

**Sunday 24 October 2021**

**Last Sunday after Trinity**

**Rev’d John Reeve Vicar**

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[www.st-matthewsnetleymarsh.co.uk](http://www.st-matthewsnetleymarsh.co.uk)

**Sunday Worship**

**8.00am** Holy Communion **11.30am** Morning Worship

**Harvest Festival** : both services were really well supported and we have been blessed with a fantastic amount of fresh produce and tinned/packet goods as donations. Bob Lennie and his granddaughter Maisie did a brilliant job in clearing the church and taking all the donations to the Society of St. James Homeless Centre in Southampton. Thank you Bob & Maisie!The decorations in church look stunning – the flower team have again excelled themselves in making the church look amazing in this season. Thank you!

**The Netley Marsh Big Challenge**  –

We have been really blessed with all the donations that have been brought into church over the last couple of weeks – the stories of all the many and various Big Challenges completed has been fantastic to hear.

If you wish to contribute to John’s Marathon Challenge go to John’s just giving page : <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/revdjohn>

**COVID restrictions :** communion is now distributed from the altar rail with the opportunity, if you wish, to receive the wine from the cup **(intincting, dipping the wafer, is not permitted**). There will be no queuing for communion in front of the choir pews, so once the altar rail is full, the next person will proceed to the rail only when the whole rail is empty.

There will be no giving of the peace.

**Anne Hurst** : it was with enormous sadness we heard the news about Anne’s death last Sunday night. Anne worshipped with us at the Sunday mid morning service and she was always such a positive and really lovely part of our worshipping community. She will be missed on so many levels.John will be leading Anne’s funeral on **Thursday 4 November at 10.45am at Test Valley Crematorium, Romsey.**

**Remembrance Service** (14 November) : it has been decided that this year’s service will be held at the **War Memorial at 1045am** – NOT in church. It will be a much reduced and trimmed service – there will be significantly fewer uniformed groups present (as representatives only from each group will attend) – members of the community attending will be asked to ensure there is safe distancing during the service.

On that Sunday there will only be an 8.00am service in church.

**Meditation Spa is back** – John is leading sessions on 4 & 18 November – both at 8.00pm. Contact John to book your place!

**From John – our Vicar**

Do you ever experience the day getting so busy with things to fit in, you begin to lose any sense or perspective as to what really matters. Sometimes it’s not just the odd day but a whole week, and for some week after week – trying to fit everything in that comes our way. Family households especially face big challenges just to get done what needs to get done! But for all of us there can be demands which we feel we can barely keep up with.

When everything becomes really cluttered with the essential and not-so essential, seeing what’s important is difficult. And when we don’t see what matters, and when this is repeated, damage is caused – sometimes with huge consequences, but more often resulting in a nagging sense we’re missing what this life is really all about.

The story of Job we have been following takes Job, on this journey of discovery – so at the conclusion he sees what matters. At the outset his life is full of stuff – stuff which confirms the ‘success’ of his life. He has a flourishing business, his family is extensive, and his house is big. The problem is that Job only sees this material benefit – he is a man, successful yes in one sense, but also a man who fails to really see what matters.

He has three friends and advisers who give him lots of advice – lots of great theory, and words – but none of this scratches the surface of any solution for Job. It is only when the Lord God enters – and straightaway directs Job’s attention to the bigness of the natural world. He tells Job to look at it. And now because Job has been stripped of all his material stuff – he can look with a clarity. He immediately sees what is important, and he admits to God ‘...*now my eyes have seen you’*. He is seeing something important. Life starts to come alive for Job.

This is why one of our primary spiritual practices is to simply look at this amazing natural world – whether that be the sky, a tree, a flower, animal. Just look. Nothing clever, no theories to be tested – just look. Richard Rohr, the Franciscan spiritual guide, calls this our foundational building block for faith which is personal and biblical.

As we make this primary practice a regular daily practice, we begin to discover a natural union with the natural world all around us. We find a natural contemplation, a natural seeing. In a very real sense we are learning to see – something which many, many people go through life without ever catching. It is perhaps why so much of our institutional religion misses the point – it has never learned to see.

St. Paul in chapter 1 of his letter to the Romans writes ‘ever since the creation of the world God’s eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made’. Too often this teaching has been ignored or forgotten, so we become entangled with a whole lot of stuff which really matters very little. But when we see, we understand, and then we find security. The truth drops into our hearts that God’s love is real, never-ending and faithful – just like the rising of the sun each morning.

We really need this kind of seeing, because this seeing creates a natural space even in the most busy of diaries – and in this sacred space realignment with each other and all creation takes place. Is this not what we heard a few weeks back was the purpose of God – to realise the unity which exists and has existed for all time (Ephesians1). Take time this autumn to learn to see – perhaps it’s the very best season to do this in...

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**Collect for Last Sunday after Trinity**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Job 42: 1-6, 10-end**

Then Job replied to the Lord:

**2**“I know that you can do all things;
    no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
**3**You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
    Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
    things too wonderful for me to know.

**4**“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
    I will question you,
    and you shall answer me.’
**5**My ears had heard of you
    but now my eyes have seen you.
**6**Therefore I despise myself
    and repent in dust and ashes.”

**10**After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. **11**All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the Lord had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job%2042:10-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-13934a)] and a gold ring.

**12**The Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. **13**And he also had seven sons and three daughters. **14**The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. **15**Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job’s daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

**16**After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. **17**And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

**Mark 10: 46-end**

**46**Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. **47**When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

**48**Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

**49**Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” **50**Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

**51**“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

**52**“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

**Prayers for Last Sunday after Trinity**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Confession**

Let us make an act of confession.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newsness of life, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon for all our sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

 **We sing!**

1 Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

2 Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

3 Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.

4 Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5 Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

**Prayers of intercession**

***We pray for the Church : for discernment and patience... for unity and coming together as family, as one;***

***We pray for our community : for neighbours and shared life together;***

***We pray for our families and all who support and befriend us;***

***We pray for the recently departed :* Anne Hurst, Richard Barrett a*nd those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time :*** **David Vick(25th) Barbara Godwin (27th) Lionel Hewer (28th) Pattie Vick (30th) Margaret Williams (30th)**

***We pray for ourselves : that we may know assurance and grace in all things;***

*Let us draw all these prayers together as we say together*

**: Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**We sing!**

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| 1 | Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  That saved a wretch; like me!I once was lost, but now am found,  Was blind, but now I see. |
| 2 | ’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  And grace my fears relieved;How precious did that grace appear  The hour I first believed! |
| 3 | The Lord hath promised good to me,  His word my hope secures;He will my shield and portion be  As long as life endures. |
| 4 | When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  Bright shining as the sun,We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  Than when we first begun. |

**The Blessing**

**The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you always. Amen.**