

# MESSENGER AND SERVICE

SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022



## Rev. Carolyn's final week in the benefice

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](mailto:clairewilks@hotmail.co.uk)

### Services

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 15

9.00am Morning Praise at Chacombe  
10.30am Holy Communion at Middleton Cheney  
**Rev. Carolyn's final service in the Benefice**  
10.45am Said Mass at Greatworth  
6.00pm Evensong at Sulgrave

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September

10am Holy Communion Middleton Cheney

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Trinity 16

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

### Special Services

#### Rev. Carolyn's Final Services

25<sup>th</sup> Sept 10.30am Holy Communion at All Saints  
27<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm at All Saints  
Deanery Service followed by Supper

**There will be one very final service that**

**Rev. Carolyn will prepare for us -**

***The service for those who worship at home.***

Rev. Carolyn has faithfully prepared these written services almost every week since the beginning of the Covid pandemic and they have been greatly appreciated by many, many folk.

Attached here is the penultimate service. Thank you Carolyn for your faithfulness and thank you John for the many times you have played the organ for us!

#### Animal Blessing Service

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 6 – 7pm**

The feast day of St Francis - Patron Saint of animals

#### Harvest Communion

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am**

Please bring produce suitable for the Foodbank if you are able.

### Midweek

#### Jolly Teapot! Every Wednesday 10.30am – 12.30pm

Enjoy coffee or tea and cake and chat together in our lovely church. Do come and join us!

#### First Steps



For all pre-school aged children and their carers.  
An hour of singing, stories, fun, and activities;  
Every Wednesday from 2–3pm

**Contact Chris Wells (710076) for more details**

### 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October and**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 2022

## for those who worship at home

Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6 v 12

### HYMN to be read or sung

Fight the good fight with all thy might;  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;  
lay hold on life and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally.

Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;  
His boundless mercy will provide;  
trust and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life and Christ its love.

Run the straight race through God's good grace,  
lift up thine eyes and seek His face;  
life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.

Faint not nor fear His arms are near;  
He changeth not and thou art dear;  
only believe and thou shalt see,  
that Christ is all in all to thee.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell 1811 - 1875

### THE NEW TESTAMENT READING is from 1 Timothy 6 v 6 - 19

Of course there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the right time - He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is He alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to Him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

**This is the word of the Lord**

**Thanks be to God**

### THE HOLY GOSPEL is taken from Luke 16 v 19 to end.

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames. But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no-one can cross from there to us".

He said, "Then father, I beg you to send him to my father's house - for I have five brothers - that he may warn them so that they will not also come into this place of torment". Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them. He said, "No father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent". Abraham said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead".

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you O Christ**

## **ADDRESS**

In Jesus' day the problem of inequality was acute. As in most peasant societies, there was a very small number of extremely rich people and a very large number of the very poor. This passage in Luke's gospel contains some of Jesus' strongest and most explicit warnings about the dangers of complacency and wealth. Jesus was by no means the first to tell of how wealth and poverty might be reversed in the future life beyond the grave when we have died. In fact stories like these were so well known, as of course they are today, that they tend to be stories that have never been taken seriously or taken to heart. In the usual stories in Jesus' day, when someone asks permission to send a message back to the people who are still alive on earth, the permission is granted. The loved ones are warned in time to change their lives around. Here in our gospel, Jesus withholds that permission and the sharp ending points to all sorts of questions.

The last sentence resounds like a crashing chord on the organ. "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.

Jesus' mission on earth was the fulfilment of all the warnings of the prophets sent by God. He was the living example of love that submitted to the overwhelming lack of love in this world. He took on Himself the sublime pity of the Father for all of His creation made in His image. In complete obedience He laid down His life so that we could see in ourselves our sheer carelessness for one another, our hardness of heart towards the most desperate and deprived around us. He died that we might be forgiven and that through Him we might just listen, pick up the baton of His love and reach out through Him to others. But He knew that only if He loved us first, would we know how to love in return. Great is His faithfulness. Thanks be to God. Amen

## **PRAYERS**

Good and gracious God, all that we have comes from you; make us sensitive in all of our dealings with each other and with the world around us in all its beauty. Grant that we may try to reflect your generosity in our lives and listen to your will for us.

**Lord in your mercy,**

**Hear our prayer**

Loving Lord we pray that you will guide us to be good stewards of all that you have given us. Keep us alert to your call to notice and to act for those who are in need of help. Help us to see the ways we might use our wealth to aid those in the midst of disaster and to seek to reach out to help those in the greatest need.

Lord make us loving people and a caring church,

**Lord in your mercy.**

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for places of famine and hunger, for those overwhelmed with floods in Pakistan, for those in the midst of war through the dangerous power of others.

Lord make us a loving people, and a caring church.

**Lord in your mercy,**

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for those who are struggling with illness, those who are finding life difficult to bear. We pray for family and friends known to us who are struggling at this time.

Lord make us a loving people, and a caring church

**Lord in your mercy,**

**Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those we have lost who have died.  
We pray that they have entered into the fullness of joy and peace. We pray that this world can be restored and refreshed by the loving hearts of the church through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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

**THE LORD'S PRAYER.**

**THE BLESSING**

Grace, mercy and peace be yours from God who overflows in love for you and the Blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit be at your side and in your heart now and always.  
Amen

### Contacts

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## **For those interested in work with Children and Families** **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>