

Words for Praying.

We especially pray for those who are coping with bereavement in our villages at the present time, not least those whose loved ones have died unexpectedly.

Oh God: you hear the voices of those who are in distress.
Be with all who feel out of their depth, who find it hard to manage the demands on them, who feel weary and burdened or who live with the raw pain of grief.
Bring them assistance, relieve their anxieties and protect them,
in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

God of harmonious interrelated persons - mysterious and dynamic:
assist human beings in learning
peace, community, teamwork and the beauty of relationships.
Teach us how to build on common ground,
to listen to other points of view
and to seek, above all, your more excellent way of love. **Amen**

Praying for all who are finding
the passage of time difficult:
those who are impatient,
those under deadline pressures,
those whom it is failing to heal
and all for whom these present times are barely tolerable.

Lord of time and eternity:
teach us to value every second, minute, hour, day.
To be thankful for the blessing of our lifetimes.
Make our impatience less irksome,
our waiting times more fruitful.
Help us to use our time more thoughtfully and beneficially.
May we mark its passing with
quiet minds, do all in the name of peace,
and celebrate those whose earthly time is over, through
the Holy Spirit, who eternally prays with and for us. **Amen**

May God bless you and keep you in his love, now and always.

Amen.

PAGE FOUR.

Sunday June 14th, 2020

The Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe “Keeping in Touch” Edition 12. Trinity 2 Teamwork – the sending out of the 12 disciples.

Greetings everyone!

“I hear that the church is open, and services can start again!”

Those were the very excited words of one person I met on Friday this week – and of course there have been various reports about churches opening in the coming days.

As of Saturday, June 13th, churches could be open for private prayer only and from next Monday, small scale funerals can take place. But the National Church and Ely Diocese have stressed that this must go at the pace of local discretion and availability of staff, mostly volunteers, to put in measures to keep people safe. There are issues of hygiene and social distancing to consider as well as stewarding the buildings. Each of our PCCs is considering how and when our churches will open and there will be notices outside our buildings to give more information as well as posts on Facebook and in this newsletter. Great Paxton won't open until the organ project has finished, so we are looking at the end of June for Holy Trinity.

The gradual safe reopening of our churches will depend upon good teamwork in all our churches, and teamwork is today's theme as we read about Jesus sending out his 12 disciples to share his work of proclaiming the good news of the coming of God's kingdom.



Some of Anita's disciple figures for Sunday's Service on You tube.

Continue to take care, good luck with working out what “bubbles” you might be able to be part of and keep well.

With love and prayers, Annette. 01480 211048.

PAGE ONE

The Gospel reading for Today.

Verses from Matthew Chapter 9 and 10

Jesus gathered his twelve disciples and sent them out.

He gave them these instructions:

“Don’t go to Gentile or Samaritan towns. Instead, go to the people of Israel, for they are like a lost flock of sheep. Tell people the good news about the kingdom of heaven. Cure the sick, raise the dead, heal those with skin diseases.

“You have all been given this freely, for no payment. Now you must help others without being paid.”

Jesus reassured them, “You won’t need gold or silver; don’t take a travelling bag or an extra shirt; don’t take sandals or a walking stick.

“When you go into a town, find out where the good people are and stay with them until you are ready to leave.

“If you enter a home, bless it with your peace. But if it is unworthy, take the blessing back. If someone doesn’t welcome you or they won’t listen, leave at once, shaking the dust from your feet.

“I am sending you out like sheep amongst wolves”, he said “so you need to be as wise as a snake and as innocent as a dove.

“Because of me people will hand you over to those in power and have you beaten. But if this happens, don’t worry about what to say as you will be given the words at the time. It will be God’s spirit speaking”.

The Collect for Trinity 2.

God of truth,

**Help us to keep your law of love
And to walk in the ways of wisdom,
That we may find true life
In Jesus Christ your Son.
Amen.**



Reflections on today’s reading.

Jesus has performed healings and his fame is spreading.

It is time to share the workload and so we read in Matthew’s Gospel that he commissions the 12 disciples; he gives them their job description and tells them how costly this is going to be – he even says that he is sending them out like sheep amongst wolves to share in his ministry.

In this day and age, not least during the pandemic, we hear so much about risk assessments, taking care of employees, making sure that people aren’t put in danger in their work or leisure settings. But Jesus lived in a very different age and time.

His directions were simple: you won’t need money, nor extra baggage, not even sandals or a stick. Only take the bare minimum and for the rest, rely on the goodwill of others and trust in God. He will find you the words to say if you find trouble. Jesus was asking them to step out of their comfort zone and risk rejection and hardship; they needed to trust that they would be looked after. They were given authority to carry out acts of compassion and their faithfulness would be rewarded.

Of course, in a world much more complex than that in biblical times, we need to take a great deal of care of one another and part of being caring is to make sure people aren’t taking unnecessary risks. But the underlying message is the same.

As teams of people coming together, whether in a school, a business, a shop, a restaurant, a leisure facility, a church, a care home or hospital, a sports team or club – and many other organisations – we pull together, trust one another, support one another.

And sometimes we may have to step out of our comfort zone and go the extra mile to bring compassion and patience into a challenging situation.

And one final thought - Jesus isn’t saying to the 12 – go and wear yourselves out. He is confident that those they meet will care for them and provide for their needs. And carers take note! Look after yourselves as you look after others! We especially think of those who work in the care sector in what has been such a difficult and stressful time.

It was lovely to interview Rosie, the manager at Paxton Hall Care Home for our Sunday Service this week. If you can watch it, you will see that one of their residents, Joan Harris, had her 100th birthday on June 4th.

Congratulations Joan!

