

PRESCOT PARISH NEWSLETTER



Churches of St Mary & St Paul . www.prescotparish.org.uk
Vicar: Revd John Taylor . 0151 426 6719 . john.taylor@huytondeanery.org
Newsletter Editor: David Kernick . 0783 5090 752 . kernick@gmail.com



SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020—SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



Collect

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

Old Testament	Genesis 21.8-21
Psalms	86.1-10,16-17*
New Testament	Romans 6.1b-11
Gospel	Matthew 10.24-39

For your prayers:

- Anniversaries: Audrey Oakes,
Tommy Taylor

CHURCH OPENING

Prescot Parish Church is now opening on Sundays between 10am and 12 noon. This is strictly to allow drop-in for private prayer, so there will be no services as yet. If you are in the high risk category, please keep safe and pray at home.

THE REVEREND PETER COWLEY, CA, WRITES

“Do not be afraid.” Matthew 10.26,28,31

Hello everyone! I hope that you are all keeping well. The time of easing lockdown is slowly upon us and things begin to change, with the church building open for private prayer today 10 to 12 pm. Small steps are the watchword of beating this pandemic and also, I am afraid, patience for us all!

Fear has been something that many if not all of us have felt over the past months as lockdown and shielding became a way of life. It was and still is a threat to all of us, at this time especially when we have to a certain extent trust each other when we are out and about shopping or visiting family and friends at a social distance. I am not in a social bubble, and I meet most people in gardens at a safe distance—all very surreal at times and something not really done in the rain, as it is as I write this.

Our gospel reading for today is one of those passages that is difficult on first glance to take in. It seems to be about saying, you are not this or that, and you must do this or that to be a follower of Jesus, and that if things get in the way of following, then you have to make a difficult, if-not-impossible decision about following Jesus. As it is said, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Yet from this passage we could ask, What is the most used command in the Bible? Worship God, don't sin, give more money away, keep the sabbath holy, etc. Yet according to Tom Wright in his commentary on this passage, it is “the command we find in verse 26, 28 and 31: Don't be afraid.”

Despite all that Jesus has said about what will happen if we are his followers—the authorities will look for you, you will suffer pain and emotional upset, people will call you names, plenty to be afraid of in that lot—yet he says to them, “Don't be afraid!”

In many ways we today are still in the same boat as the early disciples, as we have to at-times challenge what we see to be happening in our community, our nation and the world at times. At present we are all, I believe, challenged to think about how we as individuals, as a community, as a nation and in the world order have treated people of black, Asian and other ethnic origins by slavery, by prejudice and by not seeing them as our fellow human beings. Because of the catalyst of George Floyd's murder, we have looked at all of the history of the Slave Traders and their legacy in our country today. Should we be challenging all this racist behaviour conscious or not, institutional in the Church of England? We should, and we may be afraid, but as Jesus says, "And remember I am with you always to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20b).

We need to trust in Jesus to be with us and look after us as God looks after the sparrow.

God bless,

Peter

VIRTUAL GARDEN STALL: Ann Capewell has put together some garden planters for church funds. If you are interested, please phone 07561170114 to discuss. Price would include local delivery.

KNOWSLEY FOODBANK continues to need your donations of food. All imperishable foods and toiletries are welcome, but items especially needed right now are juice/squash, tinned potatoes, tinned fish, tinned desserts and tinned fruit. You can leave donations in the marked bin inside the entrance to Tesco Extra Prescot. FoodBank itself is open in Prescot every Wednesday, from 12 noon to 2pm, at the Salvation Army on the corner of Ash Grove and Warrington Road. It is there to help *anyone* who is struggling financially and cannot buy essential groceries at the moment.

SHAREKNOWSLEY continues its excellent work supporting refugees locally. They especially need donations of men's toiletries at the moment. The drop-off point is St Aidan's Parish House, 92 Adswold Road, Huyton L36 7XR. Contact the Revd Kim if you have any queries.

THE PRESCOT FESTIVAL cannot go ahead this week, but that doesn't mean we can't enjoy arts and music online. Please keep an eye on the Facebook page and official festival website in the next couple of weeks, as we'll be sharing photos and videos to remind everyone of the great times we've had and as a foretaste of the great times still ahead. Find us at

www.prescotfestival.co.uk and www.facebook.com/prescotfestival.

Stay in Touch

www.prescotparish.org.uk www.facebook.com/prescotparishchurch
www.twitter.com/prescotparish

If you are struggling and need pastoral support or practical help, please contact someone:

Revd John Taylor—john.taylor@huytondeanery.org 0151 426 6719

Revd Kim Mannings—revkimberleymannings@gmail.com 07305 922 392

Revd Peter Cowley, CA—petercowley@blueyonder.co.uk 07752 660 591

David Kernick—kernick@gmail.com 07835 090 752

There is also a Knowsley Community Support and Volunteer Line open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri and 10am-2pm Sat-Sun on **0800 730 043**.

DEDICATION

Martin Kernick, who died unexpectedly at home on 27 May, aged 72. To a beloved and already much-missed uncle, whose love for his wife, children and grandchildren—and their deep love for him—shone brightly to be seen by all. With many fond memories, from your nephew Dave