

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD

11th OCTOBER 2020 – 18th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk

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in touch for OCTOBER is available in church and online

TODAY

Available from 8.00am

Holy Communion online

<https://youtu.be/IDrpFoQcFLY>

president: The Rector
preacher: Keith Otter
readings: Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

10.30am Holy Communion in church

For those who have booked

President: The Rector
preacher: Pat Otter
readings: Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Starting live at 10.30am

Virtual Sunday Special

People join the service as a Zoom video conference. If you would like to be 'invited' to future 'Virtual Sunday Specials', please email vic.leverett@gmail.com

leader: Vic Leverett

**St Luke's Services of Thanksgiving
for our Essential Workers
on Sunday 18 October at 10.30am
and at 4pm on Zoom:**

There will be a Zoom Sunday Special Communion at 4pm on 18th October (not a service in church) and everyone is encouraged to join the service dressed as a superhero or essential worker – or with actual work clothes if you are an essential worker. To join in at 4pm on Sunday 18 October you need to email vicleverett@gmail.com to get a unique zoom link.

Whether you are planning to join at 10.30am in Church or 4pm on Zoom please contact anyone you know who is an essential worker and ask them if we can pray for them.

Prisons Week: Today is the start of a week of prayer for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of our prisons.

THIS WEEK

Tu 13 7.30pm Ministry Team meets on Zoom
We 14 10.00am Holy Communion service in church
11.00am Church open for personal prayer
7.30pm Christianity Explored Course on zoom

Su 18 Luke the Evangelist

From 8.00am Holy Communion online

president: The Rector

preacher: The Rector

10.30am Morning Service in church

leaders: Pat & Keith Otter

4.00pm Virtual Sunday Special Holy Communion online

president: The Rector

For your prayers:

Those who are unwell: Ron Smith, Jonathan Thompson, Nikki Mallett, Peggy Mann, Rosemary Tufnell, Lesley and John Mann, Roy Alexander, Gerald, Vic and Toni Lawrence, Doreen Cornish, Grahame Payne, William Bunby, Margaret Clay and Diane Hewes.

From the Christians Together in Chelmsford Prayer Rota: we pray for Tile Kiln Church, Moulsham, the Rev Tim Goodall and congregation.

Test & Trace: We have been asked to encourage (but not require) those who come to church to download the NHS COVID 19 app from the App store or google play on to your smart device. Open the App and point the camera at the QR code at the entrance to the church. The App does the rest. If you don't have this facility, we will be taking names and contact numbers as before.

Here to help (further update): If you or someone you know would like a friendly phone call, help with shopping or collecting prescriptions, or advice on basic computer or email queries, please call 01245 263112 and we at All Saints' will do our best to help. For transport to medical appointments including flu vaccinations please call Springfield Good Neighbours 01245 267093.

A good home needed: A mobility scooter needs to find a 'good home'. Please contact Mr or Mrs Bell on 01245 347327 to find out more or to offer help.

in touch: Today is the copy date for the November issue. Items to Robin Stevens at rmsrobin@icloud.com.

For all activities in the church, please email services@allsaintsspringfield.org.uk to book. If you have no Internet access, then phone the Rectory on 356720. You will need to let us have your name and phone number and the number of places you want to book. Please wear a face covering (not visor) in church.

Thoughts for Trinity 18 by Keith Otter

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

In the first verse of this passage Paul expresses his love for the Christians in Philippi. In the second verse we see Paul's pastoral concern for particular members of the congregation he obviously knew well. "I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord." Presumably there was some problem between them. Paul does not take sides or assign blame. He addresses both of them individually and asks his loyal companion, whoever that may be, to help them be of one mind again because in the past they did work alongside each other in helping Paul to proclaim the Gospel. When he wrote this letter Paul was in prison, yet despite his own troubles he still shows concern for those he cares about.

We don't know what the disagreement was about but I am reminded of one of my cousins who has cut himself off from every member of the family apart from me. He won't even speak to his own son or daughter. I guess I am the only person in a position to bring about a reconciliation but, if Christ is calling me to do so in the way Paul called his loyal companion to help Eodia and Syntyche, so far I have manifestly failed.

Others may be in similar situations or feel distanced from someone *they* were previously close to in the past. Please pray that, through God's love, care and oversight, reconciliations may take place.

Paul tells us to rejoice always. Indeed, he emphasises it – and tells us not to worry. Here is someone in prison telling *us* not to worry. We are not to worry for God is near. What Paul asks of us in God's name is that we should bring our supplications before God. If we trust in Him when we do so then we shall know God's peace.

Which isn't to say that there are no situations that end in pain and heartache or none which are a genuine cause of worry. We all face them; it is part of being human. Yet we know that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die on the cross for us. Knowledge of that love should help us overcome our worries, because God Himself works for our welfare. Our ultimate good is to rejoice within God's kingdom and that is already secured.

In the security and spirit of that love Paul urges us to follow the patterns of behaviour and attitude that we know God desires. With that approach and with God's help we may indeed become known for a character the NRSV translates as "gentleness". Other translations use different English words but they all have at their heart the concept of active concern for others.

In the security of God's love, may we show that same love, trust Him with our worries and rejoice always.