

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD

25th JULY 2021 – EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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in touch for JULY is available in church and online

TODAY

Caring for God's World

Week 7: Nations who care

Available from 8.00am

Holy Communion on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/grO2UfJjL3w>

president: The Rector

preacher: Robin Stevens

readings: Romans 8:18-25

John 6:1-14

10.30am Holy Communion in church

president: The Rector

preacher: Robin Stevens

readings: Romans 8:18-25

John 6:1-14

10.30am Outdoor Sunday Special

leaders: Chris & Roger McFarland

12.30pm Baptism of George Cooper

3.00pm Baptism of Ivy Rose Pearce

THIS WEEK

We28 10.00am Holy Communion in church

Su 1 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Outdoor Worship Together

leader: Robin Stevens

For your prayers:

Those who are unwell: Ron Smith, Jonathan Thompson, Nikki Mallett, Peggy Mann, Rosemary Tufnell, Lesley and John Mann, Roy Alexander, Vic and Toni Lawrence, Doreen Cornish, Margaret Yallop, Marina Wood, Eric Probert and Margaret Monk.

Those who have been bereaved: The family and friends of Margaret Shaw.

Those to be baptised today: The families and godparents of George Cooper and Ivy Rose Pearce.

From the Christians Together in Chelmsford Prayer Rota: We pray for the Standing Committee of Christians Together in Chelmsford as it seeks the Lord for the season ahead.

Leaving gift for Revd Simon: You may have seen in the June magazine that we are planning a presentation to Revd Simon in September. If you would like to contribute you can give cash or a cheque to a churchwarden, or make a bank transfer using the church bank account (20-19-95 00863572 Springfield All Saints PCC) but please do include the reference 'SPearce'. *Many thanks – Barbara & Nicola*

Guidance on the way forward: The Church Council and the Ministry Team have thought long and hard about what changes, if any, should be made to our worship arrangements. They feel that a cautious approach is appropriate so:

- There is no longer a requirement to book in advance for services but your details will be recorded for track and trace purposes or you can use the NHS contact tracing app on your phone.
- We will continue seating people/bubbles at safe distances from each other.
- You are asked to continue to wear face coverings in church.
- The choir will sing and the organ play at Sunday services in church.
- For services outside, please bring your own chairs (if you can).
- If you wish, bring your own refreshments to have afterwards outside with the two congregations.

Outdoor Sunday Special: Today and for the whole of August, Sunday Special will meet in the churchyard outside the Hall, starting at the usual time of 10.30 am, for a fun service with live music and singing! Please make sure we have your email so that we can send you advance information about each week's activities: vic.leverett@gmail.com

Next Sunday we will all worship outdoors together as one family. Please bring your own chairs if you can and refreshments for afterwards, if you wish.

Summer Activity Day Camps

Chelmsford Scouts are running activities for 6-14 year olds at the Scout Hall in Lawn Lane, Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am - 2pm throughout the school holidays. Lots of fun things will be going on, if you're interested or would like to know more please call Kathryn Andrews on 07943 828110 or kathryn.andrews@scouts.org.uk.

Services on YouTube: We will not be recording the Wednesday morning services for viewing on YouTube during August. However, we hope to make an audio recording of the Sunday service that will be available afterwards on the church website.

Caring for God's World – Week 8

'Nations who care' – Robin Stevens

John 6:5-11

When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted."

In our gospel reading the people listening to Jesus' preaching, need feeding. We know the story well. A small boy saw the need and so he offered his modest lunch – not just some of it, but all of it. Jesus meets need when he sees it and so we can start to read the story at another level. The meeting of need is a picture of new life in the kingdom of God. The story also shows two things about the character of God:

- **Firstly** dealing with climate change seems an impossible problem – like feeding 5000 people. But, like the disciples on that hillside, we look to Jesus to work with us and our modest offerings.
- **Secondly** we'll be surprised that God will use the things we offer in ways we can't even dream about. We may think our modest contributions to reduce climate change aren't worth doing but what we offer, in the hands of God, can be multiplied.

And, as we set this story against our problem of climate change, we think of another young person who, in her own small way, is making a huge contribution to the climate debate – Greta Thunberg.

She's a Swedish girl who we first heard about in 2018 when she skipped school in a strike against climate change. It was after she addressed the United Nations Climate Change Conference, that she struck a chord with millions of adults and young people alike, who soon led their own climate strikes outside parliaments in dozens of countries around the world. These encouraged nations to take action.

Today we're thinking of nations and governments that have been encouraged to care about the problem of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and so forth.

Friends of the Earth list six areas of concern for governments to address.

- **Transport** – stop expansions of airports, phase out petrol and diesel cars, improve public transport and encourage its use.
- **Power** – stop using coal, oil and gas and work harder to achieve renewable energy from the wind, sun and sea.
- **Buildings & homes** – improve home insulation and heat homes by electricity provided from renewable sources.
- **Trees & food** – increase the number of trees and support nature-friendly farming.
- **Consumption** – we need to reshape our economy

so that we waste less food and don't use single-use products and plastics.

- **International justice** – poorer countries suffer disproportionately when it comes to the effects of climate breakdown – such as droughts and floods – and yet often they have contributed the least to global carbon emissions.

Greta Thunberg shows that governments only respond if the people encourage them to do so.

The most significant event in the life of nations who care for the welfare of our planet is the conference to be held in Glasgow later this year. The UK will host the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (hence the acronym COP26) in November. The climate talks will be the biggest international summit the UK has ever hosted; bringing together heads of state, climate experts, young people, civil society, trade unions, faith groups and Indigenous Peoples to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change.

Since 1995, government representatives from around the world have gathered annually for these COP conferences. We've heard of the Rio Summit and the Kyoto Protocol. At COP21, hosted in Paris, world leaders committed to a historic agreement to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5°C. They also agreed to step up efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to support low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

We're told the UK is seeking to bring governments, business, civil society and young people together to accelerate progress on the following shared challenges of climate change.

- to help communities adapt to, and prepare for, the worst impacts of climate change.
- to safeguard and restore natural habitats and ecosystems to preserve the planet's biodiversity.
- to accelerate the clean energy transition by the use of cheaper renewables and storage.
- to clean our air by speeding up the global transition to zero emission vehicles.
- to encourage our financial systems to be cleaner to unlock growth and create green jobs.

I'm sure we will hear more about this conference as the time gets closer and we will need to remember it and those attending in our prayers.