



Pews News

United Benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall



Sunday 30th May 2021 Trinity Sunday

Today we are celebrating Trinity Sunday and all that the Trinity means to us. It can be a bit mind blowing to think of our God as three in one. Sometimes we can over think things which confuses us even more. On a trip to Israel some time ago I visited many sites, each claiming to be the field in which the angels appeared to the shepherds. One of the guides said 'sometimes its enough to just have faith it happened and not worry about where'. Perhaps we should think about the Trinity like that 'that's how it is - we have the one true God'.

Happy Trinity Sunday

Rev Liz
01543 480286

Collect for Sunday 30th May

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

May & June Services

St John the Baptist, Shenstone

Sunday 30 th May	10.45 am	Communion service led by Rev Liz and Ray Chamberlain
Sunday 6 th June	10:45 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Graham
Sunday 13 th June	10:45 am	Communion service led by Rev John P and Di Proctor
Sunday 20 th June	10:45 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Graham
Sunday 27 th June	10:45 am	Communion service led by Rev Liz and Rev Graham

St Peter's Church Stonnall

Sunday 30 th May	10.45 am	Communion service led by Rev Graham and Rev John A
Sunday 6 th June	10.45 am	Communion service led by Rev John A and Patsy Tolouse
Sunday 13 th June	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Rev Graham
Sunday 20 th June	10.45 am	Communion service led by Rev Liz and Patsy Tolouse
Sunday 27 th June	10.45 am	No service at St Peters Joint service at St John the Baptist

These dates and times are subject to change at short notice should government guidance change. If that should be the case every effort will be made to communicate changes to you as quickly as possible.

Church Warden – St John the Baptist

A Church Warden is appointed by the PCC to be the Bishops' Officer and assists the Incumbent in the day to day running of the church. Bill Whitney's term of office has ended and so we need to appoint a new warden. Miranda Bonnielauri has been re-elected as Church Warden, leaving a vacancy for a Church Warden

If this role is something you would like to know more about, then please speak with Rev Liz.

Communion in church

We are really happy to be able to celebrate Communion once more. Communion will be in 'one kind' only, so that means only wafers will be distributed. This is to comply with Church of England instructions still in place. Masks must be worn inside church, singing of hymns is not yet permitted and social distancing restrictions should be complied with. Please be aware that Stage 2 restrictions are still in place until 21st June.

Our Prayers

- We pray for all our Government, our Bishops and Clergy.
- We thank you for the Queen and the Royal Family.
- We thank you Lord for all those who are assisting with recording and distributing of recorded services.
- We pray for all those mourning. We think of the family of George Cooper, give them peace and comfort as they arrange the upcoming funeral service.
- We pray for all those known to us in need of the Lord's comfort and strength; we particularly pray for Linda Jenkins's nephew and his family, Jill and Paul Harris, Carol and Ian law, Graham and Margaret Birt and their family.
- We have some weddings taking place this year that were postponed from last year. Please pray for Stephen and Susan as they prepare for their wedding in June, at St Johns Church.
- As half term starts we thank the Lord for our schools, the teachers, the support staff; may everyone find rest and relaxation this coming week.

Rev Graham Priesting Service

Rev Graham will be Priested 23rd June 2021 at St Matthews Church, Walsall. Rev Graham has not been told yet if guests can attend this service, but as soon as this is known it will be announced.

There will be a joint Communion Service 27th June, at St John the Baptist Church starting at 10.45 am (there won't be a service at St Peter's on that day). After the service you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and we will gather together on the Glebe land or in the church hall if the weather is inclement. Rev Graham will be presiding over Communion for the first time so please do join us if you are able. More details to follow.

Hip Op – To all those who have sent cards, got in touch to wish me a speedy recovery and for all the prayer prior to and after my hip replacement operation, a heartfelt thank you. For this second operation I did feel apprehensive, but the volume of prayer from all around brought confidence and peace. Please don't kick me off your list just yet, there are still a few 'hills to climb' and don't forget to include Carol who has the task of looking after me (never an easy job when I'm at full health many would say)- God Bless, Ian Law

Songs for Sunday – Praise God from whom all blessings flow, To God be the glory.

Bible Readings for Sunday:

Romans 8:12-17

12 So then, brothers and sisters,[a] we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba![b] Father!" 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness[c] with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with

Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 3:1-17

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” 3 Jesus answered him,

“Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”[b] 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.[c] 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You[d] must be born from above.’[e] 8 The wind[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you[g] do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.[h] 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.[i]

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Thoughts for today by Rev Liz Chamberlain

Trinity Sunday! Usually the Sunday where if you're setting the rota and you have any sense you get someone else to preach. It is usually the Curate if you have one, and our Curate is over at St Peter's preaching. Just typical isn't it we have a fifth Sunday when we would all usually worship together on Trinity Sunday, but in the middle of a pandemic when we're not mixing as much as we used to!

I wonder then why the Trinity is something that a lot of us shy away from explaining. Perhaps because we don't fully understand everything about it and maybe find it hard to express exactly what the Trinity is and how it works.

Do we really have to understand everything fully to accept that it works and what it does for us. For example twice a year we need to alter our clocks, the kitchen clock no problem you just twiddle the knob on the back and the fingers move. The cooker clock well, you do need a little more help, which in our house is the manual and few choice words, the car clock, well you leave that don't you for six months. But what about these (hold up phone), you go to bed at one time and the next day the time has altered as if by magic, we don't understand how it works, but do we need to, to accept that it has? No we don't.

Also is it really important to concern ourselves about the three names we use for God, the father, the son and the holy spirit. Not really. Many of us I'm sure are known by lots of names. You all know me as Liz, it's the name I told you to call me when I came here. My given name is Elizabeth, used only on few occasions but possibility more than I liked by my mother when I was younger (let the listener understand). In my previous work life I was always Lizzie. My family, cousins aunts and uncles and so on always called me Lib or Libby.

So what are these different settings for God. I'd like to make some suggestions;

There is God the one to who we pray, the one to who we look to, who we call out, the one who made the world and who loves all that has been made. And then there is God by our side, God once more the one with

whom we pray; God in the life of this man who shares our life, this man who lives the life of God by our side, and who pours out his life in love for us. And then there is God in our hearts, God in our guts, The life of the one God meets us in all these three ways, and all that we meet in these three ways, has its roots deep, deep down in God's life –all the way down in God's life –in ways that our minds are not fit to grasp, in ways that break our words to bits. One life, one love, one will, works through these three to meet us when we pray, to catch hold of us, to bear us up.

And that's why our words for God need to stretch; one word, it turns out, will not do. We call the source, the one to whom we pray, God the Father. And we call the one by our side, the one with whom we pray, God once more, Jesus. And we call the one in our hearts, the one in whom we pray, God one more time, the Spirit. And that is why we call this God – the God we meet when we pray, the God we know when we pray – that is why we call this God 'three in one'; that is why we call our God Trinity.

So just as we accept in good faith, that the mobile phone clock will alter by an hour without us understanding how it does it, and how one person can have three names but still be the same person in different settings, we could just accept good faith the concept and reality of the trinity.

The author of the letter to the Romans is encouraging early Christians who were being persecuted and finding the path of faith difficult, to persevere and not lose hope. It's part of the calling of the follower of Christ to look forward to a life when suffering has passed away and we can fully enjoy the glory of the Risen Christ. To believe this we need to have faith, a passionate faith that arises from believing, conviction and transformation. Not necessarily a faith that understands everything completely.

The reality of this acceptance, of our Trinitarian God is that the trinity lives in us. We have God who loves all he has made, God by our side and God in our hearts. Perhaps that's enough for us, for now.

Our readings today affirm for us, we are children of God, his heirs, his loved ones.

Perhaps that's enough for now ~God is the father, son and holy spirit,
God in three persons, each with a different part to play but the same
God. The same God who loves us as his child.
Amen.

Wishing
TRINITY SUNDAY



LET THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD GUIDE US ON
THE RIGHT PATH AND CLEANSE OUR SOUL OF
ALL DARKNESS.

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