

**Sunday 7 August 2022**

**Trinity 8**

**Rev’d John Reeve Vicar**

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**Churchwardens :**

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

**Sunday Worship**

**8.00am Holy Communion**

**11.30am Ministry of the Word**

**Restoration Project** : the PCC met on 1 August and it was reported that our architect Tim Sage is due to meet up with St Philps and Lee one of our local electricians to finalise the plans re the works to be completed. We are anticipating the tender process to begin any moment now. The PCC are planning to meet again in mid August – this time with Tim Sage – to finalise the current plans.

**Our churchwardens – Malcolm & Mel**  are the officers of the church who take the lead in managing (in partnership with the PCC) the care and upkeep of our building and surrounding site. **If you notice any part of our building and environment to be in need of attention, please do not hesitate to contact either Malcolm or Mel and they will happily ensure the matter is addressed and actioned**.

**September Benefice Patronal Festivals – IMPORTANT!** The Copythorne Patronal takes place on Sunday 11 September – **there will only be one service in the Benefice that day and it will be at 10.00am at St. Mary’s Copythorne** (parking in the Stanleys Own Car Park next to the church on Romsey Road).

**Year’s Mind : Remembering loved ones who have died** – each week we remember in our prayers the anniversary of death of loved ones. The current listing is being updated – the listing we use is now in church -**either TICK the name if the name is already on the list or ADD the name (capitals please with the date of death included)**.

**Flowers in Church** : Do you like to see flowers in church? If so, would you like to be involved in doing the arrangements, and/or contributing to their expense? You may like to contribute in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion. Just leave any contribution in an envelope marked ‘Flower Fund’. For further info contact Deana (023 – 80292157).

**Steam Engine Rally Friday 22- Sunday 24 July** Angela & Malcolm would like to thank everyone who contributed goods to sell at the Rally. Special thanks go to those who helped set up and run the stall over the three days. A superb team who between them raised a wonderful total of £564.05.

**Basics Bank Donations** : if you are able to donate tins, packet goods, toiletries and baby goods drop them into church in a bag clearly labelled Basics Bank – thank you!

**From John – our Vicar**

How can we catch what God is really like, and what his works look like when by his very nature we do not see a visible form? This is perhaps the number one reason why for many the things of God are sidelined – they’re not something which we bump into, collide with or force us to give attention. And yet... this whole question of God has huge implications for each and everyone.

The metaphor I find really helpful in understanding who and what is God is the metaphor of the restaurant. As with all metaphors it has its limitations – but it catches a profound truth which elegant, erudite analysis never quite comes close.

The restaurant is open for service. The tables are laid, everything looks so inviting. The waiters and waitresses are poised and ready to serve. The menus are printed, the lighting is perfect, and the kitchen is alive with energy and action – we know this because of the sounds emerging (happy and busy) and the aromas that filter under the kitchen doors. You see the kitchen is not in view – but we know it’s just beyond the doorway... and the food smells fantastically enticing and mouth-watering!

The restaurant doors are open wide so passers-by are free to come and go. There are no age restrictions or dress codes for this restaurant... and the food is all free of charge! The serving staff give out the menus – which are simple, direct, and uncomplicated. The serving staff are incredibly unfussy... their one intention is to allow the food to take centre stage.

The orders are made, the waiters move back and forth from the kitchen to the restaurant – and whenever they emerge from the kitchen there is a poise and grace about the way they move – it’s almost as though they have absolute confidence in the goodness of the dishes which they carry from kitchen to table. They never seem in a hurry, there is a tangible patience about everything accomplished – even though some dishes take a period of time to be ready. And the chef is never seen.

And yet... even though the chef is never seen, it is the chef who without question is the lead protagonist of the whole gathering. Occasionally the chef’s voice is heard in acclamation in the kitchen, whooping with joy at something taking place, but for the most part it is the chef’s vibrant presence filling the whole place – but with its centre in the hub of the kitchen – which gives any sense that it is the chef, the creator and maker of everything taking place, who directs, encourages, and cooks the full delight of this particular restaurant. The waiting staff are all taken up by the exuberance and delight of the chef by the way they are attentive to each other and the many guests from all kinds of backgrounds and nations...

For me, this metaphor catches the workings of our God. God, who is the Maker, the One who is rarely seen, whose kitchen is through an unlocked doorway, and who cooks up the most sensational dishes from the most natural and simple ingredients. The waiting staff are the angels – up and down the ladders, moving between kitchen and restaurant – serving the dishes, never getting in the way. The church is invited to take on this serving role together with the angels – and sometimes we join in with effortless ease, but then there are occasions when the church just makes everything so complicated, puts limits on who can enter the restaurant, re-writes the menus so they are unintelligible, and becomes so prominent and unwieldy that hardly anybody believes anymore that there is a chef beyond the doors.

**Sunday 7 August Trinity 8**

**Collect for Trinity 8**

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit ,one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16**

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. **2**This is what the ancients were commended for.

**3**By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

**8**By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. **9**By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **10**For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. **11**And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011%3A8-16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30184a)] considered him faithful who had made the promise. **12**And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

**13**All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. **14**People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. **15**If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. **16**Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

**Luke 12: 32-40**

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. **33**Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### Watchfulness

**35**“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, **36**like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. **37**It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. **38**It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. **39**But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. **40**You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

**Prayers for Trinity 8**

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 There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

2 We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

3 He died that we might be forgiv'n,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heav'n,
saved by his precious blood.

4 There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heav'n, and let us in.

5 O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

**Prayers of intercession *(prepared by Susie Curtis)***

Heavenly Father, as we are gathered here today, we give you thanks and praise for all that is good in our lives and our world. We also think of all what is bad and know that you are reaching out to people in need, they just need to let you in. Let us all here today pray for your loving kindness on all your people, in every corner of the world.

**Lord in your mercy**

Heavenly Father we pray for our younger generation, we pray that you watch over the children who are in need, the children who are hungry, and suffering in war and poverty. No child asks to be born, we pray that whilst some are having fun whilst being off of school and that gladdens a heart, but we pray especially for the ones who are being neglected. Father wrap your loving arms around all children and be with them.

**Lord in your mercy …**

Father we take a moment to ask for healing for those known to us as we hold their names in our hearts and minds……

Also, those who have asked for our prayers …………………….

Dear Father, we remember those who have died in recent days. ……………..

And those who’s anniversary of death occurs this week ............................

**REST ETERNAL, GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD AND LET LIGHT PERPETUAL SHINE UPON THEM.**

Father we ask for blessings on those getting married, we pray for Sarah and Lee, Sophie and Daniel, Phil and Aimee help them to know your love as they prepare for their weddings.

We welcome those who are to be baptised in the weeks to come, shine your light on them, and welcome them into the family of the church.

Father we pray that John and his family, have a safe and wonderful holiday, to recharge their batteries to come back and do your work in two parishes.

Father teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all elseand with a pure mind.

You father are our Maker and Redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, and our hope, teach us to love you, as you love us.

I would also like to share this poem that my 10-year-old great niece wrote, as it makes me think of you oh Lord.

**Stars that shine through the night**

**A sun that stays all day, so bright**

**Explosionsin the galaxy, crashing and tumble, like an angry sea**

**Every colour, every shape, every size,**

**A pretty site never lies.**

**Look through a telescope at the constellations,**

**Space is a minefield of creations**

**Moons, planets, endless time**

**Space is a work of art divine.**

**Multi-universes and black holes**

**Space is the home of all our souls.**

**Endless, everything, extasy**

**Space is anything we can be.**

Please dear Father be with us always and everywhere, on earth, and in the universe.

*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!**

1 O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

2 O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

**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.**