

The Lighthouse



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Sunday, 11 July 2021
Issue 66

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Scripture Reading: Ephesians chapter 1 verses 3–14

‘Moving On’

[Marshmello]

Dear Friends,

Greetings! You didn't want a letter about the beheading of John the Baptist, did you? Good, because I've gone with the Epistle reading for this week's letter. Paul in Rome writes from prison to the church in Ephesus. He spent three years setting up the church there, and ten years later sends them this encouraging letter from his prison cell in Rome. In the Epistle reading today, Paul is full of praise to God for all his blessings, and full of praise too for the Christians in Ephesus growing strong in Jesus. 'I have not stopped giving thanks for you' [1v16], writes Paul as he reflects on how the church has grown there in the last ten years.

We notice changes as our children and grandchildren grow up, don't we? Carol and I often talk about our eldest son Andrew taking his first steps in his early years. The problem was he crawled everywhere with an effective crab like movement which took him everywhere at speed. We were in the New Forest in the autumn, with leaves giving a thick covering on the ground. We put Andrew behind a fallen Oak tree and walked on. After a while he appeared – and walking, and he has kept on walking since! He is a proud Walker.

Years ago, Watchman Nee wrote a commentary on Ephesians, which has the title 'Sit, Walk, Stand'. The first part of the Epistle to the Ephesians sees teaching about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We 'sit' and take in that bit. In the middle part of Ephesians we are encouraged to 'walk' by faith as Paul writes about living as a Christian, trusting God in our daily lives. The final part of Ephesians encourages us to 'stand' firm. ['Stand and be strong in the Lord.' 6v10]

In these challenging times, we need to grow as Christians – learning from God's word, so that we can walk in the way of Christ and be strong when things are a battle in our lives.

It looks as if July 19th will be Freedom Day. My own view is that we are moving far too quickly with all this, and at the time of writing I am pleased that there seems to be a push to keep the use of masks for a while longer, and I caught a comment from Professor Chris Whitty that it could be next Spring before we are anything like back to normal. Whenever it is, working towards 'normal' includes worship together, in church with hymns and communion in both kinds. To use the title of Watchman Nee's book in a different way, soon we will 'sit' together in church, we will 'walk' together in fellowship as we grow in Christ, we will stand 'strong' in meeting the challenges of being a Christian in Dersingham in 2021 or will that be 2022?

'Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.' [Ephesians chapter 6 verse 10.] I hope these thoughts give you encouragement today.

Every blessing, Derek the Cleric.



Stand and be strong in the Lord

Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by coronavirus, here and around the world
- + our NHS workers, care workers and care home residents
- + key workers and those who provide essential services
- + our GPs, surgeries and vaccination centres
- + people whose health is vulnerable
- + for co-operation among nations in dealing with the pandemic
- + vaccination programmes, here and around the world
- + our collective health and welfare
- + our nation and community life; our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience as we deal with changes to our ways of life
- + our teachers and school staff
- + our children and young people, their parents and caregivers
- + our young adults; our elderly neighbours and family members
- + our Armed Forces serving here and abroad
- + all who are worried about, or who have lost, jobs, livelihoods and businesses
- + all who are homeless
- + all who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + anyone facing illness, hospitalisation or medical treatment
- + all who feel isolated or who cannot be with their families
- + those who have died
- + all who make our worship services possible, all who attend online, in person or who visit the church via our Facebook pages
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + for wisdom and safety in easing restrictions
- + for Baby Basics, their volunteers and the families they serve
- + hope, encouragement and peace in all times

Services Today

Sunday 11th July

9:30am 'The Gathering' – Contemporary Accessible Worship in Dersingham Village Centre

11am Traditional Worship – Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at St Mary the Virgin Anmer (viewable online later in the day)

Please do book in for all services by contacting Pauline, 544561 or

secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Taize at Holme Church, 16th July

silence music prayer

readings

simple repeated chants

Come and join us for a



on Friday 16 July 2021

at Holme Church

4pm – 4.45pm

Presented by Chris Gray and Alan Crawshaw and members of the Stillness on the Saxon Shore group

(which meets every Friday afternoon at St Mary's Titchwell)

Bible Readings for Sunday, 18th July

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

First reading – Ephesians 2:11–22

Second reading – Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

Thanks to Pam for sending us this popular story:

Footprints

One night a man had a dream.

He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.
For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand:
one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path of his life
there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and
saddest times in his life.
This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, You said that once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in
my life, there is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why, when I needed you most,
you would leave me."

The Lord replied,
"My son, My precious child, I love you and I would
never leave you. During your times of trial and
suffering, when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I Carried You."

—Author unknown

Stopwatch:
how quickly can you
solve these anagrams?

SOFTER

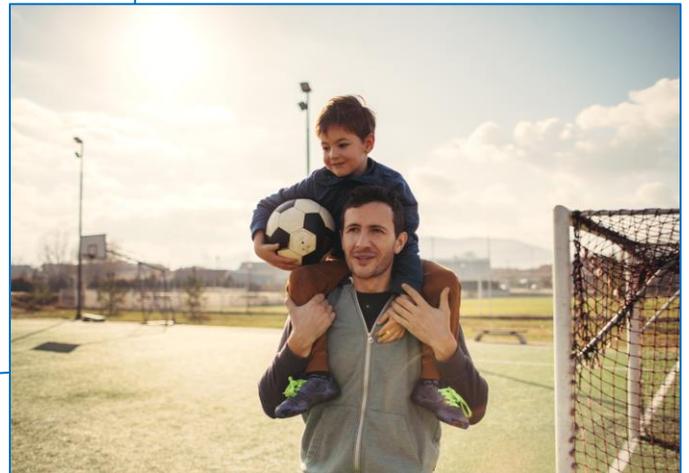
TURN GIST

AT WORDS

COMMON UNI

GOT THERE

*(All are words found in Derek's
letter. Answers, last page.)*



News from Baby Basics

As everyone knows, the pandemic has caused hardship and poverty, homelessness and loss of earnings. I think it's important to remind ourselves of the stark reality closer to home.

At Baby Basics West Norfolk, last year was our busiest completing a total of 97 referrals for families unable to provide the essential items needed for their baby that most of us take for granted. Each Moses basket is lovingly filled with everything a new baby needs and a safe bed to sleep in.

Health Professionals are always grateful we can, with the support of local people, businesses and monetary donations, answer each request they send us.

Sad to say, as I write this it's July 7th. We have answered 109 referrals from all Health services, Support agencies, the Refuge, and more.

This trend looks set to continue. Please continue to support us, so we in turn can support those who have nobody to turn to.

Thank you.
Maggie Anderson.



We pray for all Christians in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

TAJIKISTAN

Population 9.5 million. 66,300 Christians (0.7%)

In Tajikistan, the government puts heavy pressure on all 'deviating' religious groups by tightening and strictly enforcing existing laws. All religious activities must be approved by the government, and it is common for churches – particularly Protestant – to be raided by authorities. Church leaders and Christians can be detained if they are found to have any Christian materials that aren't government-approved. The country also has a law specifically targeting religious work among young people, leaving Christians unsure of what they are legally allowed to say to young Christians. Police officers sometimes disrupt meetings and interrogate church members. Local authorities often impose fines on Christians because of their faith and for legal reasons, such as gathering without a permit, possessing and printing religious material without a permit, or perceived proselytising. Persecution from the state includes searches, detention, interrogation, confiscation, fines and imprisonment – all meant to pressure Christians and keep them in line. The Tajik ethnic identity is directly tied to Islam. That is why Christians who have converted from Islam bear the brunt of persecution at the hands of the state and from family, friends and community.

Prayer points

- Pray for pastors and church leaders especially those who are monitored and detained by the government.
- Pray for Christians from Muslim backgrounds facing severe pressure from their family and community – that they will know they are not alone.
- Pray for the government of Tajikistan that God would soften their hearts towards Christians.

If you'd like to know more about the situation for Christians in Tajikistan, do take a look at Open Doors' website and watch list: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Tajikistan - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

A prayer for Tajikistan from Open Doors

God our Father, we pray for Your people in Tajikistan. We ask You to give courage and hope to pastors and church leaders, and to every believer who follows You. We pray for those Christians who have been detained for their faith; we ask that, in Your power, they would be released and reunited with their families and communities. We also lift up Your followers who have risked the wrath of their families and communities to follow You. Amen.

Thanks to Rev Adrian for providing these prayers for the persecuted church.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the
heavenly realms with every spiritual
blessing in Christ.
–Ephesians 1:3*

We give thanks for:

- + God's grace, love and forgiveness
- + our families, friendships and church
- + our scientists, medics and care workers
- + our teachers, key workers and all people providing essential services
- + our voluntary organisations and helpers
- + vaccines and progress in treating Covid
- + the arts, music and creativity
- + acts of kindness, courage, selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Wordsearch – Spiritual Blessings in Christ

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in Ephesians chapter 1 verses 3 to 14.

E	E	L	R	E	D	E	M	P	T	I	O	N	U
P	R	A	I	S	E	A	D	O	P	T	E	D	N
P	P	E	T	E	D	P	S	S	T	M	E	I	D
R	B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	M	H	F	S	E
E	E	U	E	B	M	O	D	S	I	W	O	A	R
D	O	B	L	A	M	E	L	E	S	S	R	U	S
E	P	L	E	G	L	M	D	F	R	H	G	E	T
S	G	C	H	O	S	E	N	U	O	S	I	S	A
T	N	R	E	S	E	L	W	P	R	H	V	D	N
I	E	H	B	P	O	C	E	R	I	S	E	N	D
N	A	Y	N	E	E	E	A	D	A	K	N	D	I
E	E	L	D	L	A	G	P	R	R	H	E	O	N
D	R	O	E	N	N	N	E	A	G	N	S	O	G
O	I	H	E	O	O	D	M	F	A	D	S	E	D

CHOSEN
 ADOPTED
 WISDOM
 GRACE
 HOLY
 PREDESTINED
 BLESSING
 GOSPEL
 FORGIVENESS
 REDEMPTION
 UNDERSTANDING
 MARKED
 HOPE
 BLAMELESS
 PRAISE

**Good Luck
 England
 Football Team!**

Thought for the Day

Did you catch the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, speaking on the radio this week about tonight's Euro 2020 Cup Final? [Worth a listen.](#)

He says: 'I don't know how I'm going to manage the final on Sunday. Probably with a copy of the Psalms on my knee – that wonderful collection of poems in which everything is given expression ... from the depths of misery to the heights of promise.'

'On the other hand, I might use the opportunity to learn to pray better.'

Source: BBC Radio 4, 8 July 2021



1966 World Cup

Daily Herald Archive

Services in July

Sunday 11th

9:30 'The Gathering' – Contemporary Accessible Worship in Dersingham Village Centre

11am Traditional Worship – Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at St Mary the Virgin Anmer (viewable online later in the day)

Sunday 18th

9:30 'The Gathering' – Contemporary Accessible Worship, Holy Communion in Dersingham Village Centre

11am Traditional Worship – Morning Prayer with Baptisms at St Nicholas Church Dersingham (livestreamed)

Sunday 25th

9:30 'The Gathering' – Contemporary Accessible Worship in Dersingham Village Centre

11am Traditional Worship – Holy Communion at St Michael and All Angels Ingoldisthorpe (livestreamed)



Brickley Lane, Ingoldisthorpe

Photo © L. Williams

*Anagrams: forest, trusting,
towards, communion, together*

With help from: wordman.com/anagram-maker

Services in August

Sunday 1st

9:30 'The Gathering' – Contemporary Accessible Worship in Dersingham Village Centre

11am Traditional Worship – Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church Dersingham (livestreamed)

Sunday 8th

9:30 'The Gathering' – Contemporary Accessible Worship in Dersingham Village Centre

11am Traditional Worship – Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at St Mary the Virgin Anmer (viewable online later in the day)

Sunday 15th

9:30 'The Gathering' – Contemporary Accessible Worship, Holy Communion in Dersingham Village Centre

11am Traditional Worship – Morning Prayer with Baptisms at St Nicholas Church Dersingham (livestreamed)

Sunday 22nd

9:30 'The Gathering' – Contemporary Accessible Worship in Dersingham Village Centre

11am Traditional Worship – Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church Dersingham (livestreamed)

Sunday 29th

9:30 'The Gathering' – Contemporary Accessible Worship in Dersingham Village Centre

11am Traditional Worship – Morning Prayer (No Baptisms) at St Nicholas Church Dersingham (livestreamed)

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

—Colossians 3:13



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

