

# Virtual Church News

Sunday 14 June

First Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to Virtual Church News for the first Sunday after Trinity.

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 356993 or email [Jacqui.piper@btinternet.com](mailto:Jacqui.piper@btinternet.com)

## Message from Rev Eric Lomax

Two years ago I was phoned by somebody who asked if I could go and visit their father who was dying. It was round the back of Balliol School in Kempston so I drove down Cemetery Road and over the roundabout, making my way to see this gentleman. I prayed with him and the family thanked me at the end. I went and a day or so later the gentleman died. It was very sad. Four days later a little envelope came through the door and it told me that on that journey I had been going at 38 miles per hour in a 30 mile an hour zone. I had the choice to pay the fine and take the points or else to go on the course. My wife, in her usual compassionate and understanding way, said to me; 'You cannot go through life thinking that the rules do not apply to you.'

I have to say that the four hours I spent in the speed awareness course are four hours that I will never get back again and the thing is that the course costs just as much as the fine. My wife, however, was right. It did not matter whether I was doing good or evil, I am not exempt from the law.

In my last parish I met two lovely Christian people Janet and Derek. Janet, herself, the daughter of a minister, was very traditional and disagreed with me about almost everything to do with church. Her husband, Derek, was a farmer who taught me three vitally important things. He taught me how to put a chicken into a deep sleep, he taught me how to drive a combine harvester and he taught me the meaning of kindness.

*Continued on next page...*



Roses in Great Denham

*If you have any photos of Kempston or Biddenham, send them to [jacqui.piper@btinternet.com](mailto:jacqui.piper@btinternet.com)*

## A Reading for the Week

**Matthew 9.35, 10:9-20**

*Then Jesus<sup>2</sup> summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.*

*(He said to them;) 'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.'*

## Join us for Online Services

Zoom services are held at 11am on a Sunday and 6pm on a Wednesday. Login details are sent out in the covering email to members of our church community. If anyone else would like these, please do get in touch. Everyone is welcome!

The Love of Christ is not locked down

Virtual  
Virtch  
Church

St James, Biddenham, All Saints, Kempston

## Message from Rev Eric Lomax continued...

He loved Janet and the whole time that I worked in Lincolnshire she suffered from Cancer. Her death was not an easy one and I had the honour of taking her funeral. Two months after she died somebody broke into their farmhouse and stole a box with her wedding ring in. Derek was broken hearted. When I left the parish Derek gave me a beautiful bottle of Malt Whisky. I had the very last drink of it after Derek's funeral in 2018. Derek and Janet were lovely people but good or bad, nobody, not even them, is exempt from suffering. Despite their own experience of tragedy what moved me so much was that they were such people of hope and warmth.

In this passage (I have deleted some of it to cut down space!) Jesus has given his disciples a job to do. It is a difficult job. Their job is to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. He tells them to go first to the Jewish people because the promise is made first and foremost to them (10:6). The meaning of the word Gospel is 'good news' so Jesus' followers have got to convince these people that the message of Jesus is good news to them.

Jesus tells them that they will go out with power. He said that they should not worry about what they are going to say because the Holy Spirit will give them the power that they need and the words that they needed to say.

Despite this, he told them that they will not be exempt from suffering. He told them that it would make absolutely no difference that they were going out to proclaim his good news. 'You', Jesus said, 'will be flogged and beaten for the message you are taking to them'. Not only would Jesus' followers be subject the same suffering that other people experienced, it was his promise that they would suffer, often because they were his followers.

At the heart of this message was the cross of Jesus Christ. St. Paul even said in 1 Corinthians chapter 1 that he did not come to them with perfectly woven words, but instead he came to them talking about the cross which is absolutely the power of Jesus' message. The heart of this good news was the message that Jesus suffered and died for us. The heart of the cross is that through Christ's suffering we see the power of his love in that he was able to forgive and to speak of God's love and grace from the cross.

I am very conscious of how difficult things are for people now, though lock-down has impacted on us all in so many ways. I, for example, have found it hard not physically being with people, particularly my family, my friends and my church community. What has struck me however is how much goodness and kindness I have seen in people over the course of this crisis. In this experience I have encountered so much good news in the actions of individuals whether they are Christians or not and that good news has stemmed from such adverse circumstances.

For those who are people of faith it is really how we present the good news of God's love through the difficult circumstances that we all, in solidarity, face. The question is do those we encounter, whether it be physically, or even through an electronic screen, see in us the good news that Christ wants us to proclaim?

God bless

Eric

## Important Notice - Church Buildings

You may be aware that the Government has said that Church Buildings may be opened for private prayer from 15 June.

Unfortunately however, having considered this, along with guidance from the Church of England, we have concluded that it is not currently feasible for any of our church buildings (including the Barn/Church Hall) to re-open for this purpose at the current time. Please be assured that we are continuing to monitor the situation and will let you know should there be any change.

## Hymns and Devotional Music

Tim Grant-Jones, organist at All Saints, and his wife Irene are live streaming hymns and other devotional music at 10am each Sunday (before the Zoom service). Find this and other music on Facebook by searching for Grant-Jones Musical Services or entering #gjmusicalservices. You can also request hymns in advance!



**\*Highly Recommended by Members of our Congregation\***

## Daily Hope

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus. Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.



## Mums on the Run

Three mums from St James' School, Biddenham are running 300km in June to raise money for the school to fund changes required as a result of Covid-19. They hope to be able to fund equipment for outdoor learning activities, for example, gazebos and playtime/art boxes for each group of children.

At the time of writing they have raised £535 of their £1,000 target. For more details and to support them go to

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/mums-on-the-run>



## Online Services

Join the Church of England on its website or Facebook page for this week's 9am Virtual Service.

You can also download the order of service and the sermon in pdf format from the Church of England website.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Many other churches and cathedrals across the country are also providing online services.

## Discovery Group

Currently meeting via Zoom. Get in touch if you would like further details.

## Church Services etc. on TV/Radio

If you don't have access to the internet, try tuning in to the following on Sunday:

- 8.10am on BBC Radio 4 - Sunday Worship. Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christi from Westminster Cathedral.
- 10.45am on BBC 1 - Sunday Worship from Holy Trinity Platt, Manchester.
- 11.15am on BBC 1 - Sunday Morning Stories: Kindness. Kate Bottley discovers generosity and compassion in individuals of all faiths.
- 1.15pm on BBC 1 - Songs of Praise - Worship in the Great Outdoors.
- 3.00pm on BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong from York Minster.

Wednesday 17 June:

- 3.30pm on BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong from the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge.

## For the Children (& young at heart!)

Today's reading from the Gospel of Matthew (9.35-10.8 (& 9-23)) is all about Jesus telling people about the Gospel and healing people. He then tells his disciples to go out and do the same. As Christians, we should 'mirror' Jesus and the disciples and tell people about God. This passage reminds us that when we do that we are not alone as God gives the Holy Spirit to be with us.

### Activities:

Imagine you are going somewhere to tell people about Jesus. Write down where you would go. Would it be somewhere nice where you thought people would want to listen to you? Now write down what you think you would take with you to help you. Jesus told his disciples they should not take anything with them and that they should go to places where people didn't want to listen. Cross out everything you have written. How does that make you feel?

### Song:

Get up and dance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWKXKrv3TL4>

### Prayer:

Father of all, you send us out to bring good news! Jesus, you promise us protection. Thank you for sending us the Spirit to help us when we pray. Thank you for trusting us with the important work of sharing your good news. Amen.

## Please pray with me

God of truth,  
Ignite in us the flame of your Spirit,  
So that through whatever circumstances we face,  
people may look into our eyes and see you,  
and so, through us, they may know the good news of your grace.  
We pray this to God our Father  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
Amen.



## For your prayers

- Countries where Covid-19 is still on the increase and where there is little hope of being able to control it.
- World leaders and their advisers.
- All UK churches, as decisions are made whether or not it is safe to re-open church buildings.

Our prayer group meets at 8pm on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Get in touch if you would like the login details or have any prayer requests.

## Hymns/Songs of the Week

Love divine, all loves excelling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGcqhKShQ8>

Let us go in peace (John Rutter)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=466vmZMBd7w>

Send us out

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJJQxkqe\\_go](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJJQxkqe_go)

Fearless

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qzyiG2cXKM>

Lord I lift your name on high

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6l6orjM3NI>

## Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

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Mob: 07805 879537

## Bedford Foodbank

Please don't forget that we support the Bedford Foodbank, who need our donations now more than ever.

Donations of food can be placed in a box in St James's Church Porch, taken direct to the Foodbank (off Manton Lane) or put in the boxes in the supermarkets. Items currently needed include Jars of Sauce (curry/sweet&sour), Jam, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Carrots, Tea-bags (160), Nappies (size 5+6), Hand Soap, Anti-Bac Spray Cleaners, Washing Up Liquid, Shower Gel, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Shampoo.

Alternatively please consider making a financial donation. More information can be found at <https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk/>



## Community Support Groups

Do you need support? We can help with shopping and companionship (via regular phone calls). Can you volunteer to help? Let us know if you are DBS checked (for any organisation). It doesn't matter if you aren't, we still need your help, but safeguarding is important!

### Biddenham:

If you need support, ring 01234 815393 (daytime only) or email [help@biddenham.org.uk](mailto:help@biddenham.org.uk) with your name/phone number/address.

If you can volunteer, please email [help@biddenham.org.uk](mailto:help@biddenham.org.uk)

### Kempston:

If you need support or can volunteer to help, contact:

Rev Eric Lomax: 852241 or 07805 879537

Alison/Brenda Walker: 851597

Alan/Anita Lowe: 857212 or 07751 659695