

Virtual Church News

Sunday 28 June

Third Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to Virtual Church News for the third 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 stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

These are difficult times for us all and relatively few people during this lockdown have not experienced some sort of personal trauma, but like many people I have been moved by the everyday kindness and love that many people have demonstrated. Some of the posts on the various local WhatsApp groups have been deeply moving. Equally, when so many people have been so limited by circumstances, NHS staff, teachers, and even the humble shop workers have been an inspiration to us all.

Over the last few years, in these times of epic film making, people have been seeking to match these high-octane movies by trying to show themselves to be charitable super-heroes. In order to raise money for particular charities people have jumped from aeroplanes, climbed Everest, walked across the Sahara Desert, and swam in shark infested waters. Surely however, it is the simple acts of kindness we have seen over recent weeks that have had a more profound impact on us and on our communities.

Isn't this what Jesus was talking about? If we all started to be a bit kinder to one another it would make all the difference. We are welcoming the Christ of love into our communities by showing this sort of kindness. What is more, you do not have to hop up the most difficult face of Mount Kilimanjaro to show a gesture of kindness.

Continued on next page...



Photo taken by John Lambert

If you have any photos of Kempston or Biddenham, send them to stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com

Updated Contact Details

As a result of Rev Eric's house move this week he has a new landline number. Please find this in the contact details section on the back page.

A Reading for the Week

Matthew 10:40-42

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

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

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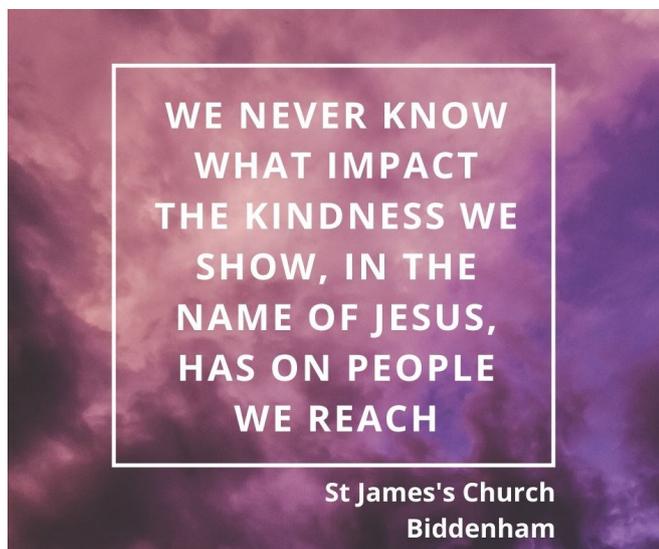
St James, Biddenham, All Saints, Kempston

Message from Rev Eric Lomax

Just supporting a homeless person who is in need of food or collecting the shopping for the vulnerable person next door will reap tremendous rewards. Super-heroes are not needed, just everyday heroes.

It's interesting to me that it's often harder to show little gestures of kindness than to perform heroic deeds. I have performed lots of wedding ceremonies in which huge amounts of money have been thrown at outfits, receptions and cars. Big, epic, overpowering expressions of love to one another. It is sad to see, however, how years later these couples let one another down in the little ways that most matter. They are good at big gestures like landing in the Churchyard in a helicopter, but rubbish at waking up to settle a crying baby.

The truth is that it's often easier for us human beings to show grand heroic gestures than to show small gestures of kindness in the routine of everyday life. Ask me to run four marathons for you and I'll give it a go, but ask me to take out the wheelie bin in a thunderstorm, then I will not go out without an argument.



What a difference we can make if we become kinder in our relations with others. I have always, for example, felt it important to visit families who come to us to have their children baptised and then to spend time getting to know them and encouraging them. People will say to me, 'Why do we put all this energy into them when we never see them in church afterwards?' Somebody once even said to me, 'It is all one way kindness. We welcome them, but they never do the same for us.'

This, surely is missing the point. We never know what impact the kindness we show, in the name of Jesus, has on people we reach. Last week I had a message from a friend of mine on Facebook whose baby I had baptised in one of my last parishes. She said that the Baptism of her baby seven years ago had made a huge difference to her and now she has started going to a local church to explore what it means to be a Christian. Through something that had happened years and years ago, she has now found faith in Jesus.

Really Christ is not looking for super-heroes, but rather everyday heroes that demonstrate his love and his power in the ordinary things of life.

These ordinary acts of love can spread like a positive virus in these times that can potentially transform the world. We can sow the seed and that gives the real superhero, Christ himself, the opportunity to work miracles in people's lives.

Amen.

God bless

Eric

Alpha Online

Do you want to find out more about the Christian faith? Do you want to be able to ask questions in a safe environment where all views are listened to and nobody is judged?



Then join our new Alpha Online Course which will be starting soon. For further details contact Jacqui at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com or on 356993.

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!



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. Looking to the future hopefully, with John Bell of the Iona Community.
- 11.45am on BBC 1 - Sunday Morning Stories. Kate Bottley looks at what happens when we strive to be the best we can be.
- 1.15pm on BBC 1 - Songs of Praise from Northern Ireland.
- 3.00pm on BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong from Manchester Cathedral.

Wednesday 1 July:

- 3.30pm on BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong from around the country.

Follow us on Social Media?

All Saints Church can be found on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintschurchkempston/>

St James's Church can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Jamess-Church-Biddenham-428040160888713/>

<https://twitter.com/BiddenhamChurch>

<https://www.instagram.com/stjameschurchbiddenham/>

Do follow us for more up to date information/daily prayers etc.

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 including St Albans Cathedral. Follow their Youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/stalbanscathedral>

Discovery Group

Next meeting via Zoom on Thursday 9 July at 8pm. Contact john.c.lambert@gmail.com for details.

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.

For the Children (& young at heart!)

Today's reading from the Gospel (Matthew 10:40-42) is all about being welcoming. It encourages us to think about how we, as a church and as individuals, can be more welcoming to people.

Activities:

Do you know any other languages? Can you write down the word for 'Hello' in a different languages? If you have access to a computer perhaps you could look up how people say 'hello' in other languages. Perhaps you could greet your parent/carer/friends in other languages!

Do you like popcorn? Have you ever seen it before it has been 'popped', or even tried popping some in the microwave (with adult help)? When it pops it's like it is bursting open. People are a bit like popcorn. When they welcome Jesus into their lives they 'burst open' with God's love and other people can see God's love in them. Try crouching down into a tiny ball and then jumping up and bursting open saying 'God Welcomes You'!

Can you write an acrostic poem or prayer using the letters of the word 'Welcome' to start each line of your poem/prayer?

Song:

Holy Spirit, you are welcome here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFBYOX8Fb0M>

Prayer:

May we go out in God's name with the peace of God: a peace that the world cannot give, and a peace that the world cannot take away, to offer peace to all we meet. Let's share the peace of God with one another. Amen.

Please pray with me

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.



For your prayers

Please pray for our families, our friends, our churches, our communities and our nation.

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

Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452*

Mob: 07805 879537

Email: Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com

* Note: new landline number from June 2020

Bags for NHS Workers

Earlier in the pandemic our community worked together to provide both patients and NHS staff at Bedford Hospital with goodie bags. Well done all those involved!



NHS staff goodie bags

Hymns/Songs of the Week

Peace, perfect peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zffBm9o-bCw>

I give you all the honour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic0QYTxK0GU>

Come, now is the time to worship

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

Cornerstone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02ul>

Lead me Lord

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, Jellies (pre-made), Squash, Nappies (size 5+6), Hand Soap, Anti-Bac Spray Cleaners, Washing Up Liquid, Shower Gel, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, 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 with your name/phone number/address.

If you can volunteer, please email 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