

Sunday September 27th, 2020.

Little Paxton Church

9.15am – 9.45am: Morning Service with readings and prayers.

Great Paxton Church

10.30am - 11.00am: Morning Service in Great Paxton Churchyard commemorating RAF pilot Philip Cardell from Great Paxton who died on September 27th, 1940

Open from 11.00am to 4.00pm for private prayer/quiet time.

Southoe and Diddington Churches are now open daily

Please observe social distancing and use hand sanitizer if visiting.

Follow us on Facebook @ ThePaxtonsBenefice.

Donations for Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge.

Although our Harvest Festival celebrations on October 4th at Little Paxton Church will be on a much smaller scale this year, as numbers are limited, we will be collecting donations, monetary and goods, for Jimmy's Night Shelter as usual. If anyone who is unable to attend the service would like to donate to Jimmy's non-perishable foods or toiletries (sorry, no bedding this year) they can be brought to the church at 10.00am on Sunday October 4th. If you wish to donate money please drop it through Kate's door at 46 High Street, either cash or cheque (made out to 'Little Paxton PCC') clearly labelled as a donation to Jimmy's. Donations of goods can also be dropped at the Vicarage (24 St James Road) or contact Annette directly. Thank you for considering this request.

A prayer by St Teresa of Avila.

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

A Blessing.

God to enfold us, God to surround us
God in our speaking, God in our thinking

God in our life, God on our lips

God in our souls, God in our hearts.

Amen.

FOUR

Sunday September 27th, 2020: The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity.

The Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe

“Keeping in Touch” Edition 27



“Let each of you look not to your own interests
but to the interests of others”

From St Paul's letter to the Philippians Chapter 2.

Greetings to you all.

As I write, I am trying to digest the new government regulations being put in place to try to halt the rise in Covid-19 cases. Apart from weddings being limited to 15 people, there doesn't seem to be a lot of change at the moment for other church services, with a number of c 30 still being allowed.

The passage from St Paul's letter to the Philippians above really sums up what is at the heart of these new restrictions – we need to look not just to our own safety but that of others. We might really dislike face coverings, we might not like having to keep a safe distance from people, but we do these things not just to keep ourselves safe but those around us.

I read of those who are angry that our liberties are being taken away, our freedom to do what we want, when we want. But I think of those who have lost their freedom to be well as they suffer from the effects of having had Covid. Those who have lost their lives leaving shattered families. Those whose livelihood and quality of life has been deeply affected by this pandemic and it's a no brainer – as they say. We must all play our part in helping to keep ourselves and others safe, as unwelcome as new measures might be.

In this edition, check out how we can help Jimmy's night Shelter in Cambridge this year and let us know if any of you need some practical help or just a listening ear. Take care and God Bless.

With love and prayers, Annette. 01480 211048.

Email canonannettereed@gmail.com

ONE

Philippians 2: 1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So, they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him. *NRSV*

TWO

The Prayer for the Day.

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reflections on "Walk the Talk"

Tensions are mounting. Jesus has just ridden into Jerusalem to the acclamation of crowds crying out "Hosanna" – which means "please save us" or "bring about our salvation".

But the ruling religious and political authorities of the day are increasingly unhappy about who this man is and fear he will set off an uprising. Their thoughts are turning to his arrest.

Jesus then appears in the Jewish temple precincts and overturns the tables the corrupt money changers and pigeon dealers.

We read in today's gospel that Jesus is challenged by the chief religious leaders to tell them just who he is and where he has got his authority from. Jesus cleverly side steps the answer in a dialogue about the murdered John the Baptist but tells a blunt and to the point story about two sons, one of whom doesn't obey his father who asks him to work in his vineyard and one who eventually does what he is asked.

Jesus is accusing the religious leaders of not listening to John the Baptist who came to announce the coming of Jesus the Messiah. Even more telling is Jesus saying that even those who some look down on – tax collectors and prostitutes – follow God's true ways more than the religious elite.

Fine words and promises come to nothing if we don't walk the talk. In other words what matters is to carry out our good intentions in our everyday living and loving.

It isn't always easy to keep to our promises and to live out a perfect life. We don't know why the first son didn't turn out to work for his father – maybe something called him away. But we can ask God to give us the strength and courage to do our best to carry out our good intentions and continue to help make the world a better place.

Even more we need to walk the talk as we all make an extra effort to keep ourselves and others safe.

THREE

