



All Saints' Church

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Sunday 15th June

9.45am Morning Worship led by Revd Rachael Hawkins

4pm Messy Church

Readings

Romans 5 vv 1-5
John 16 vv 12-15

Hymns

STF 11 - Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
STF 106 - God, whose almighty word
STF 157 - God has spoken
STF 45 - Earth's creator, everyday God
STF 692 - Your hand, O God, has guided

Dear All Saints',

I'll start by saying Happy Father's Day to all those of you who are celebrating this weekend. As with Mothering Sunday, I'm aware that it can be a difficult day for some, and if that is that case for you, please be assured of our prayers. It's also a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the importance of praying for family life. There are families of all different sizes and shapes, families we know and those we don't. Families can give us stability, support, guidance, but family life is also not always easy. So perhaps today is an opportunity to pray for our own family, whatever it looks like, but also family life more generally as we grow, love and find our way through life together.

This year's series of 'Race Around The World' finished this week, a series that often has insights into family relationships. It's one of the programmes that we make sure to watch together as a family and I always enjoy seeing the outcome of different people's decisions on their position in the race, their experience of different cultures, the kindness of strangers and the way that so many competitors grow as they journey through the different countries with no mobile phone and only a relatively small amount of cash. This series was a particularly good one with the usual exciting finish (which I won't reveal in case anyone is waiting to see it!). I can't remember whether I was actually shouting at the TV as the competitors gradually raced to the end, but I certainly was in my head! Shouting at the TV is not a regular occurrence, but it is something I would have to confess to doing from time to time. Quizzes in particular are when I tend to do it. I know that the contestants can't hear me, but for some reason I shout the answer at them as if they can! I suspect I'm not the only one.

It's Trinity Sunday this week and in our service on Sunday we'll be hearing readings from John's Gospel and Paul's letter to the Romans, but the lectionary also gives Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31. We tend to think about Proverbs as a book of short, pithy sayings, but this passage speaks about wisdom, and in it, wisdom is given a personality, some call her Lady Wisdom. It's a passage that provokes a lot of discussion for those looking at it. In the passage it is clear that Wisdom is there at creation, she is described as a 'master worker' and God delights in her. There is also a confidence to her - she calls out and raises her voice, standing at the crossroads and at the entrance to the town, calling to "all that live". That confident picture and the link to wisdom means that feminist theologians have valued the passage. In 1 Corinthians 1:24 Jesus is called the Wisdom of God. As we reflect on the nature of the trinity what might this passage have to contribute to our reflections? I've certainly read in places that it was a passage that was thought about as the early Christians tried to work out who Jesus was. But it was the idea of wisdom calling out that I particularly noticed this week as I was thinking about this passage. How many actually listened I wonder? How many actually heard? How good are we at hearing and listening to wisdom? The Gospel passage from John talks about truth, that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth who will guide us into all the truth, but the truth isn't always easy to hear. As we go through life, are we seeking wisdom, are we seeing truth, are we asking the Spirit of Truth to guide us? And what does true wisdom look like? It's interesting to see wisdom portrayed here as a confident woman who was involved in creation, who God delights in and who calls out to everyone.

Blessings,
Rachael

Morning Prayer at 9am and **Eucharist** at 9.30am continue on Tuesday morning. Evening Prayer is on Fridays at 4pm. All welcome.

"Coffee, Chat and Play" meets on Tuesday mornings. All are welcome to enjoy refreshments and company in the Lower Hall from 10 - 11.15am.

Friendship Club meets in the Lower Hall on Tuesdays at 2.30pm. This week will be an outing on the canal.

Zoom Compline: the next Compline service will be **Thursday 19th June** at 8.45pm and the Zoom link is below. Everyone welcome.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74450348713?pwd=j3ADoG29FaACkOisMQ9WaEO2FVVfR.1>

Meeting ID: 744 5034 8713

Passcode: 1km7jq

Leprosy Mission Coffee and Lunch: over coffee on **Sunday 29th June** Matt Henderson will be talking about the work of The Leprosy Mission and will explain how our donations help perform the modern day miracle of curing this debilitating disease. A simple soup and roll lunch will then be available after the talk for those who would like to stay. Please sign up on the form in church or email me at spalls@mac.com if you would like to have lunch with us that day. Everyone very welcome. Steve Spall

Christian Aid: the Berkhamsted team are grateful for £3,538 raised during Christian Aid Week. In addition, there will be a considerable sum via Gift Aid.

Church Garden: the fruit bushes in the west church garden (by the kitchen window) are beginning to ripen as are the strawberries. There is also more rhubarb. Please help yourself! Doubtless the birds will take their share. While you are there do take the opportunity to walk the perimeter of the church since you will see, although some effort has been to restore parts of the garden, there is still much to be done. Please consider offering to give a hand with removing offending weeds and dead heading. We do have professional gardeners coming towards the end of July for work on trees and large shrubs. **"Every little helps"**. Thank you.

Prayer Breakfast: the next Prayer Breakfast will be held on **Saturday 21st June** at 8am in the Parish Rooms at St Mary's Northchurch. All are welcome.

Berkhamsted School is holding their **annual Tea Party** for local senior citizens on **Thursday 3rd July**. If you are interested in going, please see the notice in the hall for further details.

The next organ recital will be another on **Sunday 6th July**, when the organist will be Peter Wright.

As you know, Revd Rachael will be leaving us in July. Her **final service at All Saints'** will be on **Sunday 20th July**, followed by a church lunch. Her circuit farewell service will be at 3pm on 20th July at Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church. The **circuit welcome service** for our new minister, Revd Caroline Wickens, will be at All Saints' on **Sunday 31st August** at 3pm.

Prayer Requests:

For: Ida Rance; Margaret; Penny Perry; Chris Billington; Audrey and Paul Cox; Jonathan and Ann Hayes; Helen and Sarah; Marion and Julian; Fay and Eddie Cuthbert; Mark, Nicola and family; Terry; Lesley Whittaker; Chris;

We pray for our neighbours throughout the world whose lives have been changed by the events in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon, and pray especially for all those who have lost loved ones and homes due to the conflict. We pray that this conflict may not escalate further into neighbouring countries. We pray too for all aid workers who have died or been injured while trying to bring supplies to those in need and for their families.

We pray too for those who are caught up in war in other parts of the world, including Sudan and Ukraine and for those facing the threat of starvation in the ongoing hostilities;

We also pray for:

All who are refugees, especially those who are not receiving help to rebuild their lives in safety;

We pray that the issue of climate change may not be forgotten and all the nations may act to secure the safety of our world. We pray too for all whose lives have been badly affected by climate changes in the areas where they live, especially the people of Bangladesh;

We pray that all MPs may serve their constituents and country with integrity and care for all they represent.

We continue to pray for the children and their families of our church and town and all who work in the NHS; Social Services and the charities who are supporting the sick or frail;

We pray for those who are helped by Embrace the Middle East, Karibuni Children; the Leprosy Mission; Phakamisa, DENS; the Way Inn with Open Door and for all those who work in these organisations.

We continue to pray for those whose need is ongoing:

Paul Sear and his wife, Peggy; Julia Wright; Corinne & William; Gary Andersen; Charlie; Graham Rule; Clare Hancock; Heather Gifford; John Malcolm; Valerie Ruddock; Jenny Wells; Barbara Conway; Marnie Taylor; Leslie;



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