

Collect and readings for Trinity 2

COLLECT

Lord,
you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

READINGS

Old Testament, the prophet Jeremiah chapter 20
verses 7-13

Old Testament, Psalm 69 verses 8-20

New Testament, St Paul's letter to the Romans
chapter 6, verses 1b (second half of first verse)-11

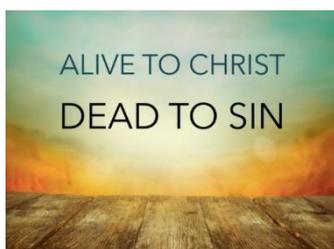
New Testament, Gospel of St Matthew chapter 10,
verses 24-39

A reflection from Revd Maureen



It seems to me that there is an undercurrent of unease, unrest and warning in our readings today which perhaps is pertinent to where we find ourselves at this particular moment in time and what we have seen on our TV screens and read in our newspapers. Our OT reading from the prophet Jeremiah is crying out to God for direction, guidance and courage with a shout of praise at the end of the passage. If you read the book of Jeremiah – and it is long, difficult and uncomfortable reading in places – he has a far from easy and calm life and a difficult message to proclaim which is not well received at all and he suffers for it.

The Psalm set for today is also a desperate prayer to God for deliverance, full of despair and helplessness.

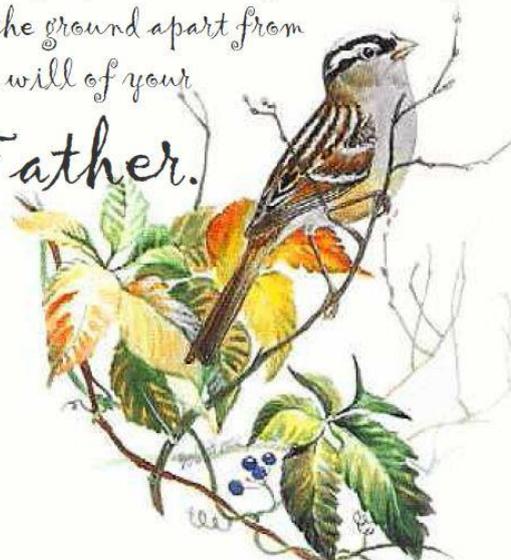


Paul's letter to the Romans appears to be addressing a difficult time for the people of that city, and Paul reminds the Christians there that following Christ doesn't assure

us of an easy ride through life. However, he reminds us that just as Jesus conquered death and sin, so we shall rise above all that befalls us if we hold fast to the faith which we profess.

Jesus, too, in Matthew's Gospel is explaining things to his disciples – not just way back then, but now as well – to you and to me. This reading is perhaps the basis for what Paul wrote, because Jesus is reminding and reassuring how much God cares for each us, how precious we are in his sight, and that he knows us inside out and will always be there to protect and to guide.

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.



So don't be afraid! You are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:24-33

So a great turning around in our readings today, which we probably need to hold onto in these present days: a turning from despair and gloom and uncertainty about what is going on in our world to a holding fast to our faith and God's promises of love and presence. Love is the underlying theme – we are not just asked or expected to love those who love us, but to see Christ in those that we struggle to get along with and who make our lives a bit more difficult or awkward than they might be. It is relatively easy to see Christ in those we love and know well, and who think and feel as we do. How much more awkward is it to understand that God loves not just us who follow his Son, but also those who do not and who perpetrate violence and disorder, unrest and disquiet. These are sobering times, with so many underlying currents going on around us. Perhaps we should pray the prayer for today – the Collect – every day this week to try to focus our hearts and minds on what is true, and good and fuelled by love.

Maureen

Bible Quiz

Answers from last week: 1. C); 2. B); 3. C); 4. A); 5. A); 6. B).

Now for this week's quiz questions – 7 this time!

1. What is omitted from the beginning of St Mark's Gospel?
A) Jesus' family tree; B) The birth narrative; C) a list of dates, places and who was in charge?
2. Who was the best friend of the boy David? A) Jonathan; B) Saul; C) Samuel.
3. Who were the three men saved by their faith from the burning, fiery furnace?
A) Abraham, Moses and Elijah? B) Matthew, Mark and Luke; C) Shadrach, Meshak and Abednego.



4. What was the name of Moses' father-in-law? A) Jethro; B) Aaron; C) Methuselah.
5. For what amount of money did Judas Iscariot betray Jesus?
A) 10 pieces of gold; B) thirty pieces of silver; C) 50 denarii?
6. Who restored Paul's sight to him, after he was blinded on the road to Damascus?
A) Stephen; B) Ananias; C) St Peter.
7. What relation was Elizabeth to Mary, Jesus' mother?
A) Aunt; B) Sister; C) Cousin.

No cheating now – no resorting to Google. If in doubt, consult your Bible!

Dilly Bradley

writes on The Book of Common Prayer

This was born out of the Protestant reformation in 1549 under the hand of Thomas Cranmer who was tasked with producing a liturgy in the English language. With the Accession of Elizabeth 1 it was modified in 1552 to reflect the views of more traditionally minded worshippers and clergy. In the next 100 years and the trauma of the civil war the version we now use today emerged in 1662 to become the official service book of Anglican Church.

It was rooted in the liturgy of the Roman (cf Celtic rite in the North) rite in particular that of Sarum in the South. Apart from the Communion and occasional services, it includes an amalgamation of the daily monastic offices. These were based on Lectio Divina or the reading or chanting of biblical passages and Psalms which we now find in the Morning and Evening prayer. The tradition of Evensong echoes down the centuries through our cathedral music. Though my father used to say I should have heard the villagers singing Evensong in the village church before the war.



The Psalms are a great consolation praising and arguing with God. They follow a pattern of generally two parts to each verse the second after the colon echoing first. Though generally recited in alternate verses, in my experienced they flow so much better in thought and word when one half of the congregation declaim the first and the other respond in the second half. No space to discuss the Quicunque Vult but do consult the rubric (fine print instructions!)

Best wishes

Dilly

Information about reopening of churches in the Benefice for private prayer

- Opening hours for Bishops Lydeard, Cothelstone and Lydeard St. Lawrence churches can be found on page 7.
- The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Combe Florey is not re-opening immediately.
- Information about West Bagborough church will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Barber Shop Blues: Estoril – The Chair (as experienced by Michael Gale)

If you walk from the eastern end of the beach towards Lisbon, you can find a little cobbled lane rising in the shade of umbrella pines to cliff-top-height. There are some nineteenth century villas there, that back on to the railway cutting, and despite being attractively cloaked with purple bougainvillea, have seen better times. In the front room of one, old Piccolo pursued his barber's trade.

There was something of a family atmosphere inside. Two elderly men on a bench, and a lady whose four-year-old grandson was just visible in a large and ornamented barber's chair. The men were friends in for a chat. The boy was lifted out of the chair where he had been raised up sitting on a carpet covered wooden box.



I went to take the chair. Piccolo stopped me with as imperious a gesture as his four-foot-ten stature could muster. He went to lower the level of the chair, to deal with my greater height. He stamped on a pedal at its base. Nothing happened. The chair maintained all the lofty dignity that its silver painted wrought-iron frame possessed.

Stuck up like that there was no way my haircut could go ahead. Amid general hilarity one friend suggested that Piccolo stood on the box. So he did, and made a good job of my back-and-sides. Then there was a splintering noise as the box collapsed. Piccolo was down to floor level and couldn't reach the top of my head at all. I came away with an early version of today's Kim Jong Un's style.

Michael



Courtesy of [The Korea Times](#)

The Big Snowfall another tale from the Exmoor Forest Hotel by Julie Woodward

We had some pretty severe winters during the twelve years we were at the hotel, but nothing like the one of 78/79. It began between Christmas and New Year. The weather got colder and colder and one morning the snow started.

Around lunchtime the bar door opened and a family came in to enquire what the weather was like over the Devon border. Bearing in mind that the border was about two miles away the answer was probably the same as in Simonsbath. He said they were on their way to Morthoe for the New Year. Steve, one of our locals advised against it. He was overruled and off they went.

About an hour later they arrived back and asked if we had a room. By the afternoon we had captured a few couples and a coach party on its way to Lee Abbey. It is easy to slide down to Simonsbath, but impossible to get out if the weather is against you.

We had 25 people stranded for at least a week. We managed to feed them all as we kept well filled freezers. There were only two choices on the menu. Take it or leave it.



We had a very Happy New Year, no one could check up to see if we closed on time. One of the little girls became ill, the policeman managed to walk with a doctor to the village to see her. He said she had pneumonia and must go to hospital. Her father was an Air Vice Marshall, and he summoned a helicopter from Chivenor to take the child and her mother to Barnstaple. We gave them a blanket to wrap her in for the walk to the field. Later in the summer they came back for a cream tea, returned the blanket, and thanked us for looking after them.

Footnote:- The temperature was -23, the central heating oil froze in the pipes, so life was quite a challenge. When the thaw began, the coach driver managed to start the engine, but it wouldn't move as the wheels were frozen to the ground. The Lee Abbey folk had to be taken out by land rover via Barnstaple.

Julie

Peter Harrison remembers "When I was a Lad"



Recent contributions to InTouch from Adrian and Gavin re 'The Seekers' singing group has prompted me to pen a few words about one of my lockdown activities. I have been playing "catch-up" with a batch of CDs purchased at the charity shops but never listened to.

There were two CDs, "The Best of Gilbert and Sullivan", those two gentlemen that wrote and composed a series of operettas that are performed by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

As children we grew up with Gilbert and Sullivan as when the D'Oyly Carte came to our town our parents, who were avid followers, booked most of the presentations and were very familiar with the compositions. These they would sing at home and we soon picked up the tunes and words and joined in. My favourite is When I was a Lad, from H.M.S. Pinafore, the first verse is familiar to many and goes:

*When I was a lad I served a time
as office boy at an attorney's firm
I cleaned the windows and I swept the floor
and polished up the handle of the big front door
I polished up the handle so carefully
that now I am the ruler of the Queen's Navy*

The partnership of the noted humourist William Schwenk Gilbert and the man who was then Britain's most promising young composer, Arthur Seymour Sullivan began in earnest in 1875 and was due entirely to the insight of the impresario Richard D'Oyly Carte.

New productions were to follow over the next 20 years including The Mikado, The Pirates of Penzance, The Gondoliers and more.

The operettas were performed at the London "Opera Comique" whose capacity and poor facilities so dissatisfied Richard D'Oyly Carte that he built his own theatre "The Savoy" and "The Savoy Hotel" for good measure.



From about 1900 the D'Oyly Carte players expanded into the provinces and then throughout the remainder of Britain. The hay-days came in the 1920s and 30s with most recordings made in the 1930s and 40s.

Sullivan died in November 1900 and Richard D'Oyly Carte six months later. Gilbert lived on until 1911 enjoying his role as an elder statesman of the British Theatre. The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company folded in 1982.

The family home of the D'Oyly Carte family was Coleton Fishacre at Kingswear, Devon, now a National Trust property. This evocative 1920s Arts and Crafts-style country house was built by Rob D'Oyly Carte, the son of Richard.

To return to When I was a Lad, and the not so well remembered final verse of which the final two lines are:

*Stay close to your desk and never go to sea
and you all may be rulers of the Queen's Navy.*



With sincere apologies to the late Rear Admiral Roger Morris.

Peter

You can hear and see this song performed by [clicking here](#)

From Gavin and Maureen Lord

Hello again

Yet another magnificent collaboration between Canon Chris Bishop and his brother in law David Pickthall. This is the 12th edition and is called 'Garden Gate'.



<https://youtu.be/RZ1DRSjN4X4>

Best wishes

Gavin & Maureen

Do You Believe It?

A thought for the week by Katharine Smith



Some friends of ours love going on cruises, often two or three times a year. A few years ago they went on a Mystery Cruise sometime around October/November. Because they didn't know where they were going the company they booked with sent a letter to all the

passengers saying that they should pack clothes suitable for the UK at that time of year. Our friends told us that once at sea there was a lot of moaning from people who had come prepared for sunshine in hotter climates - sundresses, shorts and cotton t-shirts. As our friends said, they either hadn't read the letter sent to them or they had read it but didn't believe it.

I've been reminded of that story this last week as we begin coming out of the lockdown and dipping our toes in the waters of social intercourse.

Of course the fact that some passengers on that cruise had come with the wrong clothes in their suitcases didn't harm anyone else and they only had themselves to blame if they were cold throughout the cruise!

But how different is the situation over this Coronavirus. Early on we were given instructions to Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives. And mostly that's what we all did even though for many people it meant feeling lonely, isolated and afraid. But what about those who either didn't read or listen to those instructions at all or, if they did, didn't believe them?

As I see footage of huge crowds of people on beaches or in long traffic queues to get somewhere in the Peak District or gathering in London for a protest or demonstration, I wonder what they think they're doing. Aren't they risking their own health, or even their lives? Don't they realise they might be risking other people's health, or even their lives? Do they think they have some magical cloak that will protect them from harm? I can only imagine what "frontline" NHS workers and carers feel when they see people gathering in large numbers and wonder how they'll cope if there is that second spike in infection.

It's wonderful that things are beginning to open up and I'm certainly looking forward to having my hair cut. The rewilding style I've been cultivating has got a bit out of control and who knows what's living in it now! But even as we do this, even as we begin to visit shops or come into our churches for private prayer let's not forget the still present virus, the still present risk and danger. Please let's still Protect the NHS and Save Lives by consciously keeping to distancing and gathering and bubble guidelines - for our own sake and also, perhaps more importantly, for the sake of others who may be more vulnerable than us.

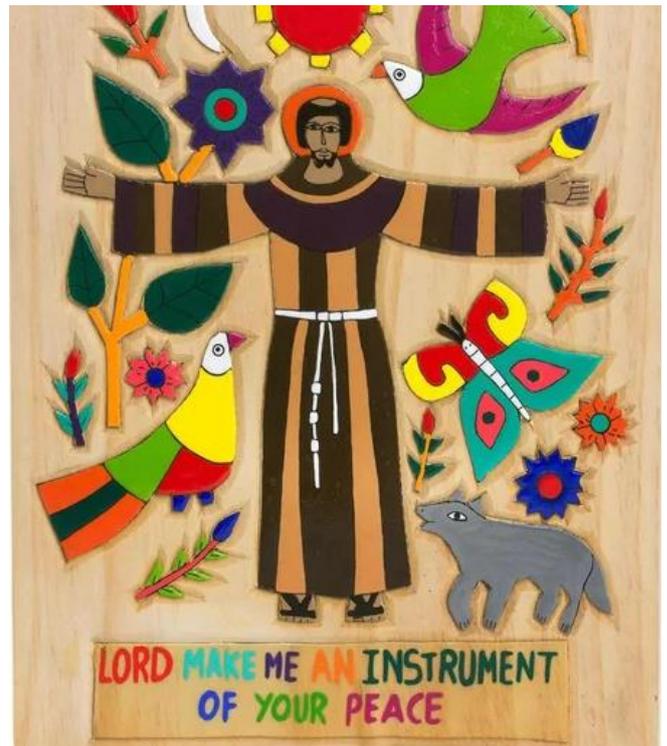
STAY HOME > PROTECT THE NHS > SAVE LIVES

My Favourite Prayer by Barbara Vearncombe

Do you have a favourite prayer? I do!

When I was in Sunday School in Stogumber back in the late 40's and early 50's I was introduced to the prayer of St Francis of Assisi and it has always stayed with me and it is how I try to live my life. Many years later my daughter gave me a little book in my Christmas stocking which just contains that one prayer and I treasure it. My friends who go to Lydeard St Lawrence church will know that I often include it when it is my turn to lead the Intercessions. It is as follows:-

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me sow love:
Where there is injury, pardon:
Where there is doubt, faith:
Where there is darkness, light:
Where there is despair, hope,
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



It has also been put to music and is called 'Make me a Channel of your Peace'. I really love the tune so much that I have left instructions with my children that I would like this sung at my funeral.

Barbara V.

Our Prayers

Heavenly Father the light of your revelation brought the Disciples the gift of faith in Jesus your Son. Through their proclamations from the housetops many came to faith and so we give thanks for that faith we have inherited in Christ Jesus, and for having been enriched by him in knowledge and love.

Lord in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

The Lord Jesus built his Church on the apostles. United with them, in faithfulness to the Gospel's teaching and way of life, we pray for our individual and communal roles in this Benefice. We pray for our bishops, that they grow in union with all the saints, share the zeal of the first Disciples, and lead us by the grace of the Holy Spirit,

Lord in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father we pray for all who, like the apostles, are persecuted for their faith, and for each of us, that we might be faithful when we are ridiculed or insulted for practising our religion. We pray for the poor and the oppressed, and those who live in war-torn parts of the world.

Lord in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father we pray for the sick and the suffering. For those undergoing treatments and surgery and those who have contracted Coronavirus. For those convalescing and those who are recovered, that through the intercession of the apostles, that they may all experience the light of the Gospel. Today we pray especially for: Pat, Peter, John, Gwen, Joan, Bobby, Lucinda, Norma, Roger and Wendy, Revd. Martin and Sally Perry, and for all others known to us.

Lord in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father we remember those who have been united to Christ in a death like his and those whose faith is known to you alone, and we pray that they will be united with Christ in his resurrection. Today we remember Andrew Sillett in our prayers.

Lord in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father we rejoice in the call to belong to the Church, to believe in the Gospel, and to be united with the successors of your Apostles.

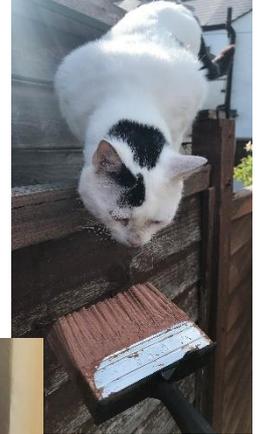
Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Spike's column



Hello my dear friends! How nice to see you here! I know that whilst the lockdown is easing some of you are still staying at home to be on the safe side. Don't worry – I've got some more ideas to help you out!

You may think that you have run out of jobs to do at home. That was what Mr Human thought until I pointed out that the garden fence is in a disgraceful state. I'm pleased to say that Mr H has now started painting it, under my supervision, of course. Look – he's already missed a bit!



humans' TV time by the simple method of sitting in front of it when they've reached their limit for the day.



Now is a good opportunity to check that you're not buying things that you already have enough of. Clearly my Humans have far too much loo paper but are cutting the cat food stocks *very* fine.

Finally, I encourage you to write something for InTouch, but it does take a long time. You can see here that I'm quality checking my column because Mr H is such a bad typist.



Anyway, I hope you enjoyed my latest column. I just have to print it out now!

See you all next week!

Love from *Spike* xxx

TV Recommendation from Revd. Maureen

In these times of awful scenes and reports on our TV screens, I would like to recommend watching a programme on Channel 4 which I am enjoying at present and which really tips the scales in favour of hope, commitment and love in the face of adversity, greed and attempted destruction.

It's called 'Work on the Wild Side' and is about several vets and veterinary nurses who have chosen to work in South Africa with the aim of conserving endangered wildlife. Many young animals – elephants, rhinos, monkeys, hippos, giraffe etc. are rescued having been abandoned, dumped, injured or seen their mothers killed by poachers and be at risk of death. They are cared for, often to an unprecedented level, until they are fit and rehabilitated to be returned to the wild.



Watching this programme should help to restore our faith in human beings, and the stamina and commitment of those doing this work is remarkable. I highly recommend this programme so do investigate and watch a few episodes if you can, to see what admirable work is going on in the world by these unsung and committed people, many of them quite young and many who are dedicating their whole lives to conservation to the extent that they rarely see their families in the UK, except for a couple of weeks probably once a year. I think there are about 20 1-hour episodes, and they can be found on All 4. Warning: you will have fun and laugh at some of the scenes, but you will cry at others!

Maureen

Benefice churches are now open for private prayer



The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Bishops Lydeard

will re-open for silent, private prayer for four hours each week, starting on Sunday 21st June.

Sundays: 09.30 to 11.30

Wednesdays: 09.30 to 11.30

Social distancing measures will be in place, including a one-way system and 'single use' of pews.

Please use the hand sanitiser provided on entering and leaving the church. Disposable gloves are available on request from the stewards.

The Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Cothelstone

is now open for individual prayer and reflection. Allowing this to continue depends on us adhering to government instructions and guidance, and we therefore ask that all visitors read the notes in the church porch before entering.

The Church of St. Lawrence, Martyr Lydeard St. Lawrence

is open for private prayer from 11am to 12pm on Sundays and Thursdays

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Combe Florey is not re-opening immediately.

Information about West Bagborough church will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

