

Sunday 27th October 2024
Last Sunday after Trinity and Bible Sunday

10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion

4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church

Collect for Today

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

Isaiah 55:1-11 (*p.696*), 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 (*p.210*) and John 5:36b-end (*p.93*)

Please pray for

... Margaret Arni, Marion Bounds, Clive Daborn, Jo Dwyer, Robin Holdsworth, Chris Lambert, Jean and Tony Reed, and Roger Young.

... the family and friends of George Richie, Raymond George and John Finch whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... those who live and work in West Meads, Wilderness Court, Wilderness Road and Windsor Close.

... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dear Friends

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

At His coronation, King Charles swore a solemn oath on the King James Bible to "uphold to the utmost of his power, the Laws of God within the Realm, and the true profession of the Christian Gospel."

On the despatch box in the House of Commons sit bibles in three languages – Welsh, Celtic and English – so, MP's have the option, if they choose to do so, to swear an oath of allegiance in their mother tongue before they can take their seats in the House. Incoming Presidents of the United States swear an oath with one hand on the King James Bible. Simply stated, the impact of the Bible is unparalleled. With over 5 billion copies produced so far, translated into some 1,300 languages it remains top of the all-time best sellers list by a country mile.

Although it is called the Book of books. It is of course 66 books, (85 if you include the Apocrypha) written in 3 languages on 3 continents, over a timespan of some 1500 years. Yet in all that diversity there is tremendous harmony and continuity from Genesis to Revelation. There is one unfolding story: "God's redemption of humanity." His love letter to us.

Even as just a stand-alone historical work, the Bible has more than stood the test of time. When Historians and Academics applied the tests which are used to judge any works of antiquity, the Bible passed with flying colours. Then there is the test of fulfilled prophecy, which has confounded distinguished mathematicians, while in the world of archaeology, new discoveries have re-affirmed that practically every town mentioned in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) has now been shown to have existed.

So, as we come to celebrate Bible Sunday, lets remind ourselves once more that we have the incredible privilege of holding in our hands a living treasure, the very living Word of God, given not only for our erudition, but also to confidently share with others in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Paul Fenner

Mission Focus for October: ReSkilled

ReSkilled is a charity based in Bellfields that aims to provide individuals who have long-term unemployment, with skills needed to move into sustainable employment. The participants learn a range of generic work skills alongside some practical woodwork skills. They build up a portfolio of the work they have done as evidence for future employers. Please pray for the participants and volunteers and that successful employment can be found for those seeking it. More information in the magazine and on their website - reskilled.org

Notices

Gift Day for The Big Build: On Sunday 24th November we'll be holding a launch event for our fundraising campaign for the Big Build project. We'll be focussing on the project in our morning service and then inviting the whole church to stay after for **prosecco and plans** at 11.15am! We hope to have 3D images of the new build, presentations from the team and the opportunity to ask more about the project vision. The cost of the project will be in the region of £750,000 and we will need to raise £300,000 of this ourselves. Please think and pray about what you may be able to give financially.

Welcome to Paul Fenner who is presiding and preaching at our 10am service today as we focus on Bible Sunday.

Tea Time Church: On this Bible Sunday we will be looking at the story of a girl called Mary Jones and thanking God for our freedom to read His Word.

Morning Prayer on Monday will be in person only, in the Reading Room. Apologies for any inconvenience. Zoom will be back from Tuesday!

Bonfire & Fireworks tickets: Tickets are SOLD OUT! We sometimes get returns, so ask Trish if you'd like to be on the wait list.

Remembrance Sunday: On Sunday 10th November we have two special services:

- ✝ 10am All-Age Communion where we will be joined by our local uniformed organisation. The Brownies are also holding a cake sale in the hall afterwards.
- ✝ 4pm Service for the Bereaved. Please let Trish know of any loved one to be remembered at that service.

Greenery for the bonfire: The bonfire construction team would very much like any fresh garden greenery with which to pack out the bonfire. If you have some, please contact Simon Moulden (07790 020130) to coordinate delivery.

All Saints Patronal Festival: We'll be celebrating our Patronal Festival at all three services on Sunday 3rd November:

- ✝ 8am Holy Communion
- ✝ 10am Café-Style Altogether Worship
- ✝ 6pm Choral Evensong – where Jeremy and the choir have prepared special choral items. We'll be serving wine and nibbles afterwards.

Cashier: we're looking for someone to work alongside our bookkeeper as cashier. This involves counting money once every three weeks and banking it at HSBC in town. If you have an hour or two to spare, please have a chat with Eve.

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.

Weds 30th Sharing & Learning Group, 4 Windsor Close, 7.45pm

Thurs 31st Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am

Fri 1st Friday Group, Reading Room, 3.00pm

Sat 2nd Bonfire & Fireworks Night, Church field, 6.00pm

Sun 3rd *All Saints' Patronal Festival*

Holy Communion, Reading Room, 8.00am

Café-style Altogether Worship, 10.00am

Choral Evensong, 6.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 28th Ps. 116, Isaiah 45:18-end, Luke 6:12-16

Tues 29th Ps. 36, Leviticus 23:1-22, 2 Timothy 4:9-end

Weds 30th Ps. 34, Leviticus 23:23-end, Titus 1

Thurs 31st Ps. 37, Leviticus 24:1-9, Titus 2

Fri 1st Ps. 15, Isaiah 35:1-9, Luke 9:18-27

Sat 2nd Ps. 42, Numbers 6:1-5, 21-end, Philemon

Service Readings for Sunday 3rd November:

All Saints' Patronal Festival

Isaiah 25:6-9, Revelation 21:1-6a and John 11:32-44

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