

## Prayers:

We give thanks to God for all His blessings and for calling us to share in the ministry of His Kingdom. May we be willing to serve you faithfully all our days. We pray for all who live with injustice and inequality and for those who are ill and those who care for them, that they may all know the loving presence of God in their lives, especially:

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

**RIP:** Malcolm Mair, Heather Parkhouse, Bibaa Henry, Nicole Smallman

We pray this in the name of Jesus. 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

### 14th 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 13th 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).

**Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have obtained access  
to this grace in which we stand.  
Romans 5:1-2a**

## **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](http://www.stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk)**

Please do check our website for future updates

# St John's

## The First Sunday of Trinity

### Collect

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

### Bible Readings (click on links to access passages):

[Exodus 19:2-8a](#)

[Romans 5:1-8](#)

[Matthew 9:35-10:8](#)

### Short Sermon by Jean Orpwood, Licensed Lay Minister

"Harassed and helpless".

With these words from our Gospel today, Jesus describes the people He meets on his travels during the early part of His ministry. I wonder whether this might describe how some of us feel after twelve weeks of lockdown?

While some have had positive experiences, like learning new skills, baking or clearing out unwanted things, keeping apart from loved ones and friends is painful for many. But others are out of work, have been ill or coping with the unexpected death of friends and family. We may feel harassed and helpless with our present condition, but we hope that it will end, eventually.

Jesus said the crowds were harassed and helpless, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, no sense of direction, no hope, and he had compassion for them. He healed their sickness and disease and they had glimpsed hope for the future. Much was still to be done so Jesus commissions his disciples to share His work of the Kingdom, telling them how to go about it among their own people, "the lost sheep of Israel".

This is our commission too, which we received first at our baptism and renewed for ourselves at our confirmation. Then, at the end of every Eucharist we pray to be "sent out in the power of God's Spirit to live and work to His praise and glory". Paul, writing to the Romans, tells us that through our faith in God, His peace, His grace and His

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love in our lives enable us to fulfil His will. As the song goes, "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give. Go in my Name, and because you believe, others will know that I live."

We may not be asked to wander the highways or stand in a pulpit, but we can all share God's love with others, starting perhaps with our own family, friends and neighbours.

During lockdown signs of God's Kingdom are seen in folk helping neighbours with shopping or making telephone calls. Others have sewn "scrubs", for hospital staff and care workers, or make deliveries. Care Home staff have isolated themselves with their patients to keep them safe. Some make donations enabling others with their tasks.

We thank God and pray for all these helpers. Endless opportunities to work for God's kingdom remain. Being alongside the hurting, isolated or lonely, even on the telephone, enables the love and grace of God to be shared with others.

"Look at the fields, ripe for harvest", said Jesus. "Pray for labourers to be sent out". As we pray for those now at work for the Kingdom, God may also make more use of us than we might realise. May we be ready and willing to be so. Amen.

