



The Greater Corsham and Lacock Team

The Church of England in
Corsham | Gastard | Neston
& Lacock with Bowden Hill
corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk

TEAM NEWS (44) - August 29th/30th 2020

From our Associate Minister

Dear Friends

I don't know about you but sometimes when I sit and watch the television news, I realise how little control we have over so much that goes on and which damages other people's lives. We daily see accounts of grief, rage and anger and I'm often left wondering what sort of conversation can we possibly have about God in our everyday lives and world now?

In our Old Testament reading today there is an example of what the Hebrew Bible would call a lament, but I guess it could also be a song of rage.

The Prophet Jeremiah gives voice to pain and anger and all uncontrollable events which surrounded him in his life as a Prophet of God. He is being honest and showing that his relationship with God has ceased to be a joy and a delight and it is a big struggle. More than anything he wants the misery to stop and go away. In response God gives Jeremiah, in chapter 3, a tour of his presence to strengthen him.

Let's put this alongside our gospel reading today. First of all can I remind you of last week's readings where there was a scene in which Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah and then as a response Jesus calls Peter out and says 'On this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it'. But now there is a scene change in mood as Jesus explains to his friends that he must go to Jerusalem and endure great suffering at the hands of religious leaders, elders, priests and Sadducees. As if that wasn't bad enough it gets worse and Jesus describes that this will lead to his death but on the third day he would rise again. Peter response was 'I don't want that to happen. Stop-this must never be.'

What all these readings do today is to let us know that we cannot take the Cross of Jesus out of Jesus' life and death. Because the cross is the place for every human experience on earth. God knows this because God has been there and it therefore follows that we know that God can be trusted. Jesus goes on to say that 'If you want to become my followers deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me for those who want to save a life will lose it and those who do survive for my sake will find it'.

What is being offered here is not an easy path to success or to be made immune from the ups and downs of life. Nor does Jesus say that if we want to follow God it depends on any special super spiritual talent.

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Nor is it any excuse to stay within our buildings. Jesus tells us that we are called to go outside. We're even called into danger even if that danger is no more than the mockery from our friends and neighbours.

We are invited to walk holding his cross into a new life a life that can be shared and the one that testifies that God is ever present at all times and in all places. He was with Jeremiah, he was with the disciples and he is with us too.

You and I are not meant to attempt to follow Jesus alone. It does become possible when we trust God and trust each other enough to become a real community of faith. As a church I do want us to do great things, but we must be a cross bearing church too. I believe God wants us to see that it is all about freeing ourselves and freeing others from sin, oppression and death. I guess the question is do you trust God enough to do that?

With love in Christ

Victor

Sunday services

Sunday 30th August: 10.00am Zoom Online Service

If you have not attended before, please contact Revd Victor for an invitation at associateminister@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk

Please note that our Zoom Services will continue for the foreseeable future alongside our returning church services so as to give alternative options for everyone.

In September there will be Zoom Services on 6th and 20th September at 10am. These will each be different so the second one will no longer be a repeat of the first session thus giving two separate services. It is not now intended that the Zoom Services will be congregation specific so anyone is welcome to either or both.

Sunday 6th September

10.00am Holy Communion in St Bartholomew's Corsham

This will be the first communion service back in church in our Team following the lockdown, and communion will be available in the form of wafers only to minimise infection and measures will be in place to manage the receiving of communion while maintaining social distancing. Please note that although face coverings will be required in church they can be removed temporarily to receive communion. Once again booking will be required to ensure we can accommodate everyone with social distancing. To book your place please contact L'nora Olney on 01225 859202; please alert anyone you know who may not receive Team News electronically about these arrangements.

10.30am Morning Worship in Lacock—no need to book for this service.

NHS Test and Trace: at all services we will be asking for name and telephone numbers for Test and Trace purposes. Details will be kept securely and shredded after 21 days. For booked services you will be asked for this information when you book.

11.00am to 1.00pm Gastard and Neston churches will be open for individual private prayer

Sunday 13th September:

10.00am Holy Communion in Gastard; Morning Worship in Neston.

Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

or

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 15.15–21 (NRSVA)

¹⁵ O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore, thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

New Testament Reading: Romans 12.9–21 (NRSVA) Love

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16.21–28 (NRSVA) Jesus predicts his death

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Change to Rector's day off: as from Monday 7th September, Revd Andrew's day off will be moving from Friday to **Monday** so as to accommodate funerals and other activities that tend to take place later in the week and were previously covered by Revd Adam. Those of you with long memories may remember that Monday used to be his day off, so this is a move back to the 'old normal'!

Electoral Roll revision

Subject to any further changes in Government or Church regulations, it is currently planned to hold our annual parochial church meetings (APCMs) in October. In order to be able to vote at the APCM, you need to be on your church's electoral roll. To ask for your name to be added to the Roll, or to update your details, please contact your church's Electoral Roll officer:

Corsham – Sian Cooper at sian.cooper@virgin.net or 01249 716112

Gastard – Ivis Thompson at ivis@talktalk.net or 01249 712347

Neston - Wendy Bailey at wendy.bailey50@hotmail.co.uk

Lacock w Bowden Hill – Fiona Draper at office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk or 01249 712935

You may also pick up a form for any of the churches from, and return it via, Team Office (3 Church St, Corsham)

If you are already on the Roll and your details are unchanged, you do not need to take any action.

Wiltshire Ride&Stride 12th Sept. Forms etc from Nigel Jackson or Team Office

More news and resources on our website www.corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk/news. Enquires or information to Office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk or admin@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk