

# PRESCOT PARISH NEWSLETTER



Churches of St Mary & St Paul . [www.prescotparish.org.uk](http://www.prescotparish.org.uk)  
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**SUNDAY 19 JULY 2020—SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

‘Oh, the comfort—the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person — having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.’

Dinah Mariah Mulock Craik(1826-1887)



## Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 28.10-19a
Psalm	139.1-11,23,24
New Testament	Romans 8.12-25
Gospel	Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

For your prayers:

- Deaths: Ricky Landers, Albert Gough, Warren Glover
- Anniversaries: June Platt
- Baptisms: Ava May Turton, Ivy Grace Turton

## THE REVEREND KIMBERLEY MANNINGS WRITES

*Matthew 13.24-30,36-43* In ancient Palestine, where Jesus likely told this parable, wheat crops were a major source of income for many farmers, just as they are today: valued and precious beyond measure. For these farmers, one of their greatest fears for their crops was the infiltration of weeds. Many think that these weeds were a form of primitive bioterrorism, as there were already in existence Roman laws against sowing weeds in somebody else's field, indicating that the practice had likely become a problem.

The specific kind of weeds mentioned were called darnel, and outwardly they looked very similar to wheat, as the two plants matured side by side. Yet, these darnel grains were poisonous and could risk rendering the entire crop useless. However, the great difficulty that the farmers faced was that by fully uprooting the weeds, it was almost impossible not to pull up the wheat plants at the same time.

Therefore, the farmer would have to hope against hope that the wheat could somehow grow successfully in spite of the weeds – with weeds and wheat being allowed to grow together until it was clear which to uproot and burn.

We live in a world, don't we, of wheat and weeds? Of beauty, awe and wonder; intermingled with pain, suffering and sin. We, ourselves, are a mixture of wheat and weeds: often filled with kindness and compassion; love for our neighbours and tolerance; yet simultaneously capable of inflicting great pain- in words and in actions; of sinful thoughts and ulterior motives.

At the beginning of the parable, it seems that the weeds have won: that sin, evil and all that seeks to undo and destroy... has won. Jesus told this parable seeing the world in bondage to sin—knowing the extent of human sinfulness and the sinfulness of the world around us. At the beginning of the parable we feel that the situation is hopeless—that the weeds will win the day.

Yet, by the middle of this parable, we see that the wheat has survived, growing despite the presence of the weeds.

And so it is with us. So is our prayer. That we may grow as God's children—more and more into His likeness each and every day. It's why

we confess our sins; it's why we come to His Table: to ask God to harvest in us that which is worth keeping and to uproot those thoughts, words and deeds—those parts of us which are not—and throw them away. That we may live as disciples of Christ, despite the sin which so easily entangles.

We know now what Jesus's audience didn't know when he told this parable—that Jesus Himself would triumph over death and prepare a place for us in His Kingdom—it's predicted at the end of this parable, when the farmer is still able to harvest his crop; destroying the weeds and salvaging the wheat.

Yet, until that day when we see His glory face to face, we must live in a world which still has weeds. Until that day when evil is no more, when war and famine, crying and pain, diseases and invisible pathogens are no more—when death is swallowed up in victory, when Jesus Christ the great farmer burns the dross away.

May we be wheat amongst the weeds. May God to sow the good seed of His Spirit in us each and every day, that we may be sowers of wheat in this darkened world. May we choose to see the wheat in one another, in spite of the weeds. In Christ,

*Kim*

### **Public Worship at St Mary's**

From Sunday 26 July we plan to resume services of Holy Communion in the parish church, at the usual time of 10am. We are still in discussions about how we will ensure that numbers are limited (capping the total at sixty) and there will be strict practices in place, both in terms of current practices of social distancing/handwashing/cleaning, and also in regards to how we receive the Sacrament. There will be no singing and the liturgy will be reduced. Face masks will also be compulsory for all attending, including presiding clergy. Whilst we have taken every precaution and conducted thorough risk assessments, it is impossible to completely remove the risk of Covid-19—as is true of any setting. Therefore, whilst it would be really helpful if you could let those whom you speak to know of these plans and answer questions regarding safe practice, we do ask that you make it clear that it is down to each individual to calculate the risk of attending, and not to encourage them to come, as many will not feel ready/will fall into high risk categories. If you'd told me a year ago that I'd be sending an email which didn't actively encourage people to attend church, I would not have

believed you! However, what matters most is the safety of God's children—made in His image and of infinite value to Him. *Kim*

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has purchased garden planters and plants (and marmalade!) from the virtual garden stall and contributed to church funds. You have raised over £150 so far. All the made-up planters have now gone, so last minute orders are on a commission-only basis. You can contact me on 07561170114. PS The Traidcraft Stall is still operating for fairly traded and ethical goods. Build back better after Covid!

**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 Prescott. FoodBank itself is open in Prescott 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 Adswood Road, Huyton L36 7XR. Contact the Revd Kim if you have any queries.

### Stay in Touch

[www.prescotparish.org.uk](http://www.prescotparish.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/prescotparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/prescotparishchurch)  
[www.twitter.com/prescotparish](https://www.twitter.com/prescotparish)

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

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