

Prayers:

Loving God, we are limited in our understanding of you, but we know that you care for us and for all creation. Thank you for the life of Jesus whose life shows us the way to life and happiness and trust. Thank you for your Spirit who leads us. We pray especially for:

Sick: Dawn Forey, Ruth Gillespie, Hanna Lebrato, Marion Mason and Sue Ralfe.

RIP: Heather Parkhouse

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, living and reigning in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in our faith we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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The Parish Office is closed.

Matthew and Jonny are continuing to say Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer in their homes every day. Join them [here](#).

St John's Church

Alternative Pew Sheet

7th June 2020

Welcome!

The Church of England continues to follow Government advice. Sadly it is not possible for services, baptisms, weddings and funerals in church to take place. We also have to keep the church closed.

This is the twelfth edition of our alternative pew sheet issued during lockdown. We are committed to keeping in touch with everyone at St Johns and offer some resources: [here](#).

If you need any help or assistance from Matthew or Jonny, please be in touch (see opposite).

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - MISSION STATEMENT

Drawn together by Christ's love, we seek by his grace to live out his commandments to love the Lord our God with all of our being; and to love everyone we come across as we love ourselves.

www.stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk

Please do check our website for future updates

St John's

Trinity Sunday

Collect

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible Readings (click on links to access passages):

[Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31](#)

[2 Corinthians 13:11-13](#)

[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

Short Sermon by The Revd Jonny Rapson, Assistant Curate

This Sunday marks Trinity Sunday in the Church calendar where we consider the powerful importance of the Trinity in our faith. Although the word 'Trinity' is not explicit in the Bible, today's Gospel passage from Matthew 28 gives one of the clearest ideas about what it means to be a disciple of a trinitarian God.

Matthew 28:19 says 'therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' The scholar R.T. France suggests that the phrase 'in the name' is more literally translated as 'into the name', which suggests a strong form of allegiance and welcoming in. When we are baptised, we are drawn into allegiance and relationship with God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity is the focus of our discipleship - the Trinity allows us to understand God more fully. We learn of God the Father, a Father so committed to his people he was willing to sacrifice his Son to bring redemption and freedom. We learn of God the Son, a Son so loving that he was willing to face suffering on an unbearable level so that we would one day see him face to face. We learn of God the Spirit, the spirit so present in our lives that God has found a dwelling in us so that we may know that we are never alone. But yet they remain one.

Note that in our Gospel reading it says, baptising them in the 'name'

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singular. Although they are three persons, they remain fully one. Fully united in the perfect relationship. A paradox to our ears - which is why the Trinity is such a complex concept. The Trinity is the perfect embodiment of a relationship where the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are in perfect unity where they are fully one yet remain three distinct individuals. Our fallen world struggles to comprehend what this means because we have fallen relationships - relationships that, although so valuable to us, are not always perfect. There can often be a disconnect in the relationships we have.

In the Trinity, we get a glimpse of what it means to be in a perfect relationship. This is the God who every person on this planet is made in the image of. We all long for relationships because we reflect the image of a trinitarian God who is a fundamentally relational being to his very core. We are commanded to love and care for one another by Jesus because we all reflect the relational God of the Trinity. That is why as Christians we believe that every life is so precious, because everyone reflects the image of the Trinitarian God we follow. That is why it is part of the life of a Christian to stand by those who are not treated as though they are made in the image of an all-loving trinitarian God. That is why we stand against oppression, racism, poverty, trafficking, greed, corruption, discrimination, and persecution. Because all of these things undermine the unshakeable fact that we all reflect the image of a trinitarian relational God. Therefore, standing against injustice acknowledges that we are all made in the image of God and that everyone should be loved and cared for because of that fundamental truth. We are designed for relationship with not only others but also with God. The trinitarian God wants to be wholly part of our lives in relationship.

If we think back to Jesus' baptism at the start of his ministry - all three persons of the trinity were present. Jesus as the Son being baptised, the spirit resting upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father confirming Jesus' identity. In the same way, God is with us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday reminds us that God welcomes us into a profound relationship whereby we are embraced by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It allows us to consider how else we might be able to welcome God into our lives to continue to grow a relationship with God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.