

Holy Trinity St Mary's



Friends,

I love puzzles, crosswords, Sudoku and quizzes. Except the one thing that terrifies me about a quiz is that there is often a round of questions on the Bible. Please don't be shocked but I am hopeless at that. What did God create on the fourth day? What is the seventh commandment? Questions such as these always frustrate me. Rest assured that I have read the relevant chapters of the Bible, but I am hopeless at trying to remember that level of detail.

So I was worried last weekend when the quiz-setter announced the Bible question. "You have three minutes to write down as many books of the Bible as you can". Hurrah, I thought: I can do this. And anyway, within three minutes, I won't be able to write all that I know quickly enough and so it won't be obvious how much I don't know. I was wrong. There was still 45 seconds to go, and I had run out of ideas. Admittedly, I could name 46 of the 66 books in the Bible - but that still leaves 20 that had completely slipped my mind. Amongst the most obvious, I was embarrassed not to be able to recall Acts of the Apostles, and Jonah.

Later that evening, as I began to kick myself for how much I had forgotten, I was reminded that the Bible is not a store of knowledge, it is a spur to spiritual maturity. The Bible is given to us, not so much to be informative, but to be formative. As we read and listen to passages, as we ponder on sermons that are reflecting on Bible passages, we are being formed into wiser, more mature, kinder, more resilient people.

It's a bit like meals: we may remember a handful of really special meals in our lifetime, but we are nourished by thousands of meals that we have forgotten. It's okay both to remember and to store away out of sight. Revelation both reveals and re-veils. Some aspects of the Bible's revelation should be active in how we live each day, and other aspects, once heard, can be safely stored away - probably inaccessible to us most of the time - but will be part of forming who we are at a deeper level.

St Augustine wrote: "The whole of life of the good Christian is a holy longing. What you long for, as yet you do not see. By withholding of the vision, God extends our longing. Through longing, God extends our soul." In these troublesome times, we will all be challenged to adapt and find resources that we did not know we had. One of the great spurs to being resourceful and resilient is to be grateful. As you prepare yourself for sleep, try to spend some time naming to yourself, say, 10 things to be grateful for this day and this will 'extend your soul'. We become big-hearted both by longing well, and by thanking often.

On an August Bank Holiday about 40 years ago, I set off from London with five fellow students in a tatty old car for a weekend in the Lake District. To avoid the traffic, we departed at about 5 am. So, halfway there, we felt cramped and hungry. One person suddenly said: "My uncle and aunt live nearby. Let's call in on them". Unexpected, six ravenous students arrive on their doorstep at 8 am. Within half an hour, Uncle Jimmy and Auntie Sue sat us down to bacon, eggs, toast and coffee. I can still remember leaving their kitchen in some embarrassment - an empty fridge and a table groaning with dirty crockery. But I have never forgotten their example of generosity and resourcefulness. I was so glad they lived with a full fridge. I was even more grateful that God had extended their soul so that they responded with immediate kindness. That's a meal that I will never forget - both the food and the attitude of my hosts. So, on the next occasion that I score only 2 out of 10 on the Bible questions in a quiz, I hope that God will have taken the other 8 answers and moulded them into my character.

Bandwidth in Holy Trinity

Over the past few weeks, a few people have asked us if we can improve the WiFi connection in Holy Trinity for services on Sunday mornings. Tests on our WiFi reveal that we don't need to upgrade as the connection speed is very good. However, there are two things that everyone can do to help. If you are coming to church, please switch your phone to 'flight mode' or at the very least turn off the WiFi function. This will stop your phone from trying to lock onto our network to carry out background tasks during the service.

If you are participating in the service from home and you have trouble hearing the words, the problem is likely to be your bandwidth, not ours. To help improve the sound quality, you can turn off your video. You'll still be able to see everything going on in church, we just won't be able to see you. You could also turn off other devices in your home that might be draining the available bandwidth.

Anyone visiting Holy Trinity this week will notice that there is a large TV screen at the front of church. We hope that by next Sunday we'll be able to see the reader or intercessor from home and not just hear their voice. Please be assured that no other liturgical uses are planned for the TV screen at present.

News from around Guildford

- **Supporting the Food Bank in Guildford** - The North Guildford Food Bank has a 'currently wanted' list of items on display at Sainsbury's in Burpham where you can leave donations. This list is also posted on [their Facebook page](#). Please continue to support the Food Bank either via Burpham Sainsbury's or by making a donation via [Bankuet](#) until it is possible to resume a monthly collection in church
- **Job vacancies** - Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy is seeking a new Street Angel Coordinator (24 hours/week) and Community Angels Project Support Assistant (24 hours/week). Please [go to their website](#) for full details.
- **Parish Blog** - the [latest Parish blog post](#) looks at the work of Shooting Star Children's Hospices and South West Surrey Cruse Bereavement Care. Next we shall hear from Christians Against Poverty and Guildford Action.

Worship in the parish this week

- This Sunday, Jonathan Hedgecock is preaching at Holy Trinity on Mark 7.31–37, and will be reflecting on the significance of Jesus's healing miracles.
- At St. Mary's Church-at-Home, Stephen Marriott will be preaching and the bible readings are from Romans 12: 9–21 and Matthew 16: 21–27.
- Morning Prayer continues each weekday at 8:30am. This is a simple way to start the day well. You can join in easily for the 20-minute meditation by following the links below.
- Robert is presiding and preaching at St Nicolas on Sunday at 10 am. We will be assisting that parish for a while as Andrew Norman, the previous Rector, retired in July and they will be "in vacancy" for some months to come.
- Services and other parish activities are updated regularly on our [website](#).

Robert

Links to services, morning prayer and service sheets

[SUBSCRIBE](#) to this newsletter to receive the Zoom Links to services (sent by email only).

Sunday 30th Aug 8am Holy Communion

SERVICE SHEET

Sunday 30th Aug 10am Eucharist & coffee

SERVICE SHEET

Sunday 30th Aug 10:30am Church-at-Home

SERVICE SHEET

Pause to Pray

SERVICES ON VIDEO

Weekday 8:30am Morning Prayer on Zoom

WEEKDAY PRAYER

Download Zoom links and call-in details

HTSM NEWSLETTER

If there is news that we should know please pass it on:

Rev Robert Cotton: rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 575489

Rev Tom Pote: curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 511725

Parish Office: office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 567716

Please make sure we have up to date contact details for you.
