

St Cuthbert's Church: Bulletin for Sunday June 21st

3RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



Many of the lockdown regulations have been eased, churches are now allowed to open for private prayer and on July 5th it will be permitted once again to hold a service in a church. However this will depend on whether or not it is possible to enforce social distancing..

Speaking in the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr Johnson said: "I am delighted that places of worship will be able to reopen for prayer and services, including weddings with a maximum of 30 people, all subject to social distancing."

A message posted on the Church of England Twitter account said: "We understand that the reference to a maximum of 30 people applies **only to weddings and not all services**, where numbers will depend on the **size of the building and the specific circumstances**. The Government will be publishing guidance on places of worship in due course."

The Bishop of Carlisle, the Rt Revd James Newcome, warned, however, that people should remain cautious. "Church buildings that do reopen . . . should only do so if all the necessary social-distancing and hygiene measures are adopted. Those churches which feel this cannot be done safely should not feel pressured to open."

So it might not be as straightforward as it seems. The Church of England authorities will no doubt advise our P.C.C. what will be the best course of action. We will have to wait and see what they decide.

ST. CUTHBERT'S WILL BE OPEN ON JUNE 28TH JUNE FROM 10:00 – 11:00 AM. FOR PRIVATE PRAYER.

Last Sunday morning, 15 people came to St. Cuthberts between 10 and 11 am. when the church was re-opened for private prayer after three months closure. Members of the P.C.C. were at hand with hand sanitiser and face masks and some pews had been taped off. It was very strange and subdued, but still good to be back in church again and to have the opportunity to speak to fellow church members afterwards in the churchyard, even at a 2 metre distance.

Streaming of church services during “Lockdown”

If you would like to join others in worship, even if only virtually, you can get online services streamed to your home. Several churches near Ormesby are regularly streaming services including St. Cuthbert’s at Marton and Holy Trinity at North Ormesby. Click on the links below.

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/> you can find live streaming of church services and prayers from many churches, or you can go to the Church of England’s website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/> and find out what is happening nationally.

If you want to know what is going on in the Diocese, you might like to get their newssheet “The Journal” emailed to you. Subscribe, free by emailing www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/briefing.

The **Bible readings** for this Sunday, as laid down in the Church of England Lectionary, are listed below. For copyright reasons, we will not be printing the full texts of the readings, so if you have not got your own Bible, you can get all the texts from the Bible Gateway website. You can even choose which version of the Bible you prefer! Here is the link: BibleGateway.com

Readings for the third Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament reading Genesis 22.1-14

The Epistle Romans 6.12-23

The Gospel Matthew 10.40-42



The Collect for the third Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of
God;
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.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that
nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

A reflection from Canon Peter Bristow.

Reflections on the Third Sunday After Trinity; Genesis 22: 1-14.

The story of Abraham and Isaac is one of the most dark and difficult stories of the Old Testament. Child sacrifice was as repugnant to pre-Christian Jews as it is for us. It raises many questions. Did God really tell Abraham to kill Isaac? Was Isaac really aware of what was happening and did he consent? In our times we would ask further questions about what such an experience would do to Isaac and what did his mother, Sarah, think about it?

What does this story tell us about God? Part of the answer to the latter question lies in the wider story. After the birth of Isaac, Ishmael, the son of Abraham and his slave girl, Hagar, was expelled from his household along with his mother. Is the story of the



sacrifice of Isaac part of God's response, a way of establishing whether Abraham is really interested in founding a clan of his own rather than trusting God to fulfil the promises in his own way? In other words did Abraham really and truly trust God?

We must begin by dealing with ideas which are difficult for us. A victim of some cooking disaster is about as near we are likely to get to a "burnt offering" yet anyone using such language to describe such a cooking disaster is using the Biblical language of sacrifice. We must ask ourselves what role a sacrifice played in the Jewish faith. Jesus lived and died in this faith and would have been totally used to animals and birds being killed to offer sacrifice to God.

The word 'sacrifice' has many meanings. We admire parents who make sacrifices for their children, who give up personal comforts in order to provide for a son or daughter. When a soldier is killed in battle, we speak of the ultimate sacrifice of laying down one's life for one's country. So, the first element of sacrifice involves the giving up of something valuable.

In the game of chess a player may sacrifice a valuable piece in order to gain some advantage over his opponent. A second element of sacrifice is the surrender of something of value as a means of gaining something even more valuable.

We need to put these two elements together to understand the religious context of the story about Abraham and Isaac. A sacrifice is the surrender of something to (the gods) in order to influence them or gain their good pleasure. In many early societies sacrifices were common and in many such societies, children were sacrificed. To go about offering a sacrifice one had to find a way of transferring the valuable possession from one's own control to the domain of the god. The way to do this was to destroy the object in question, usually by killing it.

For Abraham, Isaac represents the continuation of his people and tribe. He was utterly precious. Everything he knows is bound up with this child. Early Christians saw that this odd, shocking and repulsive challenge God was calling Abraham to do was part of God's long term plans, a signpost to the thing that God himself would do, not sparing his own dearly beloved son. "God will provide" said Abraham. Our Christian faith began on the basis that God has and will fully provide. But do we really trust God? Abraham did trust God. Out of the death of ambition and pride Abraham is promised a superabundant blessing, a huge family (vv.15-18).

So what is the challenge of this story for us, now? We are called to obey God, to lay on the altar everything that we regard as 'precious' or 'valuable' because these things mostly belong to lives which are focussed on ourselves and on the world as we know it now. This is what it means to be "crucified with Christ". There are profound echoes in this story which are helpful in our understanding of the way of the cross, particularly if we see Jesus not only as God, but as also both Abraham and Isaac. Jesus goes to the cross in obedience, but we know in his last hours he was deeply troubled. However, because Jesus is also God, he is himself the sacrifice that God provides. He is both priest and victim; the one who obeys and the one who commands. There is no gap between what the Son wills and what the Father wills, no merciless Father and broken Son, only the costly, faithful and fruitful action of God. Does Abraham get ready to sacrifice Isaac,



CHALLENGES
will come to you
but as you trust in
GOD
they will strengthen
YOUR FAITH.
- Neil A. Andersen

believing that, because of the way he has treated Hagar and Ishmael, he deserves to lose this son too ? If so, he meets what we meet when we approach the cross. If we are obedient to God we will *always* experience his provision of all that we need to be forgiven and restored.

Canon Peter

Church members in hospital

Barrie Bloom and Derek Turner, long-standing members of our church are both back in hospital for further treatment. Barrie's wife Kath has also been in hospital although she is home now.

Please pray for Barrie and Derek and their families.

Please help us survive the financial crisis:



Why wait until services restart again at St Cuthbert's before resuming your weekly offerings? It is really easy to donate regularly by standing order.

Ian our treasurer writes:

As we are likely to be closed for some time please consider ways you can continue to support your Church.

- Putting the money you generously donate weekly aside, in your Envelopes, where applicable.
- Send a cheque [made payable to **St Cuthberts Ormesby PCC**], please contact me on 01642 313510 for details of where to post the cheque.
- Donate with a Debit or Credit card on the main page of the Church website via the **Give a little** icon.
- Consider donating by Standing Order; a form that can be used to setup a Standing Order [<https://stcuthbertsormesby.org.uk/pcc-documents/>] is available on the website.

With the Church closed for all Services **we have no income**, apart from the members of our congregation who make their Planned Giving donations by Standing Order. The church still must be maintained and secured and unless things change, we still need to pay our Freewill offer to York Diocese each month (£2,750.00 per month). We still have many bills to pay. If you go back to the **Home Page** you will find all the information and easy to complete forms that you will need to make regular contributions to St. Cuthbert's without leaving the house.

For all those **Non-Gift Aided** donations please note that only donations **below £30** can be used to claim extra money from the tax man under the Small Gift Scheme (GASDS). HMRC say the following:

"In respect of GASDS, guidance on the eligibility for donations for inclusion in this scheme is clear in stating that claims can only be made on cash donations of £30 or less; and contactless card donations of £30 or less collected on or after 6 April 2019.

"Where it is the case, for example, of separate donations being given in a single envelope, then if the church/charity official is happy these are clearly separate 'small donations' (and clearly stated as such) then they will be eligible for GASDS, as is the case where separate envelopes are used".

So if you are saving those donations please indicate how many weeks the donation covers (note/letter) or if you use the Blue envelopes then supply the envelopes for all the weeks that your donation covers so that I know that your donation can be split as indicated above.

Thank you to everyone who has been sending their donations while the Church has been closed.

Ian Hart

A few words from Denise Lewis, our safeguarding officer.

Safeguarding

Its reminder week!

Anyone holding a DBS should complete the online safeguard training. There is a foundation course to be completed but I would also recommend you complete course 1 and 2. They will take up to an hour each, very easy to follow, packed with excellent information. Find them on the York Diocese safeguarding site.

Take care you don't fall victim to scams on the telephone, on your computer, by post or people calling at your home. Never give out personal details, pin numbers or sign up to anything you have not thoroughly investigated first.

Useful numbers

Childline 08001111
Women's Aid 08088029999
Samaritans 116123
Mind 03001233393

NSPCC 08088005000
Cuthbert Bear

Janet Caldwell is looking for people to join her in an informal walking group.



See yourself in a group like this?

Would you like to explore the local area, get a bit fitter and spend time with friends?

Gentle walks for ex-couch potatoes!
Ring or text Janet if you are interested.

Home 01642454790, mobile 07809041169

Necklace still needs reuniting with Owner!

Last week we asked, "Did you give **Debbie Bristow** a necklace to repair before lockdown?" but we have not yet had a reply.

Debbie has repaired it but unfortunately, she has forgotten whose it was. She would like to return it, so if it is yours, please could you either let her know or email me at carolmbruce@yahoo.co.uk and I will pass the message on.

What's happening in the Parish during the crisis.

All our regular church - based activities have come to a standstill of course, but happily it is still possible to carry on caring for others. Indeed, in these times, it is even more necessary. Read on to find out what's going on at St. Cuthbert's.

Food Bank

Thanks to all who have donated to the food bank.

There are about 40-50 families that use the service regularly in Brambles Farm and Jane (i.e. Sister Jane the Church Army worker) is very grateful for it.

Get in touch with Deacon Janet if you want to donate items for the next collection. The next collection will be 28th June. You can drop provisions and/or money off at Janet's house or phone her.

Telephone: 01642 454790

These websites will tell you what the food banks need at the moment.

<https://middlesbrough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

<https://redcararea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>



Telephone Service

While we are self-isolating the church is running a telephone service. This is a means of keeping in touch with the congregation, especially those who do not have regular contact with others. We are telephoning as many as possible. Inevitably there are those who slip through the net. If you have not had a call or know someone who would appreciate a call, contact the church mobile phone leaving details, on **07715298711** (voice message or text), we will get back to you. If you cannot leave your home and need a prescription or shopping let us know. We can help you. Perhaps you just need a chat, it's always good to hear a friendly voice.

Denise Lewis

Telephone prayer group

Elizabeth Furnell is still running the Prayer Group during the lockdown.

Anyone afraid, lonely or in need of fellowship can join me in prayer daily/weekly as preferred. Just because we are isolated as Christians, we should never feel we are abandoned.

Best Wishes

Elizabeth

Tel. 07807416007



Cuthbert Bear's Corner



The Bible reading for today is from Genesis chapter 22, verses 1 – 14.

(If you haven't got a children's Bible, you might like to ask a grownup to read the story to you.)

God wanted to test Abraham. He told Abraham to take his only son Isaac into the mountains and sacrifice him.

The next morning Abraham took his son to the mountains. He took with him wood and a knife. Isaac asked what they were to sacrifice as they did not have a lamb. Abraham told him the Lord will provide.

Abraham built an altar and he tied Isaac to it. He took the knife and was about to kill



Isaac when an angel of the Lord called to him from the heavens, "Abraham, Abraham, do not harm your son". Abraham had shown he feared God because he was doing as God had told him even though it meant hurting his son.

Abraham saw a ram that was trapped in a bush. He took the ram and sacrificed this instead of his son.

Abraham called the place 'The Lord will provide'

Activities

1. Who was Abraham? Why do you think God wanted to test Abraham?
2. Divide a sheet of paper into 4 by folding in half (lengthwise) and then half again. On each part show Abraham's story.
 - a) God speaking to Abraham.
 - b) Abraham taking his son Isaac to the mountains.
 - c) Isaac on the altar.
 - d) Abraham sacrificing the ram.

Denise

Readers' Contributions

Cooking with Denise

Salad days are upon us and what better than a tasty tomato salad that will go with any meat, cheese, eggs or other salads. So easy to make too.



Tomato Salad (serves 4)

16 cherry tomatoes halved. Toss tomatoes in a couple of tbsp good olive oil (enough to coat). Chop or tear, 6 large basil leaves, stir through the tomatoes. Season with freshly ground black pepper and sea salt.

While we are on the subject of salads, *Carol adds:*

People often end up with surplus courgettes and here's a good way of using them. This would go well with Denise's delicious tomato salad on a summer buffet..

A kind of Italian/Greek courgette salad.

You will need courgettes, fresh mint, lemon juice and olive oil.

Slice courgettes very thinly lengthwise with a very sharp knife or mandolin. Be careful! Brush with light olive oil on both sides and grill until tender. If you have a one of those pans that gives you chargrilled stripes, use that, otherwise set your grill at medium heat.



Arrange the courgettes on a large plate and squeeze lemon juice over. As much as you like; you do need to taste the acidity. Then grind a liberal amount of salt and pepper all over and finish with a drizzle of extra- virgin olive oil. Leave to cool to room temperature. Just before serving, sprinkle a handful of finely chopped mint all over the courgettes. You can serve extra olive oil and lemon on the side for those who like lots of dressing.

If you like you can add some crumbled feta cheese and a few black olives.

Is there anyone else out there who would like to contribute recipes? Please email them to: carolmbruce@yahoo.co.uk

It wouldn't be a bulletin without a joke would it?

Here is one from Mike Thrower, a Guisborough bell ringer who sometimes helps the Ormesby bell ringers out at weddings

Fred had been on a road safety course and was very impressed by the advice to “wear something bright at night” He told the instructor that he was off to buy himself a white over-suit with a hood, a white shirt, white shoes and a white hat.

Some months later, on an extremely cold day, the instructor encountered Fred negotiating the icy pavements on crutches. “Whatever happened to you?” she said. Fred answered, “I was run over by a snowplough!”

Now for some real old chestnuts, (but you might not have heard them.) Ideal for Christmas crackers?

Religious Riddles

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

A. Absolutely ruthless.

Q. Who was the first tennis player in the Bible?

A. Joseph because he served in Pharaoh’s court

Q. What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

A. It’s Christmas, Eve!

Q. Why did Noah have to punish and discipline the chickens on the Ark?

A. They were using fowl language.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson — he brought the house down.

Contributions wanted!

If you would like to contribute material, write us a letter, or comment on any of the subjects raised in the bulletin, please email it to me at: carolmbruce@yahoo.co.uk
If you read the printed version you can post your contributions to Janet C. or anyone on the PCC and they can forward them to me.

If you know someone who might like to read the bulletin, but hasn’t got a computer, would you be able to print one out for them and put it through their letterbox? Or email me at the above address and I will arrange to have one delivered.

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