

Sunday 28th July 2024 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 a.m. BCP Communion 10.00 a.m. Family Communion 4.00 p.m. Tea-time Church

Collect for Today

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

2 Kings 4:42-end (p.346), Ephesians 3:14-end (p.190) and John 6:1-21 (p.94)

Please pray for

- ... Pauline Coulter, Chris Lambert, Del May, Jean Read, Paul Young and Roger Young.
- ... those who live and work in East Meads, Ellis Avenue, Elmbank Avenue and Elmside.
- ... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Donations

These are the ways we encourage everyone to give:

- The collection during the third hymn
- The collection plate at the back
- The contactless donation machine at the back
- The QR code to take you to our online giving page
- By setting up a standing order to All Saints

 Don't forget to Gift Aid if you can! Thank you.



Dear Friends

Our Gospel reading for this morning, John 6:1-21, is a familiar one – Jesus' feeding of the five thousand. It took place on the far shore of the Sea of Galilee, where a huge crowd had gathered, because of signs Jesus had performed by healing the sick. The crowd was immense: over five thousand men, quite apart from women and children – and they were hungry.

Jesus famously takes five small barley loaves and two small fish belonging to a small boy within the crowd. He blesses the food, and distributes it to the people. After everyone has eaten the disciples collect twelve baskets of left-overs; and you can imagine the sense of awe there must have been among the people.

What is perhaps less well known is the account of the feeding of a hundred men, under the direction of the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 4:42-end). Elisha had at his disposal some twenty loaves of barley bread. This food is distributed according to the word of the Lord, who says, 'They will eat and have some left over'. And the first recorded miracle of the multiplying of food, in the Bible, takes place.

Food, feeding the hungry, and the importance of hospitality, are hugely important themes in the Bible. So much so that Jesus would go on to describe himself as 'The Bread of Life' (John 6:35). It's a theme that is central to our Big Build project, as we seek to extend our hospitality as a church in deeply significant ways. If you've not seen the latest version of the plans, please do take a look at them today. You'll see the proposal to majorly extend the foyer to include a catering size kitchen, three toilets and an enlarged office.

If you have any thoughts or comments about the plans, please do let any PCC member know. We'll be meeting on Tuesday evening this week (30th July), to give final approval to these plans, before they go forward to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for consideration. We'd love to hear from at this crucial stage of the Big Build Project!

Beverly

Mission Focus for July: United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG)

USPG has been one of the foremost outreach organisations of the Church of England since its formation in the early 18th century. All Saints has been supporting the work of USPG for a great many years, as one of the beneficiaries of the annual financial support budget for mission organisations. The emphasis is now on the word "Partners", as USPG works in collaboration with local churches and communities on valuable local projects in more than 50 countries around the world, particularly in Africa and Asia. Project work includes provision of clinics for treatment of HIV and AIDS cases, and also education and work skills training programmes.

Notices

Children & Young People's Church: Although it's the summer holidays and Children & Young People's church is paused; Julie and Jeanette will still be providing resources to use during the service. This week, at the back of church, you'll find activities focusing on the feeding of the five thousand. There will be toys for the little ones in the Reading Room if needed.

Tea-time Church today: We'll be looking at today's gospel reading and the account of Jesus and a miracle, a 'ghost' and another miracle. Everybody is welcome and there will be a cup of tea afterwards.

The Big Build: The Big Build Steering Group have been working with our architect for several months and we've now got some agreed plans that you can see on the display board in church. The PCC are meeting on 30th July to approve the plans. We will then look to provide the plans to the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) in October. Gaining their approval is a precursor to going for planning permission. If you have any comments, please have a chat with one of the Big Build team (their names are displayed on the main noticeboard).

Deanery Synod Meeting: Wednesday 31st July, 7.30pm at St Mary's Shalford. This will include a presentation from the Local Ministry Programme Team. Simon Doran and Marguerite Barclay are our current representatives on Deanery Synod.

Picnic in the Vicarage Garden: Sunday 4th August, 4.00pm. The Tea-time Church team will be hosting a picnic in the Vicarage garden. Pop it in your diary and please do invite friends and family to enjoy time together in the lovely garden.

Cream Teas & Music in the Field: On Saturday 10th August we'll be holding our next Big Build fundraiser. Between 2pm and 4pm join us on the church field to enjoy a delicious cream tea and listen to some music. Do come along and think about inviting friends and family.

Paid Employment: We're looking to pay someone for 3 hours/week to oversee our Baby & Toddler Group. This takes place on Friday mornings and the focus of the role will be to supervise a team of volunteers. If you're interested in exploring this, please be in touch with Beverly.

The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 1st August, opening again on Monday 12th August whilst Trish is on holiday. For anything urgent, please contact Beverly, Carolyn or Robin.

Diary for the Coming Week

Morning prayer Mon, Tues, Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and Zoom.

Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.

Mon 29th Pastoral Team Meeting, 5 Elmside, 10.00am

Worship Vision Group, Vicarage, 5.30pm

Tues 30th Extraordinary PCC Meeting, Vicarage, 7.30pm Weds 31st Deanery Synod, St Mary's Shalford, 7.30pm Thurs 1st Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am

Fri 2nd Friday Group, 3.00pm

Sun 4th Holy Communion, Reading Room, 8.00am

Café-style Altogether Worship and Baptism of Isabella, 10.00am

Tea-Time Church – Picnic in the Vicarage Garden, 4.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 29th Ps. 44, 1 Samuel 19:1-18, Acts 1:1-14 Tues 30th Ps. 48, 1 Samuel 20:1-17, Acts 1:15-end Weds 31st Ps. 119:57-80, 1 Samuel 20:18-end, Acts 2:1-21

Thurs 1st Ps. 57, 1 Samuel 21:1-22:5, Acts 2:22-36 Fri 2nd Ps. 51, 1 Samuel 22:6-end, Acts 2:37-end

Sat 3rd Ps. 68, 1 Samuel 23, Acts 3:1-10

Service Readings for Sunday 4th August: Trinity 10

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Ephesians 4:1-16 and John 6:24-35

Contacts

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