



"To be a Christian presence in the community, embodying God's love in all we say and do."

Revd Sue Burchell 01295 271008

Churchwardens: Jerry Lewis 01295 262854; Liz Spittle 01295 254035;

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Today's Readings:

New Testament: *Philippians 1:21-30*

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel: *Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

This week:

Wednesday 10am Morning Prayer via Zoom.

Saturday 10am Morning Prayer in church and via Zoom.
10.30am to 12 noon, church open for private prayer.

Sunday 10am Eucharist in church and via Zoom.
4pm *Seeking the Spirit* service

Quiet Day: Wednesday 30th September. Please let Revd Sue know if you would like to attend.

The APCM will be held on **Sunday 18th October** after the morning Eucharist, starting about 11am, in church and on Zoom. Please check your details on the electoral roll TODAY.

PCC Secretary: Trish will be stepping down as PCC secretary after the APCM. We thank her for all her work. If you are interested in taking over as secretary, please let Revd Sue know.

Thought for the Week:

Since the lockdown, job security seems like a thing of the past for many people. Some have had their hours cut, others have lost their jobs completely because the organisation they worked for has closed down. Self-employed people have also suffered.

There's no hanging around in the market-place, these days, waiting to be hired, but people are 'hanging around' online, posting their CVs, or searching for jobs, waiting to be hired, and it's a struggle. And it's not many decades since domestic servants 'hung around' at mop fairs waiting to be hired. So, today's Gospel story strikes a chord with many.

The lucky ones are hired straightaway, for an agreed wage, and they get on with the job. Others have to wait, through the heat of the day, getting more and more despondent. They're so grateful when at last they are hired, that they don't quibble over how much they'll get paid. But everyone gets the same reward.

It's ostensibly about being satisfied with your lot. Those who've worked all day are not happy that those who've worked so short a time should receive the same pay. But surely, hanging around in uncertainty is hard work, too. Don't grumble when others receive more than you think they deserve.

However, it is essentially a story about God's generosity. No matter how hard we've worked, or for how long, even if we've been idle most of the time, God gives us his abundant love and grace. No matter how long it's taken for us to respond to God, the reward is the same. No one is excluded. And God is always searching for those who are still hanging around in uncertainty, in order for them to receive the reward – abundant life with God.

Sue Burchell

Top Tips for Families as lockdown eases

None of us really like wearing face coverings but some of us suffer 'mask anxiety'. Here are some ideas to help.

- Find a face covering comfortable for you – experiment a bit. Remember you don't have to wear a bought mask. A scarf pulled tight across the nose that hangs down past the chin may be more comfortable than a tight-fitting mask. A single tie behind head may be more comfortable than elastic round the ears – especially if you wear glasses or a hearing aid.
- Does perfume calm you? - put a few drops on the covering.
- Anxious older children - let them be involved in choosing or personalising their masks e.g. sew on sequins, use fabric paint – just make sure the mask is still washable
- Younger children pick up on your anxiety, so try to be calm around them – make masks for teddies etc and use play to help them understand why adults wear masks.
- If you feel uneasy when others around you are wearing masks then try to focus your attention on other things e.g. nature around you, what's in shop windows, music on headphones or even ring a friend and chat while you walk.

Sue Ayliff