



Church Link

Sunday 6 June 2021

No. 63

Give ear to my words, O Lord;  
give heed to my sighing.  
Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness,  
make your way straight before me.  
But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;  
let them ever sing for joy.

Extract from Psalm 5

Please join us for the Sunday Eucharist on 6th June in St Andrew's Church, Blagdon. Booking, as usual, is via the [form on our website](#), to enable us to comply with Track and Trace regulations. Please accept our apologies: there will be no online worship this week. Please would those of you who usually worship with us online consider joining the worship which will be streamed from Wells Cathedral from 10am. There is a link below or you can watch it on the Cathedral's [Youtube channel](#).

The Diocese of Bath and Wells has also asked us to inform you about a Healing Forum that will be taking place next month via Zoom with Revd. Dr Gillian Straine. Please see the notice below for details of how to register.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Yours in Fellowship,  
Revd. Simon Lewis  
Laura Williams

If you would prefer not to receive electronic communications from us, please [unsubscribe](#) here.



First Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 6th June

- 10:30am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon. Please book via [this link](#)
- We apologise that there will be no online worship this week. Please join the worship from Wells Cathedral by [clicking here](#) (from 10am)

Wednesday 9th June

- 5:00pm - Evensong, sung by the Choir, St Andrew's, Blagdon.

Thursday 10th June

- 12:00pm - Online Church in the Spirit of Iona, via Zoom. Please [click here to join](#).

Our churches will also be open for individual prayer at the following times:

Monday 7th June

- 9:30am - 10:30am, St Andrew's, Blagdon

Thursday 3rd June

- 10:30am - 11:30am, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

St Michael's, Compton Martin, will be open every day from 9:00am - 5:00pm

Please wear a face covering inside our buildings and observe social distancing.

Sunday Reading and Reflection

6 June 2021 - Trinity I

From beginning to end, as the Gospels unfold, Jesus simply does not fit in, either to norms of the society of his day, nor of religious authorities, nor even of his family; so this passage from Mark's Gospel seems to say.

Reading: Mark 3:20-end

...and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin' - for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

The True Kindred of Jesus

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

A Reflection

(As an aside, it is interesting to note that Mark uses a literary device common to Greek literature of the period in which he is writing, some decades after the events of Jesus life. It is a sort of sandwich beginning with the 'Crowd' it moves to Jesus' family; then the filling, the confrontation with religious authorities, then back to the 'Crowd' and ending again, with the Family.) The development of Christian thinking, practice and theology owes much to Greek influence. The same method is used elsewhere in the Gospel; the crowd is an important feature; the crowd, social media in particular, are an important feature of today; beware the crowd.

Remember, this conflict comes directly after Jesus emerges from his temptations in the desert. His family think he is disturbed and want to take care of him; the religious authorities, the scribes get in on the act. They diagnose 'possession by Satan. Jesus is more than match; 'It does not make sense to say that I drive out demons, using demons - Satan- as my weapon. Then, those words that you might apply in cases close to home; 'If a house is divided against itself, how can that house stand'. It is worth noting that the word 'diabolical' is from a Greek word 'to split in two'.

When 'the family set out to take charge of him' Mark uses the same word he uses for Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus' power is associated with Satan (John 2:20, 8:48).

Jesus makes clear, by means of a parable that his task is to free people from all that comes between humanity and God. Jesus, who, Mark says, is stronger than John the Baptist (Mark 1:7), is stronger than Satan too. The passage reflects the whole story of Jesus and the community in which the Gospel was first told and shared. Those who follow Jesus often still experience the same resistance to the glory and the presence of God.

Out of the deep have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice.  
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him:  
in his word is my hope.

[Psalm 30]

A Prayer for Sunday

O God, my Creator,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept my prayer  
and, because through the weakness of my mortal nature  
I can do no good thing without you,  
grant me the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
I may please you both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

Online Worship - Trinity I

6 June 2021, 10:00am

We have been unable to record a worship in the Benefice this week. Please would those of you who usually join us online consider joining the streamed worship broadcast on [Wells Cathedral's website](#) from 10am, which will remain online for the week.

Ringers' Radio

Isolation Station



This week's recording for the Ring of Bells' radio station will be broadcast on Sunday morning, beginning with the sound of church bells at 10:45am and with the talk beginning at 11:00pm. You can also listen to this week's recording on our website, by clicking on the image below.



Children's Corner

Are you a good team player? The week's Young Church Mag help you decide which side you're on and which skills you'll need to be a good Christian. It can all be downloaded as a PDF and printed by clicking [this link](#).



Summer Healing Forum

Wednesday, 7th July 2021

7:30pm – 9:00pm on Zoom

Healing in a Changing World – Session 3

The Journey Towards Health & Healing

With Special Guest

Revd. Dr. Gillian Straine

Chief Operating Officer

Guild Of Health

The Revd. Dr. Gillian Straine is an Anglican priest, theologian, scientist, author and a cancer survivor who is passionately committed to health, healing and Christian living. She lives in Lichfield with her husband and two young children. Gillian's books include: 'Introducing Science and Religion: A path through polemic (SPCK, 2014); The Limits of Science? (CSP, 2017); Cancer: A Pilgrim Companion (SPCK, 2017).

The Guild of Health (<https://gohealth.org.uk/>) is the Guild of Health and St Raphael - a wide group of people who seek to explore the links between faith and health, primarily but not exclusively from a Christian perspective, through:

- Promoting the church as a hub for health and healing
- Learning from one another about how to promote human flourishing
- Creating networks of people who are passionate in linking faith and health

- Helping people to connect with the church as a hub for wellbeing
- Praying for all who are suffering
- Researching healing from an academic viewpoint

As with our previous two evening sessions, this evening with Gillian will include a talk, time for reflection, opportunities for discussion in small groups and sharing feedback.

If you are interested in attending, please register on the event page for the session: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/healing-forum-booking-form>.

Prayer within our Community

We have been asked to pray for:

In the Parish of Blagdon, please pray for Nicky and her family, Britta and her parents Roger and Kathy, for Elizabeth, Nick, Neil and Margaret, Rhianon and the family of Barbara White.

In the Parish of Ubley, please pray for Richard and Nigel.

In the Parish of Compton Martin, please pray for Ann and Robert, for Mathew, Tom and Harry, Ceinwen and Robert.

Please pray for our wedding couples as they prepare for their marriage ceremonies in our churches this month, and for Simon and Kerry who were married at St Andrew's on Friday 4th June.

God of truth,  
help us to keep your law of love  
and to walk in ways of wisdom,  
that we may find true life  
in Jesus Christ your Son.  
Amen

If you have someone or something that you would like us to pray for, your requests can be passed onto them and included in our prayers. Please click [here](#) to send us your requests.

Community Support and Help Details

Support is available in all our villages for anyone who is self-isolating:

For those who live in Ubley

**Ubley Cares**  
Landline: 463509 speak to Wes Hallam  
Email: [whallam@ubleyparish.co.uk](mailto:whallam@ubleyparish.co.uk)  
Landline: 462827 speak to Jonathan Longhurst  
Email: [j1landj2@sky.com](mailto:j1landj2@sky.com)

For those who live in Compton Martin:

**Coronavirus support in Compton Martin Parish**  
Email: [comptonmartin.cv@gmail.com](mailto:comptonmartin.cv@gmail.com)  
Landline: 221415 speak to Jean Luckett  
Mobile: 07968 861118 speak to Jean Luckett  
Email: [peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com](mailto:peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com)  
Landline: 220102 speak to Rachel Branston

For those who live in Blagdon:

**Blagdon Community Link**  
Support during Covid-19  
Email: [caroblagdon@gmail.com](mailto:caroblagdon@gmail.com)