

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

Sunday 18th July 2021

7th Sunday after Trinity



A warm welcome to St Michael and All Angels this morning as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist. Please be aware of the arrangements we have in place to keep everyone safe and follow the directions and guidance of the stewards.

Readings: Jeremiah 23, v. 1 - 6; Ephesians 2, v. 11 - 22

Gospel: Mark 6, v. 30 - 34 and 53 - 56

Coronavirus Restrictions

Detailed advice from the House of Bishops Recovery Group is not expected until next week. However, in a letter to all clergy, Bishop James draws our attention to the UK Government's 'Covid-19 Response: Summer 2021' document and also to the advice on Weddings ('Coronavirus (COVID-19): Wedding and civil partnership ceremonies, receptions and celebrations: guidance from Step 4.') which refers to numbers attending and specific activities such as singing: "Social distancing and wearing a face covering are now a personal choice. People are encouraged to respect other attendees and those working at events who may wish to adopt a more cautious approach. **The government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas** such as public transport"... Likewise as for singing, music and performances the guidance states: "There are no limits on the number of people who can sing or perform indoors or outdoors. However, **some activities can also increase the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19. This happens where people are doing activities which generate more particles as they breathe heavily, such as singing, dancing, exercising or raising their voices.** The risk is greatest where these activities take place when people are in close contact with others, for example in crowded indoor spaces where people are raising their voices."

The PCC meets this week and we hope that more specific advice and guidance will have been received by then. In the meantime, **all our existing arrangements remain in place.** We are sure you will agree that we need to show caution in changing the protocols that have helped to keep us all safe during the past year. Please be assured that we will consider all advice and recommendations and we ask for your patience as we work to devise the best way forward.

Wendy Nicholas

Term has ended and with it the role as Headteacher at our Church School for Wendy Nicholas (although she will not officially retire until the end of the school year in August). Coronavirus restrictions have limited events to mark Wendy's 17 years in charge, but we were delighted to welcome Wendy, other members of staff and the KS2 pupils for the Leavers' Service on Wednesday afternoon. Each of the pupils who is leaving to go to Secondary School was presented with a Bible by the Rev'd Andrew and a Dictionary by John in his role as Chair of Governors. During Wendy's time at Beatham the links between the Church and the School have grown ever stronger, and Wendy's leadership and encouragement in developing these links resulted in a special Bishop's Award in 2015 that recognised her outstanding work. We wish Wendy every happiness and success in the next chapter of her life and we look forward to welcoming her back to St Michael & All Angels before too long.

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Prayers for the recently Ordained

We continue to pray for those ordained as Deacons and Priests in the past weeks and also for those called to ordained ministry in years gone by.

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer God, who call your faithful people into a life of service, help us to nurture and hold in love all those who are ordained at this time in the life of your Church. Teach us your ways, that we might recognise your Mission in the world, your compassion in caring for others, and your love deep within every human heart.

We ask this in your Holy Name, as one undivided Trinity of love, now and for evermore. Amen

Wedding

Lauren Dainty and Timothy Abbitt are to be married here in St Michael & All angels on Saturday 31st July. We wish them every happiness in their life together.

Milnthorpe Food Bank

Thank you for your continuing gifts. As before, if you have brought any contributions today, or if you plan to bring gifts in future weeks, please leave them in your pew after the service. Your previous gifts have all been delivered to the Food Bank and have gone to support needy families. Please continue to help our support for the Food Bank which, sadly, is still very much needed.

Lay Ministry Training

A special taster event has been held to showcase exciting lay ministry opportunities available through the Authorised Local Training Pathway.

ALTP is designed to encourage lay people of all ages and backgrounds to explore further what God may be calling them into. It is flexible, adaptable to character and context.

It begins with a one year commitment during which the participant is given the chance to explore where they feel God may be calling them while developing their gifts and skills and learning about ministry.

If you are interested in finding out more about Lay Ministry, please speak to Andrew or Viv.

Trivia

Thursday last was a good day, weatherwise. It happened to be Saint Swithun's Day, and tradition has it that the weather on that day is a precursor of similar weather for the next 40 days! This tradition dates back to July 971 (not, repeat not 1971!) when Swithun's relics were moved from his grave outside Winchester Cathedral (where he had been Bishop) to a tomb inside the building in contravention of his expressed wishes. It apparently rained that day and on every day for the next 40, thus establishing the legend.

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