

'To Know Christ and to make him Known'



Sunday 30th May 2021
Trinity Sunday



Minister for Toothill Revd Rachael Wilson Tel: 01793764330 rev.rachael.wilson@gmail.com
To receive the newsletter each Thursday by email contact David at: david11hoar@gmail.com
Toothill Church website: www.toothillchurch.org.uk
For contacting, various groups see the front page of Toothill Church Website.
Welcome to everyone worshipping with us today; for those who have difficulty hearing there is a loop system in operation.
In Partnership (The Partnership Monthly magazine): <http://wswinlyd.org.uk/news>

This Sunday

Mrs Rachel Dowling

We are pleased to announce this will be the first service inside Toothill Church since March last year. Please observe covid regulations.

Next Sunday

Rev Capt. Clive Deverell Via Zoom

Prayer for churches from Rev Capt Clive Deverell

Dear All,

At the end of Sundays Pentecost worship, each Church was asked to think about what specifically it would like the other Partnership Churches to pray for.

Westlea is the first to respond.

With thanks

Clive

Prayers for today

Do please let us know if there is someone you would like to add to the list for prayer, remembering that we must have the permission of the person for whom we would be praying. Please pray for Di's step daughter Tina, Bill and Rhoda, Ann Beaumont, Graham's cousin Hayley, Norris and Ruth, Sarah, Hazel, and all those you know who are in need of God's special love, care and healing.



We pray for our ministers Clive, Rachael, Trevor and Teresa and all our children's and worship leaders and their families across the Partnership.

May God bless us all with wisdom and strength to face each day's challenges.

Please pray for your home congregation that they may be sustained as we prepare to meet together again, and for the continuing work with our children, young people and families in West Swindon.

We pray for Grace, Peace and a way forward in your Love in these uncertain times in our lives. May we continually thank God for his great Love and Faithfulness.

Restarting Church Activities

Music Group

Will be meeting on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month starting on the 23rd June.
Times: 10.50.-12.15. Anyone who would like to join the music group please contact Nicola.

West Swindon Youth Club

Will be meeting every week on Monday during school term time starting Monday 21st June. Times: 5.00pm – 7.00pm for further information see our Facebook page, web site or contact Westswindonyc@gmail.com or telephone 07869171527

Toothill Tinies 0-5 years.

Will be meeting every Thursday Morning in school term time starting Thursday 24th June Time 10.00 - 11.30 for further information contact Becky Telephone 078 618 308 57

New Generation Dance

Will be every Monday and Tuesday starting 21st and 22nd June.

Times Mondays 6.30pm – 7-30pm. For ages 11 years upwards

Tuesdays 4.30pm – 5.30pm. for ages 4 -10 years

For further information contact: newgenerationbond@gmail.com

Friday Club

Will be meeting every Friday starting 25th June Times: 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Polish Church

DG for J (Day-group for Jesus) Summer Programme to July 21st

Meeting at – 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Monday, 7th June 21 – Exile and the Prophets - Leader Pete

Monday, 21st June 21 – Jesus & The Gospels – Leader Edward

Monday, 5th July 21 – Acts & The Church – Leader Angela

Monday, 19th July 21 – Revelation and Review – Leader Edward

For further details contact:

Edward Glennie – edglennie@hotmail.com - 07598482538

Peter Rogers – peter.rogers5599@ntlworld.com – 07500355201

*** We will be continuing with our Zoom calls until further notice. Zoom Meeting details are:

Click on link below to join meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92404636497?pwd=bFJLbFM5TFdsalppekdRV2o1QzJEZz09>

Meeting ID: 924 0463 6497

Passcode: 181042

Dial-in Number: 0330 088 5830

motto:

The Armour of God - Ephesians 6: 10 to 11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God

Note:

The dates for meetings can also be found on Holy Trinity Shaw's website:

Website: <http://htschurch.org.uk/>

Youth and Children's worker

As a church we have been asked if we would consider taking on an apprentice in youth and children's work under the PAIS scheme. We have discussed this as a committee, and we think that this is worth exploring. One of the things that we need to provide is accommodation with a host family/person for up to 12 months. I am asking if you could prayerfully consider whether this is something you might be able to offer if you have a spare room. As a Committee we are also praying about accommodation and about the scheme in general, trying to seek God's guidance on the way forward. Please join us in praying for this, and please let me know if you feel that you could be a host.

Blessings,

Rachael

Sunday Worship - June

Sunday 13th 10.30 Mrs Rachael Dowling (Service in church)

Sunday 20th 10.30 Prayer walk round Toothill

Sunday 27th 10.30 Mr David Hoar (Service in church)

July - All services will be in the church every two weeks until September when they will be weekly

Sunday 4th No service

Sunday 11th Rev Rachael Wilson

Sunday 18th No service

Sunday 25th Mr Mark Dowling

John 3:1-17 Living Bible

1-2 After dark one night a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, a member of the sect of the Pharisees, came for an interview with Jesus. "Sir," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miracles are proof enough of this."

3 Jesus replied, "With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God."

4 "Born again!" exclaimed Nicodemus. "What do you mean? How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

5 Jesus replied, "What I am telling you so earnestly is this: Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

6 Men can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven;

7 so don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again!

8 Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it will go next, so it is with the Spirit. We do not know on whom he will next bestow this life from heaven."

9 "What do you mean?" Nicodemus asked.

10-11 Jesus replied, "You, a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? I am telling you what I know and have seen—and yet you won't believe me.

12 But if you don't even believe me when I tell you about such things as these that happen here among men, how can you possibly believe if I tell you what is going on in heaven?

13 For only I, the Messiah, have come to earth and will return to heaven again.

14 And as Moses in the wilderness lifted up the bronze image of a serpent on a pole, even so I must be lifted up upon a pole,

15 so that anyone who believes in me will have eternal life.

16 For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

17 God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

Prayer

Lord Holy Father, you speak over the water and the earth bursts forth into life.
We cry "Glory!" Glory to the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.

Lord Holy Spirit, you speak in our inner beings and we overflow in abundant life.
We cry "Abba!" Abba, Father! We are God's children.

Lord Holy Christ, You speak to those in darkness and call us to spread your light of eternal life.
We cry "Here am I!" Here am I! Send me!

Lord Holy Christ, Lord Holy Spirit, Lord Holy Father,
Ever living one in three, may our praises gather before you and re-echo the song of heaven;
We cry "Holy!" Holy, holy holy are you, Lord God Almighty, the whole earth is full of your glory.

Rev. Rachael's Reflections - #45 Lights! Cameras! Action! <https://youtu.be/-3Z2loMOWzc>

Over the weekend I had the opportunity to do something that I had been waiting to do for a very long time - I went back to the cinema for the first time since last October! Going to the cinema has always been something we've tried to do regularly as a family. The first time I took my son Dom to the cinema he was about 3 years old and we went to watch Toy Story 2. It got to the end and he refused to budge, demanding instead that we rewind it so he could watch it again! He didn't watch stuff on television at that age, but he was used to watching videos (mainly Disney ones!), and even then he had his favourite moments that he knew he could rewind and watch as many times as he wanted. He would often later re-enact those scenes with his toys, and my mum was frequently enlisted to make costumes (for him and for his toys) so that it was a much more immersive experience! For the last few year's we have had cinema season tickets so we've been able to go as much as we want without having to pay each time. We've even got a cinema bag that we take with us containing flasks and snacks and blankets (it's always quite cold in there!) so we're pretty much ready to go at a moment's notice. During the lockdown periods when the cinemas have been closed there have been many occasions when Trin has said, "I miss the cinema", so at the first opportunity we could manage off we went! And it was great to be back! We had a lovely time, and we really appreciated the chance to do something together and then all the conversation we could have about the film in the car on the way back home.

Over the last few years my prayer life has changed considerably. I think that's a good thing - if I was praying in the same way today that I was twenty years ago I think there would be a problem! I'd certainly be stuck in a rut, and it would seem that I hadn't grown much spiritually at all. So I'm very glad of the changes, and in some ways they have surprised me. I've always been a person who has loved words. Language amazes me. I love making connections between words and seeing how other languages like French, Italian and Spanish have so much in common. I think there's almost nothing better than a beautifully crafted paragraph in a novel or in the way a poet expresses a metaphor. And there are some sentences that seem to almost feel really good in my mouth when I say them out loud. The way that I grapple with the parts of faith that bother me, or with things generally that seem difficult, is to write about them. So there was a time when a lot of my praying was focused around words, and I can still find myself rabbiting away to God frequently during the day. But more and more I have come to appreciate the blessings of sitting with God in silence, just focusing on being there with God, trying not to be overly obsessed with myself and what I really want to say. I find there's a deeper awareness of the presence of God when I shut up, which is sometimes even tangible. Sometimes it takes me a while to get to the stillness, to let go of myself and all the things that are on my mind, and so often I start with something else. I might play the piano or sit with some crochet and I find that the occupation of my hands helps to release my spirit to fly into the awareness of the presence of God. There are other people I know who use jigsaw puzzles, doodling, woodwork and colouring to do the same thing. And others who occupy their feet rather than their hands, by walking into quiet communion with God.

I've tried to think of ways to describe this, usually at risk of sounding either hyper-spiritual (in a bad way!) or airy-fairy. But recently somebody told me the process of entering into prayer could be described as like going to the cinema. When you arrive at the cinema you're very much focused on yourself - picking up tickets, going to the toilet, raiding the pick and mix and choosing a drink, and then finding the right screen, showing your tickets and entering into the dark to try and find your seats. Once you're sitting down you start to prepare a bit more for the film you're there to see. You start to relax in, you're feeling a bit more excited about what's going to happen next. You're still aware of yourself, partly because the lights are usually still on to a degree until all the adverts and trailers have finished. Then finally the film begins and you gradually lose yourself. If it's a good film you're able to forget about yourself and engage with the film fully. If it's a really good film you're able to almost become part of it, completely absorbed in what's happening, as if you are part of the story. Some days I don't get much beyond picking up my popcorn and settling into my seat.

But there are other times when an awareness of the presence of God absorbs me. I feel the connection of the Spirit holding me to God, drawing me closer - I can almost see it like a ribbon. And sometimes, rarely, like on one occasion last year when I was picking strawberries, that becomes so intense that I get a deep sensation of the goodness of God being an elemental part of me and all creation, holding all things together. Famous mystics like Julian of Norwich have tried to put this into words.

Those times of stillness with God, when all my mind and will are directed towards God, are a real blessing to me. And it does usually take a conscious withdrawing, an intentional setting aside of time for me to find it. What I'm trying to do now is to learn how to tune into that connectivity, that inner stillness and presence, even when I'm in the middle of something else. Can I turn my heart and mind to God when I'm running to a schedule? Can I find that peace and presence while I'm rushing to cook dinner before a meeting? Can I tap into that oneness with God right in the middle of a meeting? How can I cultivate this more and more in the times of the day that don't feel particularly quiet or still or peaceful or special?

Being immersed in the film is great! And I'm taking heart from the memories of Dom when he was so tiny. The film finishes, and his attention is no longer on the screen. Instead he chooses to enact it in what happens next - he lives it out in his play. There is something very appealing about retreating, whether that's physically going away somewhere for a few days or simply finding that space apart at points during a normal day. But I know that my closeness with God is not to be reserved for those special moments. It's to be lived out in what happens next. It's to shape and frame the story of my life. It's to be evident in the way I live and the things I do and the choices I make and the love I show to others. If it doesn't carry on beyond the moment then what's it really all about? It's perhaps like watching something with the sound off - you can kind of see what's happening but you're not really engaged and it doesn't have the same impact on you.

I'm looking forward to many, many more trips to the cinema in the weeks ahead. There are a lot of films to catch up on - things I've heard advertised or discussed and want to know more about. The more I'm excited about thinking about going to the cinema, the more I realise that I want my faith to be more like a film. I want to act boldly and passionately and gracefully, immersing myself in it so that it becomes more and more a part of who I am. I want my life to be like a film. The script may not seem very clear at times, there are plenty of times when I wonder what's going on and who else is going to be involved in the scene, and can I cope with the stunts, and how can we possibly produce a happy ending out of this? But I know can trust the writer and director, come what may. Most of all, I want to play my part well, doing justice to the one into whose hands I have committed everything, in whose story my own story finds life.

Jess says- Peace begins with smile - I like cats so here are some pussy cat jokes



What do cats like to eat on a hot day? A mice-cream cone!
How do two cats end a fight? They hiss and make up!
What should you use to comb a cat? A catacomb!
What is a cat's favourite movie? The Sound of Mewsic!
What's a cat's favourite magazine? Good Mousekeeping!
What do cats love to do in the morning? Read the newspaper!



[Toothill Church website](#)