

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026**  
**First Sunday after Trinity**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10.00 a.m. Café-style Altogether Worship  
4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church

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**Collect for Today**

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen**

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**Service Readings**

Hosea 5:15-6:6 (*p.853*), Romans 4:13-end (*p.150*) and Matthew 9:9-13,18-26 (*p.8*)

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**Please pray for**

... Angus Bentall, Esme Doran, Mark & Jan Knott, Julie Lodge, Paddy Payne, David Richards, Sue & John Smith (Zoë's parents), Mike Woodcock and Paul Young.

... the family and friends of Reginald Reekie, Doris Greenacre, Joy Pyle and Elizabeth Jay whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... those who live and work in Thorn Bank and Vicarage Gate.

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

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**Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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**Financial Giving**

Donations are welcome at all our services. If you don't give regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme, please put your donation in the bowl, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

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## Dear Friends

What must it have been like to meet Jesus? Can we still meet him today? Looking at Matthew 9 can help us answer those questions. In church we will hear about Matthew, a woman with a long-standing haemorrhage, and the young daughter of a synagogue leader, but now I'm going to focus on Matthew.

Nobody likes paying taxes, but in Jesus' time people had an extra reason to despise tax collectors: they worked for the occupying force, the Roman Empire; they were seen as collaborators, and some misused their power and overcharged people greatly. The Gospel gives us the bare bones of the story: Jesus says 'Follow me,' and Matthew leaves the tax booth and follows him. That leaves us to use our imaginations to sense what is going on, and that is a good thing. When we mull over the Gospel stories, and think about what the characters were feeling, and why they acted as they did, it helps us to meet with Jesus in our hearts more fully. We can ask Jesus questions, such as, 'Jesus, am I living my life the right way, or do you want me to make a change like Matthew did?'

Matthew welcomes Jesus and his disciples to his home; there is a great feast, with 'many tax collectors and sinners.' This upsets some of the Pharisees, who avoided tax collectors and known sinners at all costs. Are there any groups that we would shun, or not want in our church? Jesus gives two answers: firstly, he says, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.' In Guildford there is a restaurant called Cosy Club: it is very nice, and I've been there several times. But our church is not called to be a cosy club: we need to welcome and care for those in trouble, those shunned by others. Secondly, Jesus quotes Hosea, where God says 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' All the prayers we say and songs we sing are lovely, but they mean nothing unless we are merciful, welcoming and kind in our lives. Imagine Jesus saying that to you: 'I desire mercy, not great sacrifices of your time and money.' How would you respond? When we read the stories of Jesus, it is always good to ask those sorts of questions, so that we, like Matthew and the other disciples, become more and more the people Jesus wants us to be.

Jay

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### **Mission Focus for June: Clare and Andrew Koens, Papua New Guinea**

Clare and Andrew provide support to the Wycliffe Bible translators. Please pray for Andrew, who has been experiencing crippling joint pain (especially in his knees) since October. Andrew looks after the motorbikes and other machinery used by translators, and Clare is providing staff care, teaching, and coaching. Please pray for the education needs of Levi, Heidi and Eowyn.

<https://wycliffe.org.uk/>

## Notices

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**Swift Talk and Hedgehog Update:** TODAY at 2pm in church, we're holding a joint event with OVRA. We'll be hearing about swifts from the Guildford Swift Project and also having an update from Prof Tara Pirie on hedgehog numbers. Tea, cake and chat afterwards!

**Tea Time Church today, 4pm:** we'll be looking at the story of Jesus raising Jairus' daughter. This story reminds us that Jesus cares for us, invites us to trust Him when we are afraid, and gives us hope because He is stronger than sickness, sadness, and even death.

**Library and Book Swap:** Our All Saints' library has now moved into church and books can be taken out on a trust basis. There is also a book swap in the foyer for religious books; please bring or take whatever is useful. Please contact Mike Truman if you have any questions.

**Bishop Paul's Gatherings:** Bishop Paul is visiting each deanery over the next few months for a 'gathering'. Each gathering will include an opportunity for Bishop Paul to meet congregations, to enjoy praise-filled worship and to celebrate what God is doing in parishes. Guildford Deanery will meet at Emmanuel Stoughton on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm-9pm. Do consider going to hear from Bishop Paul and others in our deanery.

**Andy's and Lydia's Ordinations:** both Andy and Lydia will be ordained on Sunday 28th June (Andy in Guildford, Lydia in Newcastle). At 4pm, we'll be holding a **celebration tea** in church for Andy to which everyone is invited. It would be helpful if you could let Trish know if you're coming to the tea so that we cater appropriately!  
Please pray for both Andy and Lydia as they prepare for this big day.

**Choral Evensong followed by Strawberry Teas in the Vicarage Garden:** On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June our choir will be leading us in Choral Evensong at 4pm and this will be followed by strawberry teas in the Vicarage garden. All welcome – and if you'd like to bake a cake, please let Jo Smalley know.

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## Diary for the Coming Week

**Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and on Zoom. Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.**

- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Women's Bible Study Group, 16 West Meads, 12.30pm  
Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Altogether Worship Planning, Reading Room, 7.30pm  
Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Lunch Group, Wilders, 12.30pm  
Guildford Deanery Gathering, Emmanuel Church, 7.30pm  
Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am  
Choir Rehearsal, Church, 8.00pm  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 10.00am  
Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Prayer Breakfast, 5 Elmside, 9.00am  
Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Church Family Communion with Children's Church, 10.00am  
Tea Time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm  
Youth Group, Church Hall, 5.30pm

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## Daily Readings for the coming week

- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Ps. 30, Joshua 14, Luke 12:1-12  
Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Ps. 36, Joshua 21:43-22:8, Luke 12:13-21  
Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Ps. 34, Joshua 22:9-end, Luke 12:22-31  
Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Ps. 100, Jeremiah 9:23-24, Luke Acts 4:32-end  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Ps. 31, Joshua 24:1-28, Luke 12:41-48  
Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Ps. 42, Joshua 24:29-end, Luke 12:49-end

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## Service Readings for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 19:2-8a, Romans 5:1-8 and Matthew 9:35-10:8

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## Contacts

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