

Church News

15th – 22nd May 2022

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?' John 14 vv1-2 (NIV)

How do we cope with major problems in this life? Jesus, in the text, is preparing his disciples for his sufferings and death. He reassures them that he is in ultimate control and will look after them. He encourages them, in turn, to believe in him.

What does belief in God/Jesus mean? Satan, the fallen angel knows that God/Jesus is very much with us – but he hates God and does his utmost to ruin us and anything God has created. Satan doesn't believe in the way that Jesus encourages us to believe.

Believing in God/Jesus surely means acknowledging our utter need of our Creator to be in our hearts and lives, repenting our sins and trusting in Jesus' death on the cross, for our sins, in our place, combined with his resurrection and advocacy for us in heaven before the Father. Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit who leads and comforts us in this life, assuring us of God's steadfast love for us throughout all that we have to experience. The Spirit within us makes us more and more like Jesus, filling us with his peace and love.

Jesus reminds us of the fact that his relationship with us goes beyond this life into eternity, into the glory of heaven – his Father's house! We have to trust ourselves to God's grace – undeserved mercy through Jesus, as the hymn says –

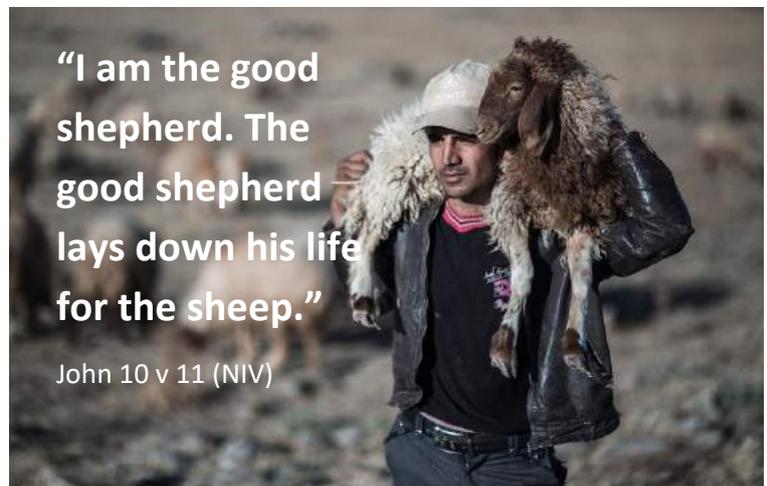
Simply trusting every day,
trusting through a stormy way;
even when my faith is small,
trusting Jesus, that is all.

Refrain: Trusting as the moments fly, trusting as the days go by;
trusting Him whate'er befall, trusting Jesus, that is all.

Stephen Burtonwood

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10 v 11 (NIV)



This coming week:

Sunday 15 th	9.30am	All Age Communion at St Saviour's
	11am	All Age Communion at Christ Church
	6.30pm	Prayer gathering at Christ Church
Saturday 21 st	10am	Spring tidy up at Christ Church
Sunday 22 nd	9.30am	Morning Worship at St Saviour's
	11am	Morning Worship at Christ Church
	6.30pm	Prayer gathering at St Mary's

Weekly Prayer Gatherings

Our weekly prayer gathering tonight is at Christ Church (and on zoom) the details for which are:

Time: Sunday 15th May 2022, 6.30-7.30pm

Venue: St Christ Church, Block Lane, Chadderton OL9 7QB

Zoom details: Meeting ID: 991 7890 8003 Passcode: 123531

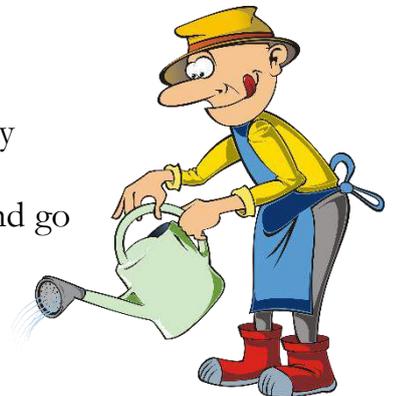
Small Group Bible Studies

The Wednesday and Thursday evening groups are following a course called "*A Passion for Life*". These sessions are designed to encourage and equip us in the vital task of sharing the good news of Jesus with others, without making us feel guilty or inadequate, but rather encouraging us with God's grace.

If you've never tried a group like this before, why not come along (or join by Zoom) just once for a taster session and see how you find it? Details of where and when the groups meet can be found in "Regular mid-week events" below.

Spring Garden tidy up

There will be a grounds work party at Christ Church on Saturday 21st May between 10am and 12 noon to carry out the spring pruning, weeding and clearing tasks in preparation for the Jubilee Garden Party. Please come and go as you are able. Bring tools if you have them, refreshments will be provided.



PCC meeting

The next PCC meeting will take place on Monday 23rd May 2022 at 7.30pm at St Saviour's Church.



Jubilee Garden Party – Saturday 4th June 2-5pm

We will be holding a garden party in the church grounds at Christ Church to celebrate The Queen's Jubilee. Afternoon tea, games, crafts, bouncy castle, treasure hunt, dancing & music and much, much more. Please come and join us and bring your friends along as well.

King's Kitchen & Food Store desperately need...

...Strong carrier bags for tinned provisions

Small plastic bottles for the distribution of milk

If you have any of these that you can donate, please pass them on to Linda or Kim on a Sunday morning. Thanks

Readings:

Today: John 11.1-44 Next Week: John 12.1-19

Please take time to read ahead

Parish Prayer Diary

We are looking at how we can make the parish prayer diary more user friendly and accessible to all who worship with us. The aim of the diary is to encourage us all to pray for one another and the needs of the parish. To see what we could do to change and improve it we are carrying out a short questionnaire. Please take a copy and complete it to let us know what you think.

Safeguarding

We want our churches to be a safe and welcoming environment where everyone is respected and valued. If you see or hear something that doesn't feel right, please don't ignore it. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please contact either our vicar or our Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Anne Elliott (*contact details on the back page*). If you would prefer to speak to someone outside the church, you can contact the Manchester Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser; Abbey Clephane-Wilson on 0161 828 1451 or email: AbbeyClephane-Wilson@manchester.anglican.org

How to give to God's work in your church

To give regularly to your church you can:

- By Standing Order to Account name: Christ Church Chadderton
Account number: 22384340
Sort Code: 05 06 46
Please pick up a Standing Order Instruction (back of church) or create one online
- Through Stewardship – Find our giving page online at:
<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20090018>
- By giving weekly through our Planned Giving Envelope Scheme (see Margaret Parrett at Christ Church or Dave Hindle at St Saviour's)
- Weekly offering box

And, of course, if you are a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid declaration form enabling the church to reclaim 25p 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.

Looking ahead:

28 th May	Women's breakfast	9am at St Mary's
31 st May	Eddie Wilson's funeral	1pm at St Saviour's
4 th June	Jubilee Garden Party	2pm at Christ church

Regular Mid-Week events:

Monday	10am	Noah's Ark Toddler's Group at St Saviour's
	1pm	King's Kitchen and Food Store at Christ Church
	1.30pm	Small group Bible study at St Saviour's
Tuesday	10am	Small group Bible study at St Saviour's
Wednesday	6pm	Rainbows at St Saviour's
	6.30pm	Brownies at St Saviour's
	7.20pm	Bible Study at Christ Church
	7.20pm	Bible Study on zoom (<i>for link please contact the Parish Office</i>)
	7.30pm	Guides at St Saviour's
Thursday	2pm	Small group Bible study at Margaret Clow's
	7.20pm	Bible Study at Tim & Lindsey Norman's
	7.20pm	Bible Study on zoom (<i>for link please contact the Parish Office</i>)

COVID 19

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
- We would prefer if all attending **wear a face covering**

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 is feeling unwell, should not attend church. A video of today's sermon is available through the parish website after the service each week.

Christ Church and St Saviour's:

Vicar: Rev Ben Wilkinson

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Parish office: Cathy Flint

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Email: office@christchurchchadderton.co.uk

Website: www.christchurchchadderton.co.uk

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

Safeguarding Officer: Anne Elliott

Telephone: 0161 213 0392 email: Mowgli_anne@yahoo.com

The Parish of Christ Church & St Saviour's Chadderton



Sermon Sheet

Sunday 15th May 2022

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

Reading: John 11.1-44

The death of Lazarus

11 Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.'

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.'

⁸ 'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?'

⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.'

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.'

¹² His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus comforts the sisters of Lazarus

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.'

²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'

²⁴ Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'

²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

²⁷ 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. 'The Teacher is here,' she said, 'and is asking for you.' ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ 'Where have you laid him?' he asked.

'Come and see, Lord,' they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'

³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ 'Take away the stone,' he said.

'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.'

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face.

Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'

Sermon

Today we're in John chapter 11, where Jesus does something that no one else can do. And he does it to show everyone how amazing he is. In verse 4 he says:

"It is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

So let's start by thinking, what's this idea of "glory" all about? Glory is when people see how great, how amazing someone is. Let's think about the glory of some different characters and people:

What is the "glory" of:

- Waffle the Wonder Dog
- Go Jettors
- Emma Raducanu
- Harry Kane

What is the glory of Jesus?

- What makes him so special?
- What makes him the best person ever?

Well in John chapter 11, Jesus' friend is ill, a man called Lazarus. And Jesus says about Lazarus in verse 4:

'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.'

So let's find out how Jesus showed his glory at that time in the village of Bethany.

[www.yoplace.com]

1. Just a short distance outside Jerusalem, in a village called Bethany, lived a family of siblings that welcomed Jesus. Their names were Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Jesus deeply loved each member of this family.
2. The family opened their home to Jesus and the disciples. Martha worked hard in preparations while Mary sat at Jesus' feet and attentively listened to Him (Luke 10:38-41). Once, Mary anointed His feet with oil.
3. After Jesus left their home, Mary and Martha's brother Lazarus became gravely ill. Mary and Martha knew Jesus could heal Lazarus. They decided to send someone to find Jesus and ask for His help.⁴
4. When Jesus got the message about Lazarus' illness He said, 'This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.'
5. Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus very much. One would think that He would have rushed off to help immediately. But God had greater plans. So Jesus stayed where He was until the proper time to go.
6. After two days He told His disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples knew that going to help Lazarus in Judea was very dangerous. They knew that Jesus' enemies were waiting near by in Jerusalem to take His life.
7. Jesus said, 'Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.'
8. Off they went back to Mary, Martha and Lazarus' home (Bethany) close to the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus' enemies were hoping to put Him to death. At this time Lazarus had been buried in the tomb for four days.⁴
9. When they got to Bethany many Jews from Jerusalem were there also. Martha met Jesus and said 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.'

Jesus said to Martha 'Your brother will rise again.'

10. Martha said, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.'

11. When Mary came to Jesus she fell at His feet. 'Lord if You had been here, my brother would not have died,' she cried. When Jesus saw her along with others weeping He was deeply moved. Jesus wept.

12. At Lazarus' tomb. Jesus raised His eyes and said, 'Father, I thank You that You have heard Me, I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.'

13. Then Jesus yelled 'Lazarus, come out.'

The man who had died came out, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Children: what amazing thing does Jesus do here?

- He brings a man who was dead and buried for 4 days back to life again
- I can't do that, you can't do that, not even a really clever doctor could do that

Children: how did Jesus raise Lazarus to life?

- Simply by speaking!

Now sometimes we can say words that make things happen. So for example we can play a game of Simon says.

Simon says....

- Hands on your head
- Touch your toes
- Wiggle sideways
- [take suggestions]

Simon says...

- Touch the very top of the ceiling in church!
- Turn into a ladybird!

We can make some things happen with our words. But Jesus can make anything happen with his words. Jesus is showing that he is God here. So he's showing the glory of God.

When God made everything at the beginning, how did he do it? He simply spoke and things were made. And here at the grave of Lazarus, Jesus simply spoke and Lazarus came back to life. And so Jesus said, in verse 25:

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

Jesus is God who creates life after death. Raising Lazarus was a sign of what he can do. The way Jesus beat death was when he died on the cross and rose again on the 3rd day. The events we've just been remembering at Easter.

How do we get this for ourselves? By believing in Jesus. As Jesus says in verse 25:

"The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

Children: come and get an activity sheet and some pens. While I spend a few minutes more with the grown ups thinking about what all of this means.

So we've seen this morning the glory of Jesus, that he came to create new life, life after death. And he made the possible through his own death on the cross and rising from the dead. Isn't this what our world needs most of all today? Isn't this what each of us needs most of all today? Who else can give us hope in the face of death?

I don't know what your experience was of the pandemic. I know some lost loved ones to Covid. I know some worked tirelessly in the NHS and in schools and supermarkets and all sorts of other workplaces. I know lockdowns were hard for everyone.

Why did the world turn upside down in what felt like overnight 2 years ago? Because of the very real threat of death. It's the greatest threat that any of us faces. And of course all of us will die sooner or later. And Jesus says that at the end of our life we deserve to face God's judgment.

What possible hope to we have in the face of death? Jesus is the only one who can give us lasting hope. Jesus who says: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

There is hope for life after death only by turning to Jesus, listening to his word in the Bible and putting your trust in him.

If you're here today and you don't yet know Jesus, the best thing in life you can do is get to know Jesus. We would love to help you with this, here at St Mary's/St Saviour's/Christ Church. Every Sunday we gather to learn more from God's word and worship him together. We run courses to help people explore the Christian faith. We can arrange for someone to help you to look at the Bible with you one-to-one. Don't let the opportunity pass to find the only lasting hope in life.

If you're here today and you do know Jesus and you have put your trust in him, then what a wonderful gift you have for everyone around you, your neighbours, your friends, your family. The most loving thing we can do is share our hope. The hope that only Jesus brings.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

Let's pray.

Prayers

Take time to pray for:

Our world: Conflicts around the world; the Ukrainian crisis; for wisdom for our world leaders in how to respond to the ongoing situation as it develops. Wisdom for the leaders of Finland and Sweden.

Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and Iraq; the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the Kurdish/Turkish conflict; and political instability in Ethiopia, Egypt and Lebanon.

Corona virus pandemic and its effects on poor and vulnerable communities around the world especially North Korea & Shanghai The worldwide vaccination programme.

Climate change & stewardship of the world as we see the effects on our planet, the vulnerable and poor. For wisdom on how we should change and the courage to act as good stewards.

All our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world including our mission partners Bishop Abelino and Patti in Chile.

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

For wisdom and knowledge for our leaders both political, in the community and in the church.

For our mission partners now based in the UK, Audrey & Derek Newton, Mike & Helen Parker and Daniel & Mei Whetham

For strength and resilience for those working in the health service and social care.

All affected by the current economic climate and the squeeze on living standards, as many more struggle to pay their bills and put food on the table.

Our church and community: our parish family,

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

Our working together with St Mary's

For wisdom and discernment for our PCCs and all who work to manage our churches and facilities.

For God to raise up good leaders.

Outreach and support to our local community and those in need; that we are light in the darkness.

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, sacrificial and generous and to bear with each other in love.

You may end each time with:

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Prayer requests:

- Caren & Alex as they start their married life together
- Bernard and Eunice for recovery from their chest infections
- Sheila Clarke for recovery from her fall
- Evelyn Whitworth
- Ruth, a friend of Ruth Glover who is in hospital. Please pray for wisdom for her doctors
- Pauline Lewis
- Eva Dale
- Val Harley
- Alan and Isabelle Dean
- Norma Howe
- Audrey Newton: for stamina for her and wisdom for her doctors
- Esme (Derek & Audrey Newton's granddaughter) and her continuing health problems
- Sienna Grace (for continued improvement)
- Anne Day
- Graham Beswick: as he awaits on his results
- Joan Ball: For healing of her heart problems
- Mildred West

For the family and friends of:-

Eddie Wilson

Peggy Foy's friend – Dave

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:

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