

Church News

10th – 17th October 2021

“And he said “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.” Matthew 18v3-5

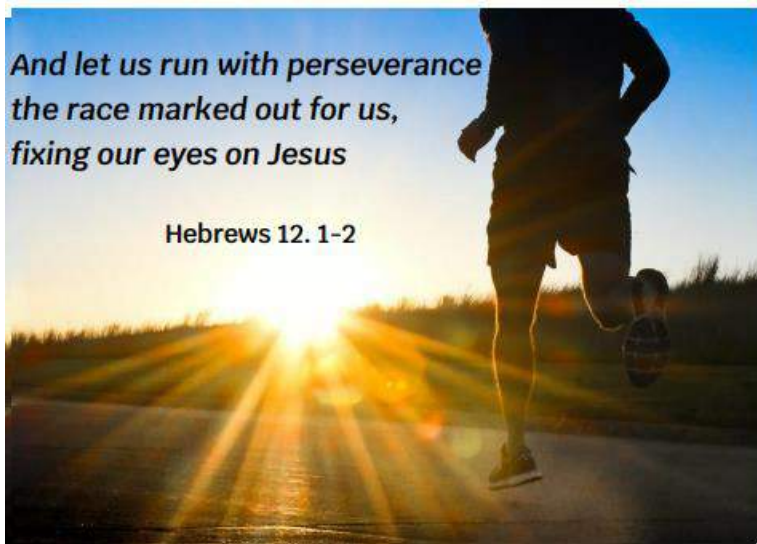
It is so nice to see our families, children and young people coming back to church after eighteen months of lockdowns, resulting in church having to close its doors. We are also celebrating the re-opening of our Sunday Schools and Noah's Ark and thank all those involved in the preparation required in order for this to happen safely, both from a Covid safe perspective and a safeguarding perspective. We must pray for all those working with children and young people, both volunteers and paid workers, especially in such challenging times as these.

Sunday the 10th of October is "Safeguarding Sunday", when hundreds of churches across the country will join together to shine a spotlight on safeguarding. You will be hearing more about this in our Sunday Services across the two parishes. Listen up all!

Our children and young people are an integral part of our church family, indeed they are our future church, and it is our responsibility to welcome, nurture, protect and guide our children and young people, towards our heavenly Father, so that they might one day make a personal commitment to follow the Lord Jesus.

*And let us run with perseverance
the race marked out for us,
fixing our eyes on Jesus*

Hebrews 12. 1-2



God calls on us to care for his people, and to care for one another. I hope and pray that all who enter our churches see such care and love in action, as we serve each other in Christian love, whilst always seeking to glorify the sovereign Lord. God bless.

Kim Wrigley

This week

Sunday 10 th	9.30am	Service of the Lord's Supper at St Saviour's
	11am	Service of the Lord's Supper at Christ Church
	6.30pm	Weekly prayer gathering at Christ Church or zoom
Wednesday 13 th	6pm	Rainbows at St Saviour's
	6.30pm	Brownies at St Saviour's
	7.30pm	Guides at St Saviour's
Thursday 14 th	9.30am	Christ Church School Harvest Service (<i>in school</i>)
Sunday 17 th	9.30am	Morning worship at St Saviour's
	11am	Morning worship at Christ Church
	6.30pm	Weekly prayer gathering at St Mary's or zoom

Weekly Prayer Gatherings

From today we will be holding a weekly prayer gathering together with St Mary's Balderstone on Sundays, 6.30-7.30pm. The venue will rotate between Christ Church, St Saviour's and St Mary's. The hour will involve a time of "Enjoying God" followed by a time of "Asking God" together and there will be a short Bible talk and a song or two. If you can't come in person, you have the option of joining in via Zoom.

The details of our first Weekly Prayer Gathering are:

Time: Sunday 10th October 2021, 6.30-7.30pm

Venue: Christ Church Chadderton - Church Hall

Zoom details: Meeting ID: 959 1926 2320 Passcode: 217979

Memorial Service Sunday 7th November at 3pm

This is a service of thanksgiving for loved ones who have died. It is an opportunity to draw close to God; to remember, give thanks and hear the gospel of hope for those who mourn or have suffered loss. A memorial roll will be available for those who wish to have their loved one's name remembered. All welcome.

Noah's Ark Babies & Toddlers are planning to reopen on Monday 8th

November. To enable us to open safely we will need some volunteers to help with setting up, refreshments, snack time for the children and packing away at the end.

Volunteers need to be available from 9:15 until 12:00 noon.

If you are interested in helping out and want to learn more, please come along to St Saviour's on Monday 18th October at 9:30 am



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

If you would like a shoe box to fill for Operation Christmas Child, please see Elizabeth Holme. Boxes cost 50p each. Filled boxes must be returned to church no later than the 1st week in November.



Donation towards the transport costs would be gratefully received. Each box costs £5 to deliver and last year we sent over 200 boxes.

Sunday Schools

Registration of children is essential; if you haven't already done so, please hand your completed registration forms to Elizabeth Holme or Heather Burtonwood as you arrive.

Income Survey

Regular members of the congregation are asked to complete the Diocese's Annual Income Survey. The survey is needed for the calculation of parish share, which is the amount of money requested from us by the diocese each year to contribute to the costs of, amongst other things, clergy stipends, housing and training. This is done by asking you to complete a confidential and anonymous form. *Only complete this form if you are 16 or over and have attended this church at least twelve times in the past 12 months and haven't already completed a form.* The forms are individual, so, for example, a husband and wife should each complete their own form. It is important that everyone who is eligible completes the form, even, (indeed especially) if you have no or very little personal income. Once you have ticked the relevant box, fold the form over and place it in the sealed box at the back of church before you leave today. Thank you for your help.

How to give to your church

To give regularly to your church, there are 2 ways you can do this:

- Through the planned giving envelope scheme
- By Standing order to Account name: Christ Church Chadderton
Account number: 22384340
Sort Code: 05 06 46

And, of course, if you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid declaration form enabling the church to reclaim 20p of tax for every £1 given. Forms available from the back of church. For more information, please see Eric Mee at Christ Church or Dave Hindle at St Saviour's.

Dates for your diaries

17 th Oct	Sunday Prayer Gathering	6,30pm @ St Mary's
20 th Oct	Deanery meeting: Mission Communities	7.30pm at Christ Church
3 rd Nov	Cake & Chat Autumn meal	1pm at Christ Church
7 th Nov	Memorial Service	3pm at Christ Church

Readings:

This week:

John 2.13-25

Next week:

John 3.1-21

Please take time to read ahead

COVID 19 Update

We are open for communal worship at 9.30am at St Saviour's Church and 11am at Christ Church every Sunday morning. The seating is arranged to give everyone as much space as possible and we ask that you are considerate in where you choose to sit in relation to everyone's safety. If you wish to ensure space is maintained between you and others, please pick up the seat space sign that will be available at the door.

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been asked to self-isolate having had contact with someone who has tested positive, or is feeling unwell, should not attend church.

For safe opening we request that the following guidelines are followed:

- All attending use hand sanitiser (available at the door) prior to entering the church
- All attending continue to **wear face coverings**
- We are allowed to sing, preferably from behind face coverings
- **We will continue to take individuals' details** (name, contact telephone number, etc.) each time they attend and retain the information for 21 days after the service. In the case of infection these would have to be passed on to track and trace.

Please note that although people who are classed as 'vulnerable' for health or age reasons should consider the risks which may be attached to attending a service ***there is no prohibition on their doing so*** – it is entirely a personal decision.

The Church News is available to collect from church on Sunday mornings, whilst an audio recording/video of the sermon is available through the parish website after the service each week.

Christ Church and St Saviour's

Vicar: Rev Ben Wilkinson
Telephone: 07878 806174
633 6166

Email:
vicar@christchurchchadderton.co.uk

Parish office: Cathy Flint
Telephone: 624 2326

Email:
office@christchurchchadderton.co.uk

Website: www.christchurchchadderton.co.uk

The office will be open on weekdays between 9.30am and 1pm.

The Parish of Christ Church Chadderton & St Saviour's Chadderton



Sermon Sheet

Sunday 10th October 2021

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Reading: John 2.13-25

Jesus clears the temple courts

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, 'Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!' ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, 'What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?'

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

²⁰ They replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not

entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

Sermon

In today's Bible reading from John's Gospel 2v12-25, we see that Jesus opens the way for us to be at home with God.

I wonder whether you've ever had the experience of being away from home and really missing home. Perhaps even being homesick.

For me, I never used to struggle with missing home when I was younger, even though I moved country when I was 9 and I often went away on camps as a teenager.

It's only more recently, since having a family of my own, that I've really felt that I miss home when I spend a few nights away.

Maybe for you, you've moved country, or moved away from where you grew up. Do you ever have that feeling of really longing for home?

Why is it that we miss home when we're away? I don't think it's just the place, or our own bed, or familiar food, although those things can play a part. The main thing we miss about home is the people isn't it?

Wherever your home is and whether or not you miss home at the moment, this morning we're going to see that God wants us to be at home with him. Being at home with God is our true home, the home that we were made for, because God made us to be with him.

Jesus, in these early chapters of John's Gospel, is showing why he came into the world. 2 weeks ago, in the first part of chapter 2, we saw how Jesus has come to bring about the ultimate wedding feast, the celebration of the marriage between God and his people.

What happens after a wedding? After the wedding, the newly married couple move into their own home together and they set up a new home. And so now in this second part of chapter 2, Jesus, after going to the wedding in Cana, goes to the temple in Jerusalem and he calls the temple Gods "house" or God's "home".

And so these two go together: the wedding between God and his people and God's people being with God in God's home.

Both of these are big things that God promised to his people hundreds of years earlier in the Old Testament. And now Jesus is bringing the fulfilment. Jesus opens the way for us to be at home with God.

But as Jesus comes to the temple, not all is well in God's house. It's God's home, but the focus has been turned away from God. And so the first thing we see here is that...

1. Jesus longs for people to be with God (v12-17)

Let's look at verses 14 to 16 together:

"In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, 'Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!'"

Jesus calls the temple "my Father's house". And yet the focus there isn't on God, it's on buying and selling animals. There would have been noise and smell and the shouting of traders. A whole industry had grown up around the worship of God. These animals were meant for temple sacrifices, but the industry got in the way of the whole point of the temple – being with God.

I mentioned earlier the idea of a married couple setting up home together. What if one day, years later, the wife came home after work and the whole house was stuffed full of items that weren't needed. The lounge was so crammed full of furniture that you couldn't actually get in the door. The bedroom had so many boxes full of blankets and pillows that you couldn't lie on the bed. The kitchen was stuffed from floor to ceiling with pots and pans and loaves of bread. And loud music blaring out.

And the wife says to her husband, "What's going on, there's nowhere to sit! We can't even have a conversation in here!" And the husband replies, "Oh, but I thought you liked these things – nice furniture, pillows, bread – and it's your favourite music isn't it?"

He's missed the point, hasn't he? He's forgotten that this is meant to be a home, a place to live and enjoy spending time together, not a warehouse!

And in the same way the people at the temple in Jerusalem had missed the point. It was meant to be God's house, not a marketplace.

And that's why Jesus drove out the cows and sheep and doves and moneychangers.

They were getting in the way of the focus on God.

Jesus longs for people to be with God. The temple was the special place where God would dwell with his people. So Jesus cleared out the temple.

In verse 17:

"His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'"

Now this is a quote from Psalm 69. And in Psalm 69 it's the King, the Messiah, King David in the first instance, who speaks these words.

King David wants to help people who are seeking God, but he has lots of enemies who are trying to stop him. He's suffering for this cause and in the end of the Psalm we see that God will save his people and bring them to dwell with him in Jerusalem.

Jesus is fulfilling the role of the Messiah here. We saw back in chapter 1 that Jesus is the promised Messiah and so here he is. He has zeal for God's house because he longs for people to be dwelling with God.

But Jesus, doesn't just long for this to happen. He has the power to make it happen. And we see this in verses 18-21 of John 2.

And this takes us to our second heading:

2. Jesus enables people to be with God (v18-21)

V18-21:

18 The Jews then responded to him, 'What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?'

19 Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

20 They replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

The Jews here are no doubt the religious leaders at the temple. They don't like what Jesus has done and they ask him to prove he has the right to clear out the temple.

They want some kind of a sign, but the God of the Bible doesn't do tricks on demand. He's not that kind of God.

Instead Jesus says

'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

They think he means the stone temple, and think, "how can you possibly rebuilt such a building in 3 days!" But Jesus was talking about his body as the temple.

We saw this back in chapter 1. Remember where we read about God the Word and how "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"?

Jesus is God himself, dwelling among his people, not in a building, but in a human body. Jesus' body is the ultimate temple.

The temple in Jerusalem was just a model, that pointed to Jesus. I recently found a model car that I was given as a child. Here it is – a red Ferrari. This model can help me understand a bit of what a Ferrari is like, but it's nowhere near as good as the real thing.

I'm afraid I don't own a real Ferrari, but if I did, and it was a Sunday afternoon and I was with my friends, I wouldn't say, "Come and play with my toy model Ferrari!" Rather I'd say, "Let's sit in the real Ferrari and go for a drive!"

There's a huge difference between the model and the real thing.

The temple was a model. Jesus' body is the fulfilment: God himself, dwelling amongst his people as a human being, speaking, living, showing his love and his power.

And so if we want to be with God today, we don't need to go to a special building, we simply need to come to Jesus, because Jesus brings the presence of God to us.

So, you know, this church building is not a temple. God is not more specially present in here, than he would be if we gathered out in a field.

The temple building was just a model. Jesus is the real temple. Jesus enables people to be with God.

And he did that through his death and resurrection. As he said:

'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

A few years later, they did destroy Jesus' body when they put him to death on the cross. And Jesus did raise his body to new life on the third day.

The temple was a place of sacrifice. Well the temple of Jesus' body, was the place of the ultimate sacrifice, is death on the cross, where, as we saw a few weeks ago, he died as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." His death pays the price that our sins deserve.

And when he rose to new life, Jesus created the temple that can never be destroyed, the eternal dwelling place of God with people. So Jesus opened up the way for us today to be with God.

But finally, how do we actually do that? Jesus is no longer walking this planet, he is on the throne in heaven, so how can we be with God through him?

This is our third and final heading:

3. Be with God by trusting his word about Jesus (v22-25)

V22:

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

The way we come into the presence of God today is by faith, that is, by trusting God's word.

After the disciples saw Jesus die and rise again, they put all the pieces of the jigsaw together. It finally made sense to them and they put their trust in Jesus on the basis of God's word. And that's a model for us.

As we'll see as we go on in John's Gospel, when we trust in Jesus, he sends the Holy Spirit to come and live inside us. And the Spirit, who is fully God, connects us to Jesus and so the Holy Spirit brings God's presence into our lives now.

And Jesus says later, in John chapter 14, that he's going to prepare a home for us, so we can look forward to being with Jesus in eternity, in our eternal home, that is our hope.

And again, we have this hope of being at home with God when we put our trust in Jesus.

The disciples, had the right kind of trust in Jesus, because they put together what God had promised in the Old Testament Scriptures, together with the words Jesus said. God's word in the Bible – Old and New Testament is the sure foundation for our faith.

But we see in the next verses that there is a kind of faith that Jesus doesn't endorse:

23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. 24 But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. 25 He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

People who believed in Jesus, simply because of the spectacular signs he did, didn't have the right kind of faith. If you only believe things like miracles, you can easily get the wrong idea about who Jesus is, because you can misunderstand the miracles.

The right thing to do is to put the signs (like Jesus' resurrection) together with the words of Jesus and the Scriptures. That way we understand who Jesus really is. We understand what it means to be saved by him. We understand how we can come to God through him.

So how can we be with God? We can be with God by trusting his word about Jesus.

When we put our trust in him, he joins us to Jesus through his Holy Spirit. We can live in the presence of God now and we can have the hope of our eternal home with God after this life, in eternity.

That is the home that we were made for – now and in the future. To be at home with God.

You may struggle with your home as it is at the moment. There may be sadness, there may be disappointment, life may not have turned out in the way that you had hoped.

Well may I encourage you, brothers and sisters, let's fix our eyes on Jesus. Let's put our trust in him. And God will make his home with us, now and in eternity.

Let's pray

Lord God, we thank you that you came to live on this earth in the person of Jesus, who is the ultimate temple of God. Thank you that he died for us and rose again to open the way for us to be with you, now and for ever. So please help us to know Jesus more and more. And to put our trust in him. And may we know the presence of your Holy Spirit with us as we do so, day by day.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers

Take time to pray for:

Our world: Conflicts around the world; the Yemen, Afghanistan and Iran.

Corona virus pandemic, its effects on poor and vulnerable communities around the world and the worldwide vaccination programme.

Climate change & stewardship of the world; as we see the affects on our planet. Wisdom for all preparing to attend the UN Climate Conference in November

All our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.

Our country: That God's word will go out to all communities and people.

For wisdom and knowledge for our government and leaders and patience for us all

Those affected by the pandemic; whether financially, physically or mentally/emotionally.

Continued protection for our key workers.

Our church and community: our parish family,

Ben Wilkinson and his family (Hannah, Esther & David)

Our working together with St Mary's,

Our PCC and all who work to manage our churches and facilities.

Our worship times and the way forward as we restart Sunday School and other activities.

Our mission partners

Ourselves: to grow in understanding of Jesus' love and grace

To put our trust in our Lord and Saviour

For humility, to be gently and patient and to bear with each other in love.

You may end each time with:

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Prayer requests:

- Val Harley
- Eddie Wilson: recovery and healing
- Alan and Isabelle Dean as they adjust to Alan being in permanent care
- Norma Howe
- Doreen Buckley
- Mary (Bola) Amusa, Linda Mushiko and Eunice Hamed for protection for them as they work with increased risks of COVID infection
- Audrey Newton: for stamina for her and wisdom for her doctors
- Esmee (Derek & Audrey Newton's granddaughter) and her continuing health problems
- Sienna Grace (for continued improvement)
- Graham Beswick: that his treatment in the coming months is effective
- Joan Ball: For recovery after her recent heart problems
- Pauline Dalton: for God's sustaining love throughout treatment and wisdom for her doctors
- Mildred West
- Edith West

For the family and friends of:-

Marcia Dailey

Paula Valery Stainthorpe

The Lord's prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always. Amen.

Christ Church and St Saviour's

Vicar: Rev Ben Wilkinson

Telephone: 07878 806174

633 6166

Email:

vicar@christchurchchadderton.co.uk

Parish office: Cathy Flint

Telephone: 624 2326

Email:

office@christchurchchadderton.co.uk

Website: www.christchurchchadderton.co.uk