

Notices for 25th of August 2024

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

*A warm welcome to everyone;*

*please come into the hall for refreshments after the service.*

**Collect:**

Almighty God,

you search us and know us:

may we rely on you in strength

and rest on you in weakness,

now and in all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Hymns:**

**89** O worship the Lord. In the beauty of holiness

**375** Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

**311** Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour

**279** And now O Father mindful of the love

**377** Angel voices ever singing

Although there is no formal collection during the offertory hymn, please feel free to make a contribution to the work of St. Mary’s either in the Treasury

box at the back of church, or using the card reader, also at the back of church. Thank you.

**Readings:**

**Ephesians 6.10-20**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**John 6.56-69**

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter

answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’

**Post-communion prayer:**

God our creator,

you feed your children with the true manna,

the living bread from heaven:

let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage

until we come to that place

where hunger and thirst are no more;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Vacancy Notices and Dates – Any questions Dan & Peter**

**Vacancy Plans –** Bishop Paul has sent a very positive message to the parish, to say he understands that Cuddington is a very attractive proposition for the right person and we’re keen to see you build on the great work that Theresa did and grow even further, so we’re setting the bar high! Plans are now agreed to re-advertise during September, with interviews planned for 31 Oct.

**Visiting Clergy** – From August, a number of visiting clergy will be helping us with our worship, including Revd Neil Vigers on 25th Aug, and Archdeacon Martin Breadmore on 22 Sep.

**Lectern and Pulpit –** Adjustments to the operation of zoom and associated sound system are being actively considered to include a greater use of the pulpit and lectern in our regular worship. Dan and Peter are working towards introduction in August once details have been discussed with all involved.

**Sharing of the Peace -** Following discussion in PCC we still want to respect social distancing for those who chose to retain this. For now, we are asking everyone to remain in their pews, and to shake hands only where it is it mutually agreeable between those sitting next to one another.

**8am SERVICES will be held only once a month** on the first Sunday of each month. Any questions please talk to Dan or Peter.

**Dates for your diary**

**Sunday 1st September (AMENDED DATE!) – 12 noon Parish Barbeque**All welcome, and we are asking for a contribution of £5 per head on the day. Please sign up at the back of church, indicating any dietary requirements, and ask if you able to bring salad / desserts to complement the BBQ.

***Enquiries: Dan Smithers***

**Saturday 14th September Ride and Stride 2024**

The Surrey Churches Preservation Trust (SCPT) is holding its annual Ride and Stride event on Saturday 14th September.  This is an event where people are sponsored to visit Surrey Churches.  If you would be available to act as steward on this date, ***please see Peter, Dan or Sara***.

**Saturday October 5th at 7pm**

We are planning a Harvest Festival Quiz night.

***Tickets now available from Sara Tomlin***

**Looking Forward…**

Sunday 24th November - Sunday Christmas Homemade Sunday

Plus, additional homemade Sundays - dates to be arranged.

**Urgent Donations needed this week for Epsom & Ewell Foodbank.**

Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Cooking Sauces, Dried Noodles (not pot or instant), Long Life Juice, Pulses, Instant Mash, Rice, Instant Coffee, Sugar, Chocolate, Biscuits, Long life Sponge puddings, Adult Toothbrushes, washing up Liquid, Nappies 5, 6+ & 7, Deodorant (Male & Female), Shower gel, Washing Powder, Shampoo & Conditioner

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