

The readings set for today are from Zephaniah chapter 1 verses 7, 12-18 and from the First Letter from Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 5 verses 1-11. The Psalm is Number 90 verses 1-8, 12 and the Gospel reading is from St Matthew, chapter 25 verses 14-30

Sadly, during the present lockdown the Government has directed that all public worship be suspended for the time being.

However, the church will be open for private prayer and reflection on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am-1.30pm.

A note from Sue Bainbridge - We are planning to hold three mini Christmas Markets after services during December to raise much needed funds.

The first will be on Sunday 6th December for Crafts. The second on 13th December for cakes and the last on 20th December for fresh floral table decorations. There will be a raffle covering all three weeks to be drawn on the last Sunday.

The markets will be held in the centre using only two well-spaced tables, all price lists will be clearly displayed on the wall and will be in round pounds.

Masks must be worn and there will be a one-way system entering the centre by the door at back of Church and exiting by the centre door leading to the car park. We will ensure that it is as safe as possible.

We will need your help to make this a success and will put requests in next week's newsletter.

Way back in April, during the first lockdown, in letter No. 5, we published a poem called *The Hug* which struck a chord with many of you. Now, in lockdown number two, we are again discouraged from hugging anyone, unless sharing the same bubble.

We thought you might like to be reminded of the joy a hug can give.

It's wondrous what a hug can do.
A hug can cheer you whenever you're blue.
A hug can say "I love you"
Or, "I do hate to see you go"
A hug is "Welcome back again"
And, "Great to see you, where've you been?"
A hug can soothe a small child's pain and bring a rainbow after rain.
The hug! There's just no doubt about it,
We scarcely could survive without it.
A hug delights and warms and charms.
It must be why God gave us arms.
A hug can break the language barrier,
And make your travels so much merrier!
No need to fret about your store of them,
The more you give, the more there is of them.
So, stretch those arms without delay
And give someone a hug today!



A hug to you all - sent from the editors.

Why should we give?

Riding home after church one Sunday morning, a mother commented, 'The choir was awful this morning.' And the father said, 'I thought the sermon was far too long.' Their cheeky 7-year old daughter piped up from the back seat, 'You have to admit though, it was a pretty good morning out for a pound.'

Did you smile at the quote above when you read it, sadly, it reflects the attitude some people have to churchgoing and church giving. How did you decide on the amount you currently give to your church each week? When did you last really think about how much you choose to put in the weekly collection envelope, or in the plate, or in the standing order?

And more importantly, why do you choose to donate anything at all? No-one makes you pay anything to attend church. You are welcome to go every week and no one would demand that you pay even a £1, as the family above did. But think for a moment of all that God provides for us - life, family, friends, health, the riches of nature, music, beauty, art, and even his own Son to die for our sins on the cross and rise again to give us everlasting life.

Yes, God gives freely, even abundantly, so isn't it reasonable to ask how should we respond to his generosity? Each church is where it is because, in the past, people have given generously. Many people would see the building as the church, but in reality, it is all the people who worship in it that are the 'real' church. We are a community gathered in the love of God, seeking to share the good news of that love. Part of our worship is to give thanks to God for all he has done for us. And in response we can give our time, and our skills, but also a regular gift of money.

The church needs all of these to function properly. It is often said that people only value what they pay for, so isn't it reasonable for us to think of the value of what God has done for us? Surely, we can't argue with this quote from the Bible: 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'

This article gives some thought and reflection of the question of giving and is taken from the Association for Church Editors website.

Updates - The proposed felling of the Cypress tree behind the War Memorial is progressing, estimates are being received from contractors and when these are in the PCC will make a final decision, the tree would be replaced by at least one other tree of a type to be agreed with the District Council planners.

The replacement doors to the West Porch seemed to have stalled, the workshop of the building firm awarded the contract has gone back into lockdown. We had hoped that the doors, funded by a generous donation, would be installed by Christmas, fat hope now!

Personal Note I had a booklet listing the names of all on our War Memorial with details of their families, where they had lived and where they died. I lent this booklet to various people but cannot remember who had it last and it has not been returned, if it was you please could I have it back. As you can imagine, it represented many hours of research and I would like to put it into the church records.
Ken

Items for future Newsletters are welcomed. We would like to include material for reflection and would welcome any suggestions. If there any poems or short articles that you would like to share then please do send them to the editors.

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