

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

## Virtual Church News

12 September 2021

15th Sunday after Trinity  
2nd Sunday

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

### This Week's Services

- Sunday 9.30am: Holy Communion at All Saints
- Sunday 9.30am: Lay led service at St James
- Sunday 6.30pm: Evening Prayer at St James
- No Zoom services this week

To join our Zoom services simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

### A Reading for the Week

#### Mark 8: 27-end

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'



### Services In our Churches

#### 1st Sunday

8.00am Service at All Saints

9.30am All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

#### 2nd Sunday

9.30am\* Holy Communion Service at All Saints

9.30am Lay led Service at St James's

6.30pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's

#### 3rd Sunday

8.00am Service at All Saints

9.30am Holy Communion Service at St James's

#### 4th Sunday

9.30am\* Holy Communion Service at All Saints

9.30am Lay led Service at St James's

#### 5th Sunday (when there is one)

9.30am Service at St James's

We hope you will join us at these services as we explore a mixture of both traditional and new ways of worship.

\* The 9.30am services at All Saints will move to 10.00am from 1 October. Services at St James's will remain at 9.30am.

### Message from Rev Eric Lomax

A vicar's job description, when he enters a parish, is in lots of ways very different from the job description associated with a secular job. It is written into something called a parish profile, a largely fictional work that describes a location that is profoundly unlike the parish that it refers to, and outlines the expectations of an ordained cleric who is not far removed from the archangel Gabriel. Sometimes the expectations extend to the spouse, or even the children of the vicar, who actually have no obligation to be involved with or turn up to anything, and which consequently breach a significant number of basic human rights, particularly with regards to privacy. I remember, a number of years ago, my eight year old daughter announcing to a group of very elderly Mother's Union Ladies that she and her friend were not Lesbians. Sometimes it is much better if the vicar avoids asking his children to turn up to church events.

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## Message continued...

Vicars bleed like everybody else and I guess that with the job comes an unprecedented feeling that one cannot solve everything or, for that matter, anything at all. Often an ocean of expectations and meetings, it is hard swimming to that one individual island who is most in need of a listening ear, and also an awareness that somebody who greeted you a week ago with a blank face was actually in so much pain, yet you completely failed to notice them. Hindsight is a dreadful teacher. Often people have ideas of whom the vicar should dutifully visit, and when, but they do not realise that you are spending time with the invisible and voiceless, or maybe even the person you live with is crying inside and desperately needs a morning or an afternoon.

Why am I being so self indulgent in talking about vicars? I guess it is because I want to illustrate that the superficiality of a black shirt and a dog collar does not guarantee freedom from pain, or equally that we are capable of getting it completely wrong. I have so many friends who are Christians, who have experienced intolerable pain in their lives; painfully broken relationships, grief, illness, untimely deaths, agonising rejection by the church because the church has judged their sexual orientation or relationship status (yes I am talking about deeply committed disciples of Christ, and I have seen this an awful lot, which is why I feel so passionately about it, though I recognise that there is always the potential that I am wrong). I do find it a little incongruous that Christians who feel passionate about certain issues can be described by some as woolly-liberals! If there is one thing I feel most strongly about (as a potential liberal evangelical) is that when Jesus calls us, he bids us come and die! Wow, and there is the crux (cross) of the matter.

'In the world you WILL have trouble,' Jesus said, 'but be courageous, because I have overcome the world.' (John 16:33, well it more or less says that!). As Jesus spoke to his disciples, on the way to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, He told them just what following Him meant for them, and means for us. Jesus' destination was always the crux (or cross) of the matter, because that is exactly where Jesus was headed.

The religious people, at that time, one of whom was non other than Simon Peter, the Messiah (the Christ, in Greek), was heading for glory and enthronement in Jerusalem. This was the popular view at the time, and to be popular, one had to have their destination in the city of Jerusalem. Outside Jerusalem, in plain view of Jerusalem's putrid rubbish dump, Gehenna, on which the religious people based their concept of Hell, was the place we all know as Golgotha. Not a popular place, and a place which symbolised abandonment and condemnation. This was Jesus' destination.

Of course Peter was not going to have this, so he argued with Jesus, 'Surely you are facing power, popularity and glorification,' he said.

Jesus replied, 'Get behind me Satan,' (I believe the last time Jesus had said this was in his 40 day journey through the wilderness.) 'You are thinking as people think, but not as God thinks.' Jesus was on a journey to save the world, through suffering and death and what was costly, difficult, challenging, and agonising to him, cannot be plain sailing for us. Follow Jesus, be his disciple, but do not expect an easy time of it.'

In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, because the Lord has overcome the world.

God Bless  
Eric

## Let us pray...

Lord Christ,

You have called us to follow you,

and you have promised challenges along the way.

Give us courage,

give us wisdom,

and give us hope.

In Christ's name.

Amen



# Harvest Festivals

## 19 September 9.30am

### St James's Church

If you are able to give,  
we will be collecting donations of non-perishable  
foods for the Bedford Foodbank  
and monetary donations towards the  
Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal

"Water is Life"

bringing clean, safe water to communities in the  
Democratic Republic of Congo

## Everyone welcome!

## 26 September 9.30am

### All Saints Church



THE BISHOP OF ST ALBANS' HARVEST APPEAL 2021  
**WATER IS LIFE**



## All Age Reading

### James 3: 1-12

My brothers, not many of you should become teachers. You know that we who teach will be judged more strictly than others. <sup>2</sup>We all make many mistakes. If there were a person who never said anything wrong, he would be perfect. He would be able to control his whole body, too. <sup>3</sup>We put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us. We can control their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>It is the same with ships. A ship is very big, and it is pushed by strong winds. But a very small rudder controls that big ship. The man who controls the rudder decides where the ship will go. The ship goes where the man wants. <sup>5</sup>It is the same with the tongue. It is a small part of the body, but it brags about doing great things.

A big forest fire can be started with only a little flame. <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is like a fire. It is a whole world of evil among the parts of our bodies. The tongue spreads its evil through the whole body. It starts a fire that influences all of life. The tongue gets this fire from hell. <sup>7</sup>People can tame every kind of wild animal, bird, reptile, and fish, and they have tamed them. <sup>8</sup>But no one can tame the tongue. It is wild and evil. It is full of poison that can kill. <sup>9</sup>We use our tongues to praise our Lord and Father, but then we curse people. And God made them like himself. <sup>10</sup>Praises and curses come from the same mouth! My brothers, this should not happen. <sup>11</sup>Do good and bad water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup>My brothers, can a fig tree make olives? Can a grapevine make figs? No! And a well full of salty water cannot give good water.

(International Children's Bible)

## Thank You from Christopher Dawe

To all those people who contributed to the very generous gift, I would like to say a warm thank you. But as you will understand, Mary my wife has been a wonderful support for me during my ministry especially since she regularly attends St. Joseph's Bedford.

You might like to know that your gift comfortably covers the cost of an overnight stay for us both at the Dales Country House Hotel, Upper Sheringham, Norfolk, with transport and tickets for the Thursford Christmas Spectacular, a world famous show we have seen before, but is always different and very, very enjoyable. We have managed to secure a booking.

Thank you so much.

Christopher



## The All Age Bit

This week we are continuing to look at the book of James. In this passage James is talking about how our words have power and how we can choose to use them for God and speak kindly to others. Why do you think James wrote that it was so important to control our tongues and the things we say? Can you think of a time when somebody's words hurt you or when you said something you regretted later? How do you think God wants us to use our tongues in the world today?

Words are a bit like toothpaste (yes, really!). If you squeeze toothpaste out of a tube, it is very difficult, if not impossible to put it back into the tube. When we speak hurtful words, we may be able to say sorry, but we cannot put those words back. Instead we must make sure we choose our words carefully, to choose words that encourage and support others rather than ones which cause hurt or upset.

### Activities

**Charades:** How good is your family at communicating without using words? Why not play a game of charades to find out.

**Flavour Test:** Why not find out how good your tongues are at recognising different flavours. Take it in turns to try some different foods with a blindfold on or eyes closed. Can you name the flavour without looking?

**Positive Words Challenge:** We can all share kind and positive messages with others which build them up and encourage them. Could you commit to encouraging somebody every day this week?

### Song

What a mighty God we serve

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

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for telling us how you want us to be kind to others. Please help us use our tongues and our words in a good way to help and support our families and friends. Help us to think about the words we use so we don't hurt or upset other people. Amen.

## Tea and Coffee After Services

As restrictions have now eased, tea and coffee will now be served after the 9.30am services at both All Saints and St James's. Everyone is welcome to stay for a drink and a chat.



## Suggested Music for this week

All heaven declares

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8y86qnKkmM>

My song is love unknown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWRcAa-nFIA>

Yes, God is good

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

Christ in Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6yjW-YoAEE>

## Supporting Afghan Refugees

The Bishop of Hertford has encouraged people in our Diocese wishing to help support Afghan Refugees to donate to three particular charities who work with refugees in our area. The charity most local to us is Bedford Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support.

Donations can be made via their website at <https://www.brassbedford.org.uk/>

## 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)

The Friends of St James, Biddenham

# QUIZ

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

**Zoom Quiz**  
Suitable for all the family

Help raise some funds for the upkeep of our local church in a fun way - please join us!

Free entry – but donations welcome to The Friends of St James at GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/de1ce53d>

To register and for participation details, email John Barkas at: [stjamesquiz@mail.com](mailto:stjamesquiz@mail.com) (alternatively phone Peter Leverkus on 01234 353662)

The FOSJ is a registered charity raising funds for the fabric of St James' Church and barn

## Coffee Morning

Join us for coffee, cake and a chat!

FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER  
10.30 AM TO 12.00 NOON  
ST JAMES'S CHURCH BARN

No charge (but donations to charity welcome)  
Transport Available - Call Sue on 342373



Organised by  
St James's Church  
for the  
Biddenham Community

## Bedford Foodbank

Please continue to support this valuable charity and help them prevent hunger in our community.

Items currently needed include: UHT Milk, Fruit Juice (Longlife), Tinned Tuna, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Jam, Rice 250g/500g/1kg, Ham (Small Tins), Coffee (small), Biscuits, Shampoo, Washing-Up Liquid, Deodorant (Unisex), Tin Openers, Old Saucepans.



## Diocesan Job Vacancy

The Diocese is currently looking for a part time team secretary to assist the Pastoral and Advisory Secretary. Full details can be obtained at [www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies)

## Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452

Mob: 07805 879537

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