

All Saints Church, Kempston  
St James's Church, Biddenham

## Virtual Church News

20 June 2021

3rd Sunday after Trinity



Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please call Jacqui on 0778 6886 710 or email her at [stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com](mailto:stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com)

### This Week's Services

- Sunday 9.30am: Service at All Saints, Kempston
- Sunday 11.00am: Virtch (Zoom)
- Monday 9.00am: Morning Prayers (Zoom)
- Wednesday 6.00pm: Virtch (Zoom)

### Services in Church

This Sunday we warmly welcome you back to All Saints Church with a service at 9.30am. There is no need to book. Please remember your face covering (unless you are exempt from wearing one).

***We look forward to seeing you in person!***

### A Reading for the Week

#### Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

### Message from Revd Eric Lomax

The inhabitants of the ancient Near East did not see the world in the same way that we do. To them, the universe "not the same kind of universe that we understand" was divided into the land of the created order, and the oceans of chaos. Creation was formed through the Spirit moving over the face of the water (chaos) (Genesis 1v1). It was Jesus who exposed the inadequacy of this mythology by reminding us that the real chaos is within us, and that is what we need healing from.

This simple piece of knowledge was so important to the early Christians who faced persecution, suffering and isolation for their faith. They, like the early Jewish Zealots wanted God to remove the chaos and conflict of the Roman regime through violence and force. What was inside did not matter, it was what was outside that they wanted God to mend.

Mark's Gospel gives us all this wonderful story, using the old concepts of chaos to remind us of what faith is really all about. It calls to mind the story of Elijah, around 900 years before the birth of Jesus, encountering the voice of God. Elijah stood on a high Mountain, and he was surrounded by a storm and earthquake and a volcanic eruption. The story tells us that the Lord was in none of these things, but at the end, we are told that Elijah hears the 'Still small voice.' (1 Kings 19:11-14).

Continued on next page...

### Virtch

Zoom services are held at 11am on Sunday, 9am on Monday and 6pm on Wednesday. Simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

The Love of Christ is not locked down

Virtual  
Virtch  
Church

St James, Biddenham, All Saints, Kempston

## Message from Revd Eric Lomax continued

In our story, the disciples are in a boat and there is a storm. The Gospel writer embeds us in the chaos of the water and the storm and Jesus sleeps, strangely absent from all of this.

Like the early Christian martyrs and the disciples in the storm, we often feel isolated and afraid when terrible things happen to us. Where is God when we need him?

In desperation they call out to Jesus to help them by calming the storm. Jesus is so at peace inside himself that he takes some time to wake. 'Why are you sleeping? Do you not care if we drown?'

Of course Jesus can do that. His still, small voice calms the storm; 'Peace, be still.' Then he calms another storm. 'You have so little faith. It may seem like the chaos is outside you, but turn your eyes in on yourselves; Peace be still.'

Whatever you face, whatever disturbs you or hurts you, whatever gives you anxiety and makes you afraid, have faith that the God of peace is there. Peace, be still.

God Bless

Eric

## The Pilgrim Way A Guide to the Christian Faith

Christians believe that in Jesus, God has walked this earth before us, and that with Jesus as our companion and guide we can travel through life differently.

Find out more about the core beliefs of the Christian Faith on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/pilgrim-way>

You can either view on screen or listen via podcasts.

## Let us pray...

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen



## Marmalade/Chutney Sale!

Sue Squire will be selling home-made marmalade and chutney after the 9.30am alternate Sunday services at St James's in aid of the St James's flower fund. If you would like some, make sure you remember to bring some cash!



## Bedford Foodbank

Items currently needed: UHT MILK, Cup-a-Soup, Jumbo Hotdogs, Tinned Tuna, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables, Squash, Ham (Small Tins), Jam, Coffee, Washing-Up Liquid, Anti-Bac Spray, Shower Gel.

Please continue to support this valuable charity and help them prevent hunger in our community, either with donations of food or financially.



## Prayer/Bible Study Groups

Join our prayer group at 8pm on the 1st/3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Everyone welcome. We also have Bible study groups which are open to everyone.

Contact John Lambert for further details, or with any prayer requests. [John.c.lambert@gmail.com](mailto:John.c.lambert@gmail.com)



## Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452

Mob: 07805 879537

Email: [Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com)

## Important Note: All Saints APCM

At the meeting on 26 May it was noted that a further Annual Meeting would be held in order to discuss the accounts and certain other matters. This was in the diary for 23 June. Unfortunately this has now had to be postponed. We will update you as soon as a new date is confirmed.

## Church Services etc. on TV/Radio

If you don't have access to the internet, try tuning in to the following:

### Sunday 20 June

- 8.00am Three Counties Radio - weekly service.
- 8.10am BBC Radio 4 - Sunday Worship.
- 1.15pm BBC 2 - Songs of Praise.
- 3.00pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.

### Wednesday 23 June

- 3.30pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.

## Suggested Music for this week

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsCLNuU6Td0>

Now thank we all our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IffKjxkXhMk>

A Gaelic Blessing (Rutter)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H46Bh3Z3ZsE>

Knowing You Jesus

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4r8XfE\\_VNb0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4r8XfE_VNb0)

Through My Father's Eyes (Holly Starr)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddt8Rb\\_HeZQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddt8Rb_HeZQ)

This I Believe (the Creed)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtUNQpu2b7Q>

## Covid-19 Support Networks

If you need support with shopping, loneliness or anything else at this time please do get in touch!

**Biddenham:** Ring 01234 815393 (daytime only) or email [help@biddenham.org.uk](mailto:help@biddenham.org.uk) with your name/phone number/address.

**Kempston:** Contact Rev Eric Lomax (328452), Alison Walker (851597) or Alan/Anita Lowe (857212).

## The All Age Bit!

We are staying in the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel this week and looking at the story of David and Goliath. Many of you may already have heard this story but do read it in your bible, if you have one. It is quite a long story in the Bible so we haven't reproduced it here. If you don't have a Bible but you have access to the internet, you could perhaps read it online at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).

In the story the whole of King Saul's army were scared of Goliath. None of them were brave enough to take on the Philistines' greatest warrior. When David went out to meet Goliath he didn't have any armour on, he didn't have any impressive weapons, but he had something better - faith!

David knew God, when you read the songs that David wrote about God in the psalms (another book of the Bible) you can tell that he knew God as a close friend. David had faced bears and lions when he was a shepherd and God had always been with him. David trusted in God and knew he didn't need to be afraid because God was on his side. That is why he could say with confidence in God "The battle belongs to him, and he will hand you over to us". Can you think of a time when you had to do something a bit scary, but you knew that God was with you so you would be ok?

### Activity:

*Trust Exercise:* David trusted in God. What does it mean to trust in somebody? Why not find out with this exercise. One person is blindfolded (you can use a scarf for this) and another person should guide them around the house using just their voice. You could make it even more tricky by building an obstacle course with cushions, toys etc. How does it make you feel when you have to put your trust in somebody else?

### Song:

My God is so big

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUageJdwyPY>

### Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for the story of David who trusted and had faith in you. Help us to put our confidence in you and to be bold, knowing that you are with us.

Help us to have a friendship with you like David did, to know you as a close friend who listens to us and hears our prayers. Help us to know you as sheep know their shepherd and trust in you to protect us and provide what we need.

We pray for those facing big challenges during Lockdown, that they would know you with them just like David did.

Amen.

Resources from *Together at Home*. [www.tath.co.uk](http://www.tath.co.uk).