

Good morning everyone

It was lovely to see a number of you over the last week, since we began resuming worship in the church buildings. It was a very encouraging return to something similar to what were used to, if necessarily with certain differences. Thank you to you all for observing the different safety requirements about hand sanitising and physical distancing. We have now, as I expected, been given much stronger guidance from the national church that face coverings should be worn where possible by all those attending places of worship. Today we will be having a Holy Communion service at 11am at Kingsbury, and I look forward to seeing some of you then.

We are continuing with the youtube worship and reflection, and the link is attached here:

https://youtu.be/HP8qZAG_YOE



[Worship and Reflection for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity](https://youtu.be/HP8qZAG_YOE)

A Short Act of Worship for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity (26 July 2020) from the Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Parishes, with a reflection on the Gospe...

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/HP8qZAG_YOE)

I am also attaching the text of the worship and reflection for those who find that helpful, and also at the end of this email links to some hymns and music that Sarah has sent out that fit today's readings and theme.

We shall be continuing with Zoom compline on Tuesday evenings at 8pm (although not the Zoom catch up and chat on Thursday mornings) - (ID 999 516 9418, password Twigster3)

We hold in our thoughts and our prayers all who have died recently, and those who have been bereaved. Where times of funeral services have been arranged, I am listing them below - please note that there are still restrictions on numbers attending funerals, and so only go if you have been invited by the family to do so. But I know it is an encouragement to know the support of friends who are thinking of them at those times.

Eileen Ball - Tuesday 28 July, 11.45am at Nuneaton Crematorium and 1245pm at Merevale Church

Mary Smith - Thursday 30 July 10.30am at Kingsbury Church followed by burial at Hurley

Anne Haswell - Wednesday 5 August 2pm at Woodlands Crematorium

Peter Lewis - Friday 7 August 2pm at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium

I have not yet heard about the funeral arrangements for Marie Rich from Wood End.

On a happier note, it was lovely yesterday to be at Merevale for the wedding of Ben and Laura. Please pray for them as they begin their married life.

With very best wishes

John

70- Be Though My Vision - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxvXGgSIRcs>

217 - God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SggBu1VVHqM>

400 - Like a Mighty River Flowing - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvRuYolYx5Y>

19 - All My Hope on God is Founded - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew>

Here's some more because I couldn't stop....

- O Perfect Love - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSKGgQXp1rU>
- All Shall Be Well - David Ogden - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUylgGw4WKg>
- Jesu Joy of Mans Desiring - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cagr5qu37Ko> (I've a massive soft spot for this as I walked down the isle to it at Merevale nearly 18 years ago)
- Maurice Duruflé : Notre Père - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m15EYvYvvuA>
- Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeKlzRafVpg>
- Take, O Take Me As I Am - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGOKRzfK1g8>
- Silent, Surrendered - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHRwXp0ERg8>

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Worship for Trinity 7 26-7-20

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you all.

God of our days and years,
We set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
So that our lives may glorify you.

Amen

Let us pray

Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Lord our God,
In our sin we have avoided your call.:
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
Like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
In Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Trinity 7

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Readings

1 Kings 3. 5-12
Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

Reflection

“Finders Keepers” may well be a common unwritten rule of the school playground, but it is a long way from being the law of the land. I am neither qualified, nor have time, to explore in detail the laws surrounding Treasure Trove, but suffice to say that if you happen to discover some hidden treasure, unearthed in a field perhaps, the question of its ownership is altogether more complicated than “Finders Keepers”.

On 5th July 2009, a metal detector user by the name of Terry Herbert, pursuing his hobby not terribly far from here, discovered some items in a field near Lichfield that appeared to be of Anglo-Saxon gold. He knew that this was not something he could simply pocket and sell on eBay, but instead reported the discovery through the proper channels. Further investigation proved that this was just part of an extraordinary collection of buried treasure that has come to be known as the Staffordshire Hoard.

In Israel in New Testament times different laws would have applied, but it still wasn't a question of 'Finders Keepers'. Rather, the owner of the land would have been considered the rightful owner of anything found on that land. So when the character in one of these short parables that make up today's Gospel reading responds as he does to the discovery of treasure in a field, he is acting (if we want to be charitable) very shrewdly, or (if we are feeling less charitable) deviously and unscrupulously, in immediately reburial the treasure and heading off to buy the field from an owner who is, presumably, blithely unaware of its true and full value.

As ever, the parable is not an instruction to imitate every aspect of the behaviour of its lead character, but is an invitation to reflect on who God is and what God is doing from a new and perhaps surprising angle. And so, “the Kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field...”

From which, the most obvious point is that God's kingdom is treasure; it is something of inestimable value and worth. The parable that follows speaks of a pearl of great price, a jewel so precious that the merchant is ready to trade in everything else he owns in order to possess this one thing. I am reminded of the words of St Paul in his letter to the Philippians, where he looks back on his life after it was turned around by his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, and declares “Whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

But the second point is that this treasure is hidden. It is buried beneath the surface of the ground. Some of the other parables in this collection make a similar point, using different images. The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, something that only grows once it has been buried in the ground. The kingdom of God is like yeast, mixed into a much greater quantity of flour and hidden in the dough, and yet working, powerfully and invisibly. With the kingdom of God, the important things are often unseen; they take place underground, beneath the surface.

The experience of the last few months has prompted many people to ask afresh the all-important question, of what it is that truly matters in life. All that glitters is not gold; and sometimes the things that we can spend inordinate amounts of time chasing after are really not that important after all. Has this been a time when you have uncovered the hidden treasure, the pearl of great price; and if so what will you give to keep it?

I am going to finish with a poem, by the Welsh priest and poet R.S. Thomas, and it's called 'The Bright Field':

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price, the one field that had
the treasure in it. I realize now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying

on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. it is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

O God our mystery,
you bring us to life,
call us to freedom
and move between us with love.
May we so participate
in your dance of trinity
that our lives may resonate with you,
now and for ever. **Amen**

Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in you
the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts
with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.