



**St Andrew's Whittlesey, St Mary's Whittlesey,  
St Thomas' Pondersbridge and Holy Trinity Coates**  
**Church of England Team Ministry:**  
[www.wpcteam.org.uk](http://www.wpcteam.org.uk)

**Sunday 13 September 2020**  
**Services in our parish churches.**

**At Communion only the bread will be received and we will stand.  
Bread to be administered by the priest only.  
Face masks must be worn by those attending**

**Services for 13 September – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)**

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion-Rev'd Mike Jones
	St Andrew's	Morning Praise
11.00am	St Mary's	Morning Praise
	St Thomas'	No Service
12.00am	Holy Trinity	Baptism- Rev'd Mike Jones

Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:1-13 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

**The Collect for 13 September 2020**

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Monday 14 September - Saturday 19 September**

Monday	M P	Psalm 2	Gen. 3:1-15	John 12:27-36a
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 5	1 Kings 1:32-2:4	Acts 13:44-14:7
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 119:1-32	1 Kings ch.3	Acts 14:8-28
Thursday	M P	Psalm 15	1 Kings 4:29-5:12	Acts 15:1-21
Friday	M P	Psalm 19	1 Kings 6:1,11-28	Acts 15:22-35
Saturday	M P	Psalm 23	1 Kings 8:1-30	Acts 15:36-16:5

**Services for 20 September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)**

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	Holy Trinity	Morning Praise
	St Andrew's	Morning Praise
11.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
1.00pm	St Mary's	Baptism – Rev'd Mike Jones
6.00pm	St Thomas'	Evening Praise

### A Prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.  
**Amen**

### A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus for daily use.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### **Please remember in your prayers:**

#### **Those who are in residential homes, hospital or hospice & those known personally to us including:**

Marie Rogers, Terry Randells, Emma Aindow-Gregory, Lizzie Monk, Joan Kefford, Cheryl Tyner, Judy Stewart, Richard Willows, Alan Ollenbittle, Mavis Connor

**All NHS staff, care workers, emergency services, shop workers, funeral directors and all key workers.**

### **The families and friends of those who have recently died:**

<b>Geoffrey Cushing</b>	private funeral 16 Sep Peterborough Crematorium
<b>Kathleen Blake</b>	private funeral 21 Sep Peterborough Crematorium
<b>Thelma Hipwell</b>	private funeral 22 Sep Peterborough Crematorium
<b>Janet Brown</b>	private funeral 28 Sep Holy Trinity followed by Fenland Crematorium

### Anniversaries 13 – 19 September

**St Andrew's:** Arthur Herbert Neal 18 Alfred Henry Wyatt 19

**St Thomas':**

**St Mary's:** Charles Kenneth Edwards 18 Harry Garner 18 Bertram Harry Bull 19 Alfred Henry Wyatt 19

**Holy Trinity:**

Please note the dates agreed for our **APCMs** across the Benefice to be held in the appropriate Church building with strict socially distancing to be observed.

<b>Holy Trinity:</b>	<b>15 September 4pm</b>
<b>St Thomas':</b>	27 September after the service at 6pm
<b>St Mary's:</b>	27 September 7pm in St Thomas' after their meeting

The Team Benefice Section 12 meeting will be held on 22 September at 7pm in St Mary's, this is where the Parish Profiles will be reviewed. All members of the PCCs are to attend if at all possible, this is an important meeting. Each PCC should be represented by at least three people, thank you.

To support you with your daily prayer and contact with the wider church please make use of the following websites.

Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Prayer online. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Diocese of Ely. <https://www.elydiocese.org/>

Ely Cathedral. <https://www.elycathedral.org/worship-at-home>

The diocesan prayer calendar can be found at

<https://www.elydiocese.org/growing-in-faith/prayer-calendar/>

## Ministry Team - Contacts

### ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST

REV'D MICHAEL JONES. - 01733-203588 - [michael.jones123@sky.com](mailto:michael.jones123@sky.com)

### LICENSED LAY MINISTERS (READERS)

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### Notices

With thanks to our previous Website Administrator, who has moved out of our area, for all of his efforts, thank you Mark Fairbank, we are now looking for another Administrator to take over from Mark. We would like to be able to update what is happening around the Parishes and are looking to put the Zoom services on line in the future: we have a dream. If you can help or know of anyone who might like to practice their web design skills on us, please contact a member of the Ministry Team,

The **Ride and Stride** sponsorship forms are out and about, Roger Brown and Terry and Jane Randells cycled yesterday to raise monies for our Team Account and the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust . We will supply details of what we did in next weeks Newsletter. If you do not want to touch paper work, please ring us or your Church Wardens, all donations, including post event sponsorship will be gratefully received. Thank you

## REFLECTIONS for TRINITY 14 (Matt.18-35).

Some years ago, I had a discussion with a friend who had firm ideas about the nature of the Lord's Table. He criticised other Christians who called the Lord's Table an altar. He maintained what I believe, that Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross was the final sacrifice, complete and sufficient for all time, and made for each one of us. Accordingly, there are no more sacrifices necessary and therefore no altar central to our faith. The table we look at in church is not an altar but simply His table from which we are fed at Holy Communion with the body and blood of Jesus represented by the bread and the wine. Said my friend " It is the Lord's Table and those that see it as an altar are missing the central point of their faith". Whilst not disagreeing with his understanding of faith, I took great exception to his disparaging attitude towards other Christians who see the Lord's Table as an "altar" representing their belief that it represents their own continuing sacrifice week by week when they come to kneel down before the altar and the Cross and remember with gratitude the great sacrifice of Jesus for us. I could not condemn my friend but I felt the need to calmly explain that there is another view. I was close to being angry but I resisted.

Forgiveness, not condemnation, is at the root of our faith as Christians. God gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, to die on that Roman Cross so that we may be forgiven our sins for all time if we come to him in faith. Jehovah, that same God, was desperate for the Israelites to change their sinful ways that he went the extra mile time and time again to forgive them their transgressions. That theme is all pervading throughout the Old Testament but He wants to draw a line under their sin and hence the gift of Jesus who died for us on the Cross that we may have eternal life and live in love and forgiveness with our Father.

In today's Gospel reading from Matthew Chapter 18, what is clear is that the Father's love and forgiveness is boundless. We are asked to emulate that characteristic of God. The pain of the Father in sending His only Son to die on the Cross for us is unimaginable. Someone who is prepared to die for others shows inestimable love and compassion and through his Son God does this for us.

This is what the Parable of the Ungrateful Servant is talking about. The servant is forgiven a huge debt by the Master and yet the servant learning nothing is unable to forgive his debtor a modest debt, mistreats him, has him thrown into prison and tortured until he has repaid his debt. In the parable Jesus talks about the value of forgiveness. If we have to measure the size of forgiveness we are missing the point. We don't qualify to forgive others because we are sinless, rather it is precisely because of our sin that we have to forgive others whatever and however great their sin is. It is because we have received God's forgiveness ourselves that we follow the nature of God and are bound to forgive. Forgiving 70 x 7 times is only the beginning. We must forgive like there is no tomorrow, even if it hurts, since we need to strive to be like Jesus who on the Cross looked down on his executioners and said " Father, forgive them they do not know what they are doing".

It is easy to condemn, rather like the Older Brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, who can only think of his own worth and how good he is, entirely missing the point that his wayward brother was deserving of forgiveness. It was for him to overcome his jealousy at the Father's generosity towards the so-called worthless younger brother and join in the Father's celebration, joy and thankfulness that his son who was lost had now been found.

At the end of the day it is for God only to judge us, not for us to judge others. None of us is without sin. We are all on a learning curve, trying to be more and more like Jesus and often failing miserably. Since we ourselves are deserving of mercy our love and forgiveness goes out to others. We can only hope and pray that we will be helped to aspire to acquire the mind of Christ and be like him. JOHN.