

St John's

Prayers:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your grace and mercy when we fall short or feel inadequate. May your hand guide us, may your strength keep us steadfast, and may your love dwell in our hearts, now and always.

We pray for all those who are sick, especially:

Sick: Caitlin Bertie, Scott Bradley, Dawn Forey, Ruth Gillespie, Hanna Lebrato, Marion Mason and Sue Ralfe.

We remember with thanksgiving:

RIP: Elizabeth Bowen.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Contacts

Rector	The Revd Matthew Stone	020 8954 3876
	Email: rector@stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk	
Assistant Curate	The Revd Jonny Rapson	07557 808527
	Email: jonny.rapson@london.anglican.org	
Safeguarding Officers	Mark Lynch	07982 906833
	Louise Gregory	07504 527118
Children's Champion	Sue Wright	07958 499682
Adults at Risk Champion	Sheila Oliver	020 8954 4976
Churchwardens	Mark Lynch	07982 906833
	Jane Prentice	07976 388958
Deputy Wardens	Susan Jones	07864 846148
	Graham Nicholson	01923 226969
Treasurer	Jenny Neve	07989 378840
	Email: jenny.neve@gmail.com	
Data Protection Compliance	The Rector	020 8954 3876

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

Pew Sheet

2nd August 2020

Welcome!

The Government has allowed places of worship to open for individual prayer and services.

St John's Church is open for prayer:
10.30am-12.30pm each day

St John's Church is open for services:
9.30am Sundays
10.30am Wednesdays

Our online services will continue for the time being.

"Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled." Matthew 14:19-20

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

The Eighth Sunday After Trinity

Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Readings (click on links to access passages):

[Isaiah 55:1-5](#)

[Romans 9:1-5](#)

[Matthew 14:13-21](#)

Short Sermon by Jonny Rapson, Assistant Curate

There are many who try and explain away the feeding of the 5,000 to avoid having to answer the question: 'How on earth did Jesus feed all those people?'

Some have suggested that, as Jesus handed out the only food the disciples had, people were so moved by his generosity that they produced the food they had hidden for themselves. Alternatively, some have suggested that this was a spiritual feeding and not a physical one. All valiant attempts to explain away something so complex - but they both inadequately do justice to the sheer magnitude of this miracle.

Our Gospel writers show that this was no ordinary event. This was a miracle like no other. This is the only miracle that appears in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Showing that this event was so huge, that every gospel writer felt they had to include it in their narratives of Jesus. They knew it is crucial to our understanding of who Jesus is.

Matthew's narrative tells us that there were 5,000 men present, but insists that women and children were also present. Scholars have suggested that the number was closer to 20,000; making this miracle, yet again, even more immense and powerful. There is indeed no limit

St John's

to the power of Christ and this miracle shows us exactly that. To put it into perspective, the population of the Stanmore Park ward sat at just over 11,000 in the 2011 census.

Notice that Jesus commands the disciples to find the food. Reminding us that He commands us to go forth and help others in need. We can pray for those who are in need, but we must also be the answer to that prayer. Jesus encourages the disciples to use the gifts that God has given them, and to rely on him when we fall short of what we need. We must come to God with what we have to help, not back off in a state of apathy.

The disciples naturally respond to this task with disbelief, it would be impossible to feed all those people with that amount of food. It can't be done they say. Yet this miracle reminds us that God can use anything we bring before him, no matter how small. The disciples managed to muster up a minuscule amount which they felt was inadequate, but yet Christ uses this to feed thousands of people.

Christ does not expect them to have the power to feed those thousands, but he does expect them to do what they can to help others. However large or small that may seem. Christ cares very little for the amount we might put in, whether that be time, effort, or money. He cares about how much of ourselves we put in. Christ knows that sometimes we just can't muster much, but despite that, God can use what we put in, to do miraculous things.

So I encourage you to know that when we give of ourselves, God multiplies beyond what we would ever think possible. We just need to trust in him.

That no matter what may bring us down, no matter what makes us feel inadequate, God reminds us that he is with us and for us, which is all that matters.

As we were reminded last week in Romans 8 - if God is for us, then who could stand against? Amen.