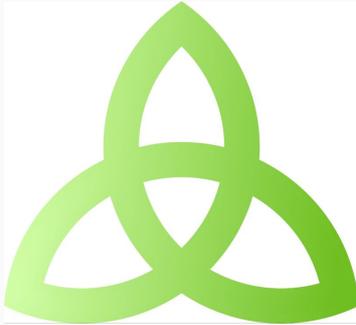


Administrator

From: St John's Church <ethne.whitlock@gmail.com>
Sent: 11 July 2020 10:39
To: admin@stjohnsnewport.org
Subject: St John's weekend email 12th July 2020 - Trinity 5

[View this email in your browser](#)



St John's Weekend Email 12th July 2020 Trinity 5

In this email -

- Letter from Ethne
- Virtual Holy Communion with Archdeacon Peter Leonard
- Prayers for the week
- Birthdays
- Zoom details for Sunday
- ROOTS sheet for Sunday
- Junior Church virtual picnic invitation to St John's church

This email is long so you may need to click on a button at the bottom of what you can see to view all of it.

Hello everyone,

It's Ethne writing today. I hope you are all keeping well and able to enjoy at least a little more freedom than we've had over recent months.

Today's service is a virtual Holy Communion led by Archdeacon Peter, who is now our interim Team Rector. Please keep praying for him as he leads the Island churches and helps us establish the new parish of Newport and Carisbrooke.

In addition to our recorded service he is also leading two physical services in Newport Minster on Sunday (July 12th) at 10.30am and 11.15am. These will both be simple said

Communion Worship Holy Communion and numbers are limited to 30.

If you prefer to join in with other services online, on the TV or radio here are a few -

- 8.10 Radio 4 Sunday Worship
- 9.00 Church of England Service on Facebook, Youtube and Church of England website
- 9.00 Diocesan Service streamed on the Diocese website
- 13.15 BBC1 Songs of Praise

Please tell anyone you know who does not have internet access about the services on the television and radio and also about the free dial-in worship phone line from the Church of England called Daily Hope. The number is 0800 804 8044 and it offers hymns, prayers and reflections 24 hours a day.

We would love you join the Church Bible Study on Zoom (8pm on Sunday) if you can. Details are below. Even if you don't join the Zoom meeting you might find the ROOTS sheet (click the button at the bottom of this email) helpful to think through the readings.

We would also like to invite everyone to the Junior Church virtual picnic next Sunday. This is an event for the whole church family and there will be activities for everyone to join in with, no matter what age you are, so please join us. There are more details at the bottom of this email.

If you have children there is a sheet linked to the Bible readings for today for them too. You can access it and other family resources here - [Roots resources for families.](#)

As we begin our Act of Worship listen, and join in with, Hallam as he plays 'Fill your hearts with joy and gladness'.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,

Sing and praise your God and mine!

Great the Lord in love and wisdom,

Might and majesty divine!

He who framed the starry heavens

Knows and names them as they shine.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,

Sing and praise your God and mine!

Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!
Wounded souls his comfort know.
Those who fear him find his mercies,
Peace for pain and joy for woe;
Humble hearts are high exalted,
Human pride and pow'r laid low.
Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!
Wounded souls his comfort know.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
Spring to melt the snows of winter
Till the waters flow again;
Grass upon the mountain pastures,
Golden valleys thick with grain.
Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Peace and plenty crown your days!
Love his laws, declare his judgements,
Walk in all his words and ways;
He the Lord and we his children,
Praise the Lord, all people, praise!
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Peace and plenty crown your days!



Act of Worship for St John's 12th July 2020 - Trinity 5

Act of Worship - led by Peter Leonard, our new Team Rector and Archdeacon

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen
you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,**

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah

55:10-13

*(The other readings for today are
Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65)*



As the rain and the snow

come down from heaven,
and do not return to it

without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,

so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

it will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire

and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

¹² You will go out in joy

and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills

and all the trees of the field

will clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

This will be for the LORD's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure for ever.'

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.'

¹⁸ 'Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ when anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

Reflection - Peter Leonard

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of all our hearts, be now and always acceptable in your sight, O Lord our strength and our redeemer.

We talk very readily about the gospel being good news, about the gospel offering a better narrative for the world than the one it is living by and I firmly believe it does or I couldn't do the job I do. But good news is hard to accept sometimes isn't it? Think about how we often respond when someone pays us a compliment. It is clearly good news but we can feel uncomfortable and it is difficult to receive. Rather than simply saying 'thank you' we go bashful or we deny the compliment or make a joke of some kind. Like those compliments we often feel we are not worthy of the good news that, in Jesus Christ, God expresses the love which God has for each and every one of us. We may not think we are worthy, but Jesus does. Jesus thinks that we are worth dying on a cross for.

The gospel challenges me. It challenges the way I see myself and the world. It challenges what I believe and the way I live. It challenges my private concerns, my interests, and desires. The gospel challenges people in every age and every place. It always has. It did in Jesus' day and it still does today. It challenges us to think, see, do, and be differently.

So the gospel challenges us, it is uncomfortable and it is good news.

But what is challenging about a sower who went out to sow? The seed of God's life and presence comes to us in lots of different ways. Sometimes we ask for it. Other times we don't. Sometimes we recognize it. Other times we don't. Sometimes we're receptive and open to it. Other times not so much. But regardless, the seed has been sown. That's a given. The seed is always given by God. Regardless of who we are or where we are or how we live, the seed is given. It comes not because we are worthy to receive it but because God sees us as worth it. Accepting that is a challenge, as I have already said, but a further challenge lies in the soil because that is the variable in the story. The variable is us. There is a range of receptivity to the sowing of God's seed that Jesus describes as four conditions of soil and the implicit question is what type of soil are we?

So there is the challenge but what about the discomfort? There is a level of discomfort around the fact that we keep being given the seed no matter what. You could argue that the sower is somewhat silly in his blatant disregard of the soil in which he is sowing on. This is not the carefully managed farming industry which we see these days but seed being thrown about with careless abandon! Much like the love of God which is for everyone regardless of their condition, and if we are honest that makes us uncomfortable. One of the privileges of being an Archdeacon is visiting very many different churches, but they all have one thing in common. There is not a single church I go to who don't tell me that they

want to grow, that they want new people to come and build up the church of Christ in their location. Sadly, all too often what we mean when we say that is that we want people to come and join who are like us and want the same things as us. That is not an option. The discomfort here is that growing will necessarily mean changing. Either changing so that new people can come or the inevitable change when new people do start to come. As we begin to reopen churches for public worship, as we seek to find ways to maintain our online presence we face the uncomfortable reality that new people have connected with us, they may continue to engage with us online or might even turn up in person. That together with the new and harsh financial realities of the world mean that change and growth is both necessary and inevitable. Is it uncomfortable? Yes. Is it demanding? Yes? Is it exciting? Yes. Is it living out the good news of Jesus Christ? Most definitely.

So what about that good news, where is that? Well I have already said that the abundant generosity of the sower means that much like the variety of soil, we continue to have seed sown in us regardless of our condition. God continues to love us whether we choose to receive and acknowledge it or not – that is the nature of unconditional love and it is indeed good news. There is further good news in that the seed that falls in good soil *“brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

The seed which falls in good soil bears fruit. It has impact. And those of us who receive the word of God and allow it to shape who we are and how we live also have impact. We have impact on our friends and family, on our local communities and indeed the whole world through the things we say and do, the choices we make, the way we live. There is further good news for those areas of soil which are less productive. I am no gardener, but poor soil can be improved, by adding compost, mixing in good soil, weeding and removing the stones can improve the soil such that you can grow in it successfully. Good soil shared improves the whole. The fruit which the good soil yields, shared improves the whole. Those who have born fruit are required to model themselves on the sower at the beginning of the story in their abundant and reckless generosity of the seed, the love of God, sharing it in the same way with all regardless of condition.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news. It presents a better narrative for all and it does that by challenging us to look hard at what is important. It makes us uncomfortable with the status quo and encourages us to seek to improve it and ourselves. In doing that we build the kingdom of God in this time and in this place. Amen.

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Creed

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers



We pray for God's grace.
Lord, receive our praise
and hear our prayer.

Lord God, through your grace we are your people:
through your Son you have redeemed us;
in your Spirit you have made us as your own.
We pray for everyone who has joined in services online
Especially those who have joined for the first time.
We pray for wisdom as we open our buildings
And the changes it brings.
Help us to be welcoming to everyone who comes
And help us to be open to the word you have sown in our hearts
In each situation.
We pray for Peter, our Team Rector, and Hannah, our curate,
As they join us to sow God's love in our town.
Be with the new PCC as they meet this week
And give them wisdom and vision in all their discussion and decisions.
Make our hearts respond to your love.
Lord, receive our praise
and hear our prayer.

We pray for the world as we see Covid-19 infections increasing
And continuing to challenge governments.
We pray for leaders as they try to find a way forward
In this crisis, climate change, racism and other challenges.
We pray for the leaders of our country and on the Island.
Help each one of us to act responsibly for the good of everyone
And show your love and care to all around us.
Make our lives bear witness to your glory in the world.
Lord, receive our praise
and hear our prayer.

We pray for everyone where the current situation is leading to

Economic hardship and uncertainty,
Loneliness, bereavement and depression.
Be with those struggling with ill health and other issues
Where help has been delayed.
We pray for healing for those suffering from Covid-19 at the moment
And those we know who are ill
Including Dot, Beth, Steve, David and Paul.
(Pause to add those you know who need help)
We pray for doctors, nurses, teachers, carers and other key workers
Working long hours in difficult circumstances.
We remember the work of the Foodbank and other organisations
Helping those struggling to survive.
Make our wills eager to obey, and our hands ready to heal.
Lord, receive our praise
and hear our prayer.

We give thanks for
Peter and Hannah joining us,
And the support of our church community.
Make our voices one with all your people
in heaven and on earth.
Lord of life,
**hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever.
Amen.**

THE PEACE

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

cf Ephesians 2.15,16

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,

and scattered the darkness of death
with light that will not fade.
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.
And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.
And so, with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending song of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Please use these prayers as a form of spiritual communion. Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Dismissal

Blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The video for the Act of Worship is also available on the front page of [the Church website](#), on [the St John's A Church Near You Page](#) and on the [St John's Facebook page](#).

If you'd like to take part in the Act of Worship by doing a reading or the intercessions (we can help with either) please contact Ethne at admin@stjohnsnewport.org and we'll send you details of how to do it.

This week please pray for :

- An end to the Covid-19 pandemic and for people to act sensibly as restrictions are lifted.
- Janet and the chaplaincy team at St Mary's hospital.
- Hannah Barraclough, our new curate, and Pete Leonard, the new interim Team Rector for Newport and Carisbrooke.
- Those who are ill especially Dot Fairweather, David, Beth, Steve and Geoff.
- All who have been bereaved.
- All who live in Shide Road, Shide Path, Shide Court and College Road.
- The new PCC as they meet on Wednesday.
- Wisdom for those making decisions about opening churches for worship.

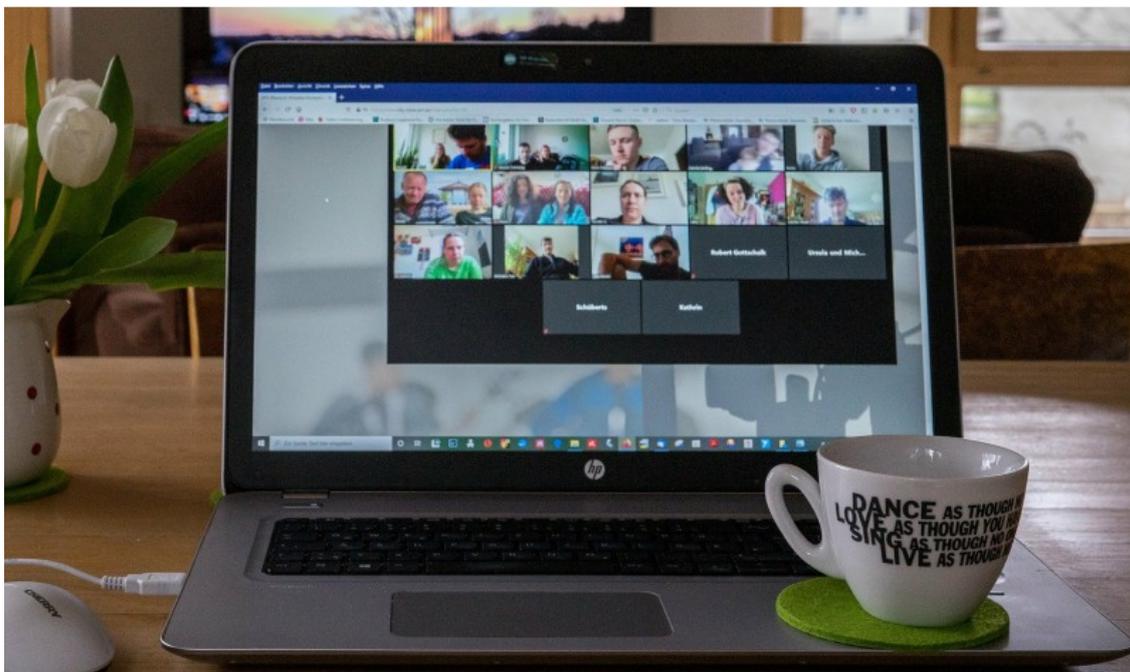


Birthdays this week:

There are no birthdays on the list for this week.

If you would like a birthday mentioned here please email

admin@stjohnsnewport.org.



St John's Zoom meetings -

8.00pm Sunday Bible study and chat

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cardiff.zoom.us/j/4576265023?pwd=YzcyMm00YlpJWFZRBXVJRTVyVDVDdz09>

Meeting ID: **457 626 5023**

Password: **Gospel**

ROOTS 12th July 2020

Sunday 19th July

12pm—2pm

via 'Zoom'



You are invited to St John's Junior
Church virtual picnic!

Board Games, Craft, Scattergories, Chat

Zoom Meeting ID: 457 626 5023. Password: Gospel

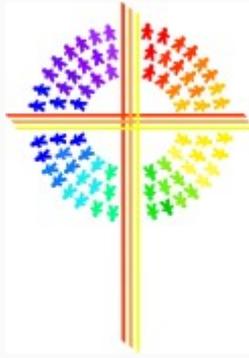
**Junior Church invite everyone in St John's to a Virtual Picnic
next Sunday July 19th, 12pm - 2pm**

on Zoom

<https://cardiff.zoom.us/j/4576265023?pwd=YzcyMm00YlpJWFZRBXVJRTVyVDVDdz09>

We will start with general chat while we enjoy our lunches together in our homes or gardens. Then we'll split into groups for some games or craft for about 20 minutes. Finally we'll join back together for more chat and games.

There will be something for all ages, so please 'save the date' and join us next week.



Our mailing address is:

admin@stjohnsnewport.org

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