuff and not to be disregarded. But what about the people we encounter in our day to day lives who are sometimes difficult to love and to help? The homeless man in the shop doorway? The woman begging at the bus station? The seemingly drunk migrant worker on the park bench?

Or what about those every-day people whose needs are not necessarily material? The annoying work colleague who is always asking for help and never seems to learn? The elderly gentleman in church who talks on for ever about his health problems, holding you up when you are desperate to get on with things? The lonely neighbour who asks for help doing things you know she really could do for herself? The friend whose dysfunctional personal life seems to be her only conversation; who asks for advice but really only wants to talk about her troubles?

We must be there for these people too. We should offer practical, charitable help, food and water, clothing and comfort; yes of course we should. But we must also be prepared to offer the nourishment of patient listening, willing helpfulness, loving understanding and emotional support.

In Paul's letter to the Hebrews there is an injunction that we should not “neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Heb 13:2). What if we paraphrase that injunction to say that whenever we show kindness and compassion to strangers, we are in fact being kind and compassionate to God?

Because, whenever we do anything for the least of God's people, we are doing it for Jesus. And whenever we neglect the needs of our brothers and sisters, whoever they may be, we neglect Jesus. And we know, because Jesus himself tells us so, that we will be judged, every one of us, for how we treat his family, our brothers and sisters. And it will happen on that day when he comes in his glory, with all his angels, to sit on his throne and to separate the sheep from the goats.

And so we celebrate, today and every day, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe!



Hello Children Mary Mouse has gone to ground again, until we can all meet together once more. 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.

SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH

Before the pandemic we were already concerned about the increasing financial deficit we have been facing for several years. Some of our regular expenses, e.g. utilities, have been reduced during lockdown, but ongoing expenses have continued. Additionally the provision of sanitiser products, signage and other purchases connected with providing online services has added costs. Our greatest expense by far is the Ministry Share paid to the Diocese (currently £52,189 pa), which has to be found every month, under all circumstances. We still very much need the support of all our Church members and visitors.

Donations can be made by:

- Parish Giving Scheme (PCC's preferred option)
- Standing Order or Bank transfer
- Donating via the Giving Page on website <https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/>
- Traditional envelope donations (posted through the vicarage letterbox, or left in the collection box at the back of church). Please write your PIN on the envelope, if you have one.

To help further, at no cost to yourself, please Gift Aid your donations if you are able. Our Treasurer Pat Brown is happy to assist with any of the above. Contact details: phone 07811 563597 or email: patbrown2591@yahoo.co.uk . Thank you very much for all your support.

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/UCTxJ8yVmoDeV0r4KAyY5UYw> <<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTxJ8yVmoDeV0r4KAyY5UYw>>) or on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Stmarysgreatshelford/> <<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'.

Pauline Pugh RIP: Yvonne's daughter, Pauline, died at Arthur Rank Hospice last week after a long battle with cancer. I know that many people have been praying for Pauline, her husband Phillip, Yvonne and the family in recent months. Yvonne asked me to thank everyone for their kindness and support. Pauline's funeral will take place on Fri. 27th Nov. at 11am at Gt Shelford cemetery.

Gwen Gresham RIP: We learned recently that Gwen Gresham died on 29th Oct. We give thanks for Gwen's life and her fellowship with us while she lived at Old School Court - may she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Please also remember her son Andrew and the family. Gwen's funeral will take place at Cam Valley crematorium on Fri. 11th Dec. at 2pm.

Edward Bustard RIP: Edward died very peacefully at home last week aged 95. In recent years he had been very frail and was being looked after by Sonia at home. We give thanks for his life and all that he contributed to the parish and community over the years. Edward was, for many years, secretary of the Parochial Charity trustees and was the lead architect for the new Addenbrookes site when the hospital first moved out from central Cambridge in the late 1960s. Please also pray for Sonia in the days ahead. A private funeral will take place in the coming weeks.

ADVENT LECTURES: Whittlesford Church is hosting a series of on-line lectures on Creation, Conservation and Christ on their Whittlesford Parish Church Website. The lectures take place between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m. on Thursday 3rd December, - Feeding the world without costing the earth; Wednesday 9th December - Good news stories about conservation; Wednesday 16th December - Faith and hope in an age of climate change despair. Please log onto their website and select Events for further details.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



CONNECTIONS

provides a hymn and reflection.

Daily HOPE: This is an excellent national Church of England initiative for those who are especially isolated and do not have access to the internet. **Daily HOPE** is a 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',

We are delighted to welcome visitors to St Mary's for private prayer and reflection. The church remains open during this lock-down every day from 9.30am. to 4pm.

Vicar:

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Contact Churchwarden:

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Children's work contact:

Gillian Pett

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

22/11/20