



Sunday 15th August 2021

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Points for Prayer. We pray for all those who have received exam results this past week. Give them confidence and vision as they plan for the future

In Memory. Sheila Stacey, Andy Vickerstaff, William Easterbrook and Jocelyn Cassey and Rita Bull.

Look out for the wonderful cards on sale to raise funds for our churches. Thank you to Robin and Pam Thomas for organising this. Fantastic picture Robin!

Church Office cover for August. Please note for the period of August, Andrew and Caren will be working to a different pattern as well as having specific time off which will be advertised in this weekly notice sheet. They will only be covering essential work for this period. Non-essential work will be picked up again in September.

Lifting of lockdown rules Clear guidance will be given at all our services. In broad terms we are recommending the continuation of social distancing and wearing of masks in our buildings. Each community will be considering how to reintroduce singing and refreshments.

August and September Edition of the Beacon is now available for you to collect from our churches. We are always looking for new contributors. If you have an idea or article do contact the editor.

Could You Stand For General Synod? Elections for new members of the Church of England's governing body, the General Synod, are taking place this autumn. Anyone can stand for election, you just need to be over 18, be on your church Electoral Roll and be receiving Communion. It doesn't matter how long you have been a Christian, what your background is or how old or young you are! <https://exeter.anglican.org/who-we-are/synod> Please call (01392) 294931 if you have any questions.

Book onto a Grow Course and Begin Lay Learning Now:

- Sharing Our Faith: Thursdays: 2nd, 9th and 16th of September
- Stewardship Advocates: Tuesdays: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th of September
- Pastoral Care: Mondays: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th of October

The courses will be taking place in the evenings starting at 7:30pm, online using Zoom.

To sign up <https://exeter.anglican.org/ministry/lay-ministry/lay-learning/>

Readings	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
1st Reading	Proverbs 9:1-6	Joshua 24:1-2a
Psalm	34:9-14	34:15-22
2nd Reading	Ephesians 5:15-20	Ephesians 6:10-20
Gospel	John 6:51-58	John 6:59-69
Readings for the week ahead:		
Mon	16 th Luke 1.46-55	
Tue	17 th Matt 19.23-End	
Wed	18 th Matt 20:1-16	
Thurs	19 th Matt 22:1-14	
Fri	20 th Matt 22:34-40	
Sat	21 st Matt 23:1-12	

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Down. Tel: 01803 813403 E: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

Office: Church Office, St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Path, Ipplepen, TQ12 5RZ

Office hours: Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri: 12 noon to 3pm. Thurs: 11am to 3pm

Tel: 01803 814178 E: office@beaconparishes.co.uk W: www.missioncommunity.org.uk

Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/

www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/

Today – Sunday 15th August

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
2 pm	Wedding Meeting	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Evening Prayer online using 'Zoom': Please note, there will be no 6pm Evening Prayer (which is usually on the first and third Sunday of each month) throughout August.

Telephone support/chat following the church services: Sheila Sheldon is available to speak to following our church services. Sheila's phone number is (01803) 814227.

Morning Prayer

This week morning prayer will be said at the following times:

Monday	9.15 am	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen (changed from Tuesday for this week)
Wednesday	9.00 am	- For the Zoom password, email: rachelbelringer@gmail.com (Please contact Rachel by the Tuesday for the zoom password)
Thursday	9.15 am	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston (A time of silent prayer and meditation at Broadhempston)

Reflection

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week at the following times:

St Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily
St John the Baptist, Woodland	10am to 4pm	Daily

Mid-Week

Rev'd Andrew Down on retreat from Monday to Friday.

Church office closed for annual leave for one week from Monday 16th August.

Monday	11 am	Funeral Service for Rita Bull	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

Next Sunday – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Churches Together – Family Service and the Baptism of Amelia Perrett	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)	- St John the Baptist, Woodland

Online Sermon this Sunday: This week's 10 minute online sermon will be from The Bishop of Crediton, The Right Reverend Jackie Searle. <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>



Reflection by Rev'd Anne Burden

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

John 6:51-58

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I expect that some of you will have noticed that the gospel readings for the weeks between 8th and 12th Sundays after Trinity follow their way through John chapter 6. It's a very long chapter with plenty of material for a decent size reading every Sunday for five consecutive weeks. This isn't always obvious because there are two Saints days in this period - St James the Apostle and the Blessed Virgin Mary which can interrupt the sequence if a particular church chooses. But if the festivals are transferred as the lectionary allows, the five week series is much clearer. It starts with the well known miracle story of the Feeding of the 5000 - and then moves on to an extended discourse between Jesus and the disciples which takes place on the next day. This explores deeper spiritual themes which arise from the miracle story. We're reading from John's gospel - which is dealt with very differently from the accounts in the other gospels. The author shows us how the miracle story can be seen in a more symbolic way - leading into questions of faith for those who read it, and giving them opportunities to learn more about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciples.

The theme of the chapter is "bread" - as Tessa pointed out to us a couple of weeks ago - and the account moves from the bread Jesus 'multiplies' to feed the crowd on the hillside, to thinking about his statement "I am the bread of life". He then goes further and offers us a selection of words which have become deep and memorable in the Christian faith -

- > whoever eats this bread will live for ever
 - > the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh
 - > those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life
- and many others

All this makes the disciples think. Peter realises that Jesus has what he describes as "the words of eternal life" and is "the Son of God". The gospel was written many years later than the actual events - presumably so that future generations of Christians, including us, can ponder the same thoughts - the same mysteries of faith. Once we see how our 5 weeks of gospel readings link together - it's easy to think that it should really be seen as one whole. And there is much to be said for this.

It's fashionable nowadays to binge-watch TV programmes. Technology which even I can understand, makes it possible to watch a whole TV series when we choose rather than wait for a particular day and time to come around. I hasten to add that I'm not a binge watcher, and I'm not recommending this - but I also think that it can be good to get an overall view of a TV programme or book before giving the details more attention. We have to beware though, because if we're rushing too fast to the next bit, it's easy to miss things, forget things, pass things by. So there is also value in reading one step at a time - leaving time for space, relaxation, thought, prayer - asking the 'so what' and 'what now' questions.

So could I suggest with this particular chapter, John 6, you make time to read the whole chapter in one sitting - and then put it away before coming back to it in a week or two - to read it more slowly, a little at a time. Perhaps you could first make a list of those well known and profound sayings offered by Jesus, and take one at a time into your prayer and your life. The scriptures were written to nurture our faith - to feed our souls. Food for thought. Food for prayer. Food for life.

