

13th September 2020 14th Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

Our readings this week develop the theme of last week's readings, on reconciliation, into that of forgiveness. Some years ago I attended a theological conference on the theme of forgiveness. We looked at it from various aspects and in many situations. We wrestled with the real meaning of the word, whether only the victim could forgive [remember the vicar who forgave the men who had raped his daughter – what did she feel about that?], whether or not the perpetrator of the offence had to acknowledge they had done wrong before one could offer forgiveness, how to teach forgiveness in prison to men serving time for having beaten their children on the understanding they were chastising them under God's instructions and many more issues. One man, a peace activist from Northern Ireland told us that in the Protestant community there the idea of Catholics being asked to forgive Protestants or the other way round just did not work, because 'only God forgives'. We weren't sure about the theology behind that since we pray daily 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'. In other words, when we offend You treat us in the way that we treat others when they offend us.

There was a fascinating film on BBC1 last Saturday relating to the topic of forgiveness: 'Invictus'. It showed how the newly elected President Nelson Mandela overturned the decision by the National Sports Council to ban the hated Springboks, the number one symbol of the Afrikaners, who had subjugated the black races for years. In conjunction with their captain, Francois Pienaar, Mandela went on to work promoting them as a symbol of the new South Africa, to be embraced by all races, winning the World Cup in the process. I recommend watching the film and putting into the frame the groups that you find it difficult to work with, even those to whom the teaching of Jesus applies: 'Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you.' And then pray again: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Worship this Sunday

- ❖ 9.30 a.m. Ashbrittle Holy Communion
- ❖ 9.30 a.m. Thorne St Margaret Parish Communion - outside if fine; please bring your own chair. Plenty of room if you would like to come.
- ❖ 10.a.m. West Buckland Parish Praise
- ❖ 10.45 a.m. Nynhead Harvest Festival (Limited numbers)
- ❖ Bradford on Tone – no service because of the wedding the day before.

John Young's Sunday evening hymns, with reflections 7.00 p.m. Click on the Team Facebook page and from there on John Young's page.

10 a.m. 'The Home Service' bringing church worship to your front room. On 10Radio 105.3 FM
No Sunday podcast today as the team takes a bit of a break.

Weekday worship: Morning Prayer Monday to Friday is emailed to everyone on our database and accessible from our Team website. Hymn requests accepted.

Wednesdays: 10.30 a.m. **Diocesan Eucharist** led by Bishop Ruth or one of the Archdeacons. Available on Diocesan website.

Daily Hope No internet? Justin Welby has launched a 24-hour free phone line for worship and prayer, aimed at those who have no or limited access to the internet. Dial 0800 804 8044 to hear a greeting from the Archbishop and then a range of options including hymns, prayers & reflections.

Lectionary Readings for this Sunday

Genesis 50: 15-21 With Jacob now dead, his sons seek to avoid Joseph exacting retribution for the way they sold him into slavery in Egypt. Romans 14: 1-12 Paul deals with the thorny issue of whether meat eating is allowed. 'You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat... , each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.' Matthew 18: 21-35: 'How many times shall I forgive my brother or sister?..... seventy-seven times' – illustrated by the parable of the unforgiving servant.

Collect

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and
fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Worship next Sunday 20th September

- ❖ 9.30 a.m. Sampford Arundel Parish Communion
 - ❖ 9.45 a.m. St John's Parish Communion – please below
 - ❖ 10 a.m. West Buckland Lay led service
 - ❖ 10.30 a.m. Bradford on Tone Parish Communion
- No worship in the Ashbrittle Group

St John's Parish Church, Wellington re-opens with a service of Holy Communion on Sunday 20th September at 9:45. There is a booking system in place, so if you would like to come please pre-book by using the link on <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11407/>. If you don't have access to the internet you can also book by phoning Sharon Chorley on 01823 665254 or Christine Winhall on 01823 663253. The service is also going to be live streamed so you can watch on the Live Sunday Service page at the above web page and it will be available on there to view any time during the following week. For those without the internet, you can phone in to listen to the service. Please contact Christine or Sharon if you want more details.

Opening our churches for private prayer

- o Ashbrittle Group. Ashbrittle and Stawley churches: every Sunday 10 a.m. – 12 noon.
- o East Group. Bradford on Tone: Sundays 9am - 1pm and Wednesdays 1pm - 5pm.
West Buckland: Wednesdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Runnington: Sundays 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Langford Budville: Thursdays.
- o Sampford Arundel and Thorne St Margaret Sampford Arundel: Sundays 10.30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Thorne St Margaret Wednesdays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- o Wellington and Rockwell Green are not currently open for private prayer. We are looking to start worship at All Saints on 27th September (the latter subject to confirmation at PCC meeting on 23rd September)

Every little helps – Do you buy anything via Amazon? If so please consider supporting your local resource church, St John's Wellington. (provides resources for so much of our Team work) To set up a link to our charity, first head to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> before making your purchase and search for us by our charity number 1159809 (It is easier than searching for the name as there are so many St John churches!). This will cost you nothing but will help us. Other ways you can give free money to the church is by remembering us when you come to renew your home insurance. If you change to Ecclesiastical for this, they will donate £130 to your church. When you renew or change your car insurance check for similar schemes. Every little helps.

News from Mwenda – Bishop Robert writes:

Dear June

Good morning and thank you very much for your email. We are all fine here and everything is going on well with us. We did not have total lock down, many people are back at work. Schools have allowed examination classes to operate and Church gathering have been partially opened. Construction work is going on well around the country. Luapula has had isolated cases compared to cities. Many people are back at work. When funds are available the work will be done.

Yes we miss the girls though when they chance a phone they call us to say hello.

We hope this period of uncertainties can quickly disappear and let people move about freely. Wishing you God's blessings. With our love and prayers. +Robert

Church contact

Do ring the parish office number: 01823 665254 and leave a message. Or email stjohns.wellington@googlemail.com. Or phone any of the priests directly: Tim Treanor: 01823 662248, Alan Ellacott: 01823 669824, Martin Beaumont: 01823 400127, Selina Garner: 01823 66227 Maria Hearl: 01884 256380, [Editor]



Bishop Robert's visit to Wellington & Sampford in 2018

