

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

## **Virtual Church News**

**24 October 2021  
Last Sunday after Trinity  
4th 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

### **Our Sunday Services**

#### 1st Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints  
9.30am All Age Service (followed by said Holy Communion) at St James's

#### 2nd Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's  
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints  
6.00pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's

#### 3rd Sunday of the month

- 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints  
9.30am Holy Communion Service at St James's  
7.00pm Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship

#### 4th Sunday of the month

- 9.30am Morning Worship at St James's**  
**10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints**

#### 5th Sunday of the month (when there is one)

- 9.30am Service at St James's  
6.30pm Sung Evensong at St James's

We also hold online services during the week via Zoom at 9.00am on Monday and 6.00pm on Wednesday. To join these Zoom services, simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

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

### **All Saints' Table Top Sale**

All Saints are re-introducing the Missions Table Top Sale on Sunday 24 October and Sunday 21 November. All donations of home grown and home made produce would be welcome.

The cash proceeds from the sale of the produce will go to the PCC's chosen Charities.



### **A Reading for the Week**

#### **Philippians 2: 1-8**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

### **Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details**

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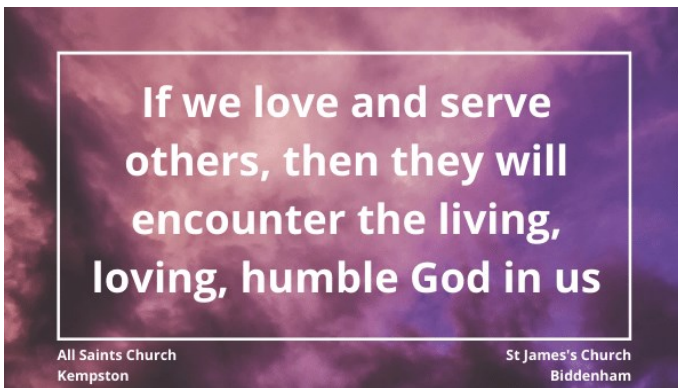
## Message from Rev Eric Lomax

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to teach religious studies in a number of schools, and one of the lovely things about this has been the opportunity to face some of the questions about faith raised by young people. Many of the young people I taught were from difficult backgrounds and for these, and other reasons, struggled with the idea of the existence of God.

The young and questioning learners in my class would often say to me, 'The universe was formed over millions of years through the interaction of gravity and matter,' or 'really good people, or innocent people suffer pain in the world, so how can there be a god?' (though not quite with those words!)

My reply was usually the same, 'It depends on what sort of God you are talking about.'

This is because so many people are brought up to believe in a very remote, judgmental kind of god, who is quite capable of clicking his fingers and bringing an end to your troubles, but actually chooses not to. For many religious people this means that they should also be like that. Consequently there is also the unspoken view that somehow we need to exclude people who conduct themselves in ways that we feel God disapproves over. God then becomes like a grumpy judge, complete with wig and gavel, who takes pride in dispensing punishments, or a poor father who looks on his children more as an irritant than anything else.



The Christian God is not like that, and certainly does not wish his people to be like that. Sure enough, we are asked to be imitators of God, but how can we be imitators of God unless we know what God is like.

Of course we can try and imitate the hell-fire damnation God of the Old Testament (interestingly, Hell is not mentioned at all in the Old Testament, only a place called Sheol, which was the natural abode of the dead). I remember a Roman Catholic Monsignor, called Michael Buckley, once saying to me that the Anglican Church was all about buildings and structures, the Roman Catholic Church was all about fear and guilt, and the Evangelicals are all about gloss and image. It is sad that none of the churches seem to be very good at imitating the Christian God.

So what is the Christian God like, and consequently, what should we be like?

This Bible passage answers all of these questions; God loved us so much that he humbled himself and took on our body and our nature, making himself powerless in the world, even to suffering just like we suffer at the hands of the powers of this world.

We are told, equally, to love as he loves (lots of Bible verses tell us this), which means that we must humble ourselves also, being the servants of those around us. If we follow Christ, and imitate Christ in this way, this means that we should also be prepared, ultimately, to lay down our lives for those around us. This includes serving those around us, old and young, like the young people I taught, who have experienced so much pain in their lives that they cannot believe in God. Perhaps, just perhaps, if we love and serve them, then they will encounter the living, loving, humble God in us.

God Bless  
Eric

### Let us pray...

Dear God and Father,  
Help us to be imitators of Christ,  
to reflect your love, your truth and your mercy.  
Give us the humility to stand before others  
as representatives of you,  
and we pray that others may see in our faces,  
the eyes of our Father shining back at them.  
In Jesus' name.  
Amen



### Revive - 3rd Sundays

A short act of worship over a coffee, then unfolding the scriptures together. 7.00pm in St James's Church Barn. Everyone invited.



## All Age Reading

### Mark 10 v 46-52

<sup>46</sup> Then they came to the town of Jericho. As Jesus was leaving there with his followers and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting by the road. <sup>47</sup> He heard that Jesus from Nazareth was walking by. The blind man cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, please help me!"

<sup>48</sup> Many people scolded the blind man and told him to be quiet. But he shouted more and more, "Son of David, please help me!"

<sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, "Tell the man to come here."

So they called the blind man. They said, "Cheer up! Get to your feet. Jesus is calling you." <sup>50</sup> The blind man stood up quickly. He left his coat there and went to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup> Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man answered, "Teacher, I want to see again."

<sup>52</sup> Jesus said, "Go. You are healed because you believed." At once the man was able to see again, and he followed Jesus on the road.

(International Children's Bible)

## The All Age Bit

This week we look at the story of Bartimaeus. Being healed by Jesus changed Bartimaeus' life completely. How do you think it changed? What did he do after he had been healed?

### Activities

*Pepper Experiment:* You will need a bowl of water, some ground pepper and some washing up liquid. When God created the world it was perfect, there was no sickness, no sadness, God walked on the earth with Adam and Eve in friendship and relationship. This was like a calm bowl of water. It was when people turned away from God and sinned that the world changed. Now when we look at the world around us we see sickness, pain, sadness and war (sprinkle some pepper on top of the water). When we pray "Your Kingdom Come" (eg when we say The Lord's Prayer) we are asking God to rule and reign in our lives and for the earth to be as He intended it once again (dip a finger into some washing up liquid and then into the bowl - what happens to the pepper? It should spread out away from your finger). When we pray we are asking God to break into our lives and change things in amazing ways, just like Jesus did in the story.

### Song

God can do anything

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K86XEbBRnkc>

### Prayers

Bartimaeus, the man in the story, thought it would be impossible for him to be completely healed and able to see - but that is exactly what Jesus did!. This week, why not pray to God about something that seems impossible (e.g. the end of all wars and conflict, or no more famine). Pray Your Kingdom Come and ask God to make earth more like Heaven by making the impossible happen.

*Above resources (and more) can be found at Together at Home. [www.tath.co.uk](http://www.tath.co.uk).*

## Poppies

If you are making poppies (knitted, crocheted or pompom) for Remembrance Day could you please drop them off in St James's Church Porch or at 27 St Mellion Drive by 31 October. Thank you.



ST JAMES'S CHURCH

# AUTUMN LUNCH

including raffle

31 OCTOBER  
1.00PM  
CHURCH BARN

Tickets: £12.50  
Bring your own drinks

Sign up on the list at the back of church or  
contact Anne (214805) or Sue (342373)

## Volunteers Needed!

St James's are in need of additional volunteers to help out with the sound system during the Sunday services. If you can help (training will be given), please let us know!

## Suggested Music for this week

We have a gospel to proclaim  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5wWRYq57EM>

When morning gilds the skies  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCsC0CUH34I>

Teach me, O Lord  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLi2UFjoZgo>

God of the poor (beauty for brokenness)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MO1G-o7Yj-c>

## 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)



## ALL SOULS SERVICES

**Sunday 31 October**

4.00pm at All Saints Church, Kempston

6.00pm at St James's Church, Biddenham

**All Welcome!**



Remembering our loved ones  
who have died

## 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.



## Remembrance Sunday 14 November

On Remembrance Sunday the 9.30am lay led service at St James's will be slightly shorter than usual in order to allow people to go to the Biddenham War Memorial for an Act of Remembrance at 10.50am. There will be no coffee in the Barn after the service on that day.

At All Saints Church, the 10.00am service will end with a short Act of Remembrance.

