

MESSENGER AND SERVICE

SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2022

Farewell and thanks to Rev. Carolyn and to John

Please send me your news, thoughts, messages, helpful suggestions, requests etc. by Wednesday. Either by phone on 01295 711516 or email clairewilks@hotmail.co.uk



Services

Sunday 2nd October – Trinity 16

- 9.00am Harvest Communion at Chacombe
- 10.30am Morning Praise at Middleton Cheney
- 10.45am Holy Communion at Greatworth
- 11.00am Harvest Thanksgiving at Thorpe Mandeville

Tuesday 4th October 6 – 7pm

Animal Blessing Service

The feast day of St Francis - Patron Saint of animals

Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th October

10am Holy Communion Middleton Cheney

Sunday 9th October – Trinity 17

- 8.15am Holy Communion at Sulgrave
- 9.30am All Age Worship at Marston St Lawrence
- 10.30am Harvest Communion at Middleton Cheney
(Proceeds to go to the foodbank)

Simply Christmas

A session to help you plan a simple Christmas with the children and families in your community - an opportunity to gather resources and share ideas to bless your local community for Christmas, hosted by Charlotte Nobbs from Peterborough Diocese Gen2 team, with contributions from children's and family workers from our local churches.

Where? St. Michael's Church Rooms, Little London, Silverstone, Towcester NN12 8UP

When? Tuesday 18th October, 7:30-9:00pm
You are welcome to arrive from 7pm to meet the team, browse resources, and for coffee, cake and refreshments

Book **Simply Christmas** on Eventbrite – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/childrens-ministry-certificate-taster-session-simply-christmas-tickets-353601580847>

Farewell to Rev Carolyn and John

After a wonderful Deanery Service and Farewell on Tuesday we now finally release John and Carolyn to what we trust will be a long and happy retirement.

The last of Carolyn's services is attached.

We give grateful thanks for these and for all that Carolyn has done in the Benefice and Deanery. To John we give thanks for his faithful support and for the many times he has played the organ for us.

We pray for God's blessing on the next stage in their lives and ministry.

Foodbank

As expected there has been several calls on the Foodbank recently and we expect this to continue.

We are now running low on all items and would appreciate donations if you are able.

Any non-perishable food items with long use-by dates would be very welcome. Personal hygiene items, washing up liquid and toilet rolls are also helpful.



**Wrap and Fill Sessions on:
Saturday 22nd October and
Saturday 5th November
9.30am – 2.30pm
Is it in your diary??**

The Wrap and Fill sessions will be combined with fund-raising coffee mornings; they're loads of fun and there's plenty of time to eat, drink and chat as well as filling boxes!
Full details of what goes into a shoebox can be found on the website; www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

Bring along your shoeboxes and anything you can buy or make to go in them and let's send God's love to children in need from our community this Christmas!

If you are able to wrap shoeboxes in advance please contact Mary Phipps (07522807146). It is helpful to have ready wrapped boxes as a starter and she has some available for wrapping

SERVICE FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 2022

for those who worship at home

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to receive the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ....
Collect for today

HYMN to be read or sung

Brother, sister, let me serve you
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
til we've seen this journey through.

We are pilgrims on a journey;
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony;
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING is taken from Habakkuk 1 v. 1 - 4 & 2 v 1 - 4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.
O Lord how long shall I cry for help and you will not listen?
Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save?
Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous -
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watch-post, and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what He will say to me, and what he will
answer concerning my complaint.
Then the Lord answered me and said;
Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.
Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by faith.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

THE HOLY GOSPEL is taken from Luke 17 verses 5 - 10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

Who among you would say to your slave who had just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table?" Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink?" Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

ADDRESS

As I write this last address, I am reading from the new Bible given to me by the congregation at All Saints Middleton Cheney. It is beautiful, leather bound with gold edging on the pages. I am deeply grateful to have it and thank those who chose it for me very much.

However the Old Testament reading is from one of the lesser known books of Hebrew Scripture. It is a powerful book about God's will for the world, set in the midst of a war against the Chaldeans in the late seventh century. The prophet asks God the question, "Where is God when the world is in trouble?" He asks this as a person of deep faith, constant prayer and intimate communion with God. This does not stop him having an honest conversation with God!

The prophet is frustrated, just as we are today, over a world in trouble and over his own helplessness. He is persistent in seeking an answer saying that he will watch from his tower on the city wall. And God's answer comes but is brief. He assures Habakkuk that his waiting on God will not be in vain, but wait he must, even if the vision of peace and order is a long time coming. So for us today, when we think that God is indifferent, we are asked to see that He may be involved in a way that we don't recognise. There is no simple solution here to the world's problems, but there is a message for faithful believers. We must "live by faith" which will give us strength to continue. We must hang on to the vision that in time will come from God.

The link with the Gospel is that Luke reminds us of the gap between us and God and our need for humility before Him. Humility shaped the lives of Jesus first disciples. They lived with a faith that ultimately changed the world but they remained in obedient humility before Jesus. When they ask Him to increase their faith, Jesus replies with a visual challenge, urging them to contemplate the seemingly impossible. The mulberry tree was especially resistant to uprooting, with some of the deepest roots, but they were challenged to believe that God can do it through them. The power of faith, like the smallest of seeds, does not come from its great size, but from its ability to trust and believe. And we know that a band of disciples chosen to tell the world about Jesus did achieve the impossible. No corner of the world, including our own, is outside the knowledge of Jesus and His eternal promises.

Jesus describes His disciples as slaves and this was probably shocking for them, as it may be when we apply the word to ourselves. But when we freely choose to serve Him, He promises us liberation and a life that is real. The gap between us and God still allows us to achieve the impossible, but it only happens if we submit to Him. So we go on praying that in our time, He will choose to break down the barriers of unbelief in the power of His Love.

Amen

INTERSESSIONS

Praying Farewell.

God of our beginnings and endings,

I celebrate all that we have shared together and I ask for your blessing as we continue on our journey through life.

May the bond that is in our hearts unite us for ever, wherever we may be.

May the power of your presence bless moments of leave taking;

for the sake of Jesus Christ

Amen

As we journey on in faith, we give thanks for all we have achieved together, and I assure you of my love and prayers.

Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.

As I experience the pain of change and the insecurity of moving on, I pray that we will also experience faith and trust to carry us through.

Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.

As we walk through the good times and the bad, let us pray that we may never lose sight of the shelter of God's eternal love.

Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.

As I ponder my decision and wonder over the time ahead. I pray that the peace of Christ will reign in all of our hearts.

Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.

I entrust all of you, my brothers and sisters, into the care of Christ. I pray that He will shelter and protect you from all harm and anxiety. Grant us the courage to meet the future and grace to go forward into new things through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

THE BLESSING

May you continue in the peace and love of God who stays with us as the companion on the way. and the Blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you always.

Amen

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