

Time to Reflect

Sometimes I find the whole business of faith completely overwhelming. I look at the news, look into my heart, hear the incessant narrative that the church is in terminal decline and I wonder; "what is the point?". I suspect that many people feel the same.

And then, I open the scriptures and discover that I am not the first to have reached this sense of darkness. In fact, when I do open the scriptures (and I try to make that a daily habit) what I discover is that much of it is written out of a place of gloom, a place where faith is marginalised, where culture has sidelined God in favour of money, where the questions of life's basic, food, health, housing trump any question of religious observance. And yet... from these places spring out songs of hope, of trust, of praise. It is counter-intuitive. It makes no sense. And yet these passages are there to disturb, encourage and renew us. For they say that, wherever we are now, that is not the end of the journey. Keep the faith. Hold onto God. Walk the path of the disciple.

Today, in our first reading, we hear one of these purple passages. It is the sort of passage we ought to have in our hearts and on our lips. The writer of Hebrews, having catalogued disaster after disaster (in human terms), offers these words; **Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith** That. Let's do that. We are not alone. Let us run the race. Let us look to Jesus. Because there is Jesus, there is hope.

Worship and Activities this week

Sun	8.45am	Adult Sunday School @ Robert Peel
	12.30pm	Baptism of Daniel Rostron
	5.00pm	Office Hour
	6.30pm	Evensong
Mon	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	1.00pm	"In-house" @ House on t'Rock
Tues	7.00pm	Nadia Bolz-Weber @ Manchester Cathedral (tickets from Cath)
Wed	11.00am	Holy Communion
	12.30pm	Funeral of Tony McKee
	7.00pm	Study Group @ Ashton Room
Thurs	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Tiddlers @ Church House
	12.45pm	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Book Club in Rectory
Fri	8.00am	Dustbusters
	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concerts resume on 6th September
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Next Week : 10th Sunday after Trinity 25 August 2019

8.00am	Said Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Eucharist and Sunday School followed by coffee in the Blackburne Hall
12.30pm	Baptism of Christopher-Daniel Robertson
5.00pm	Office Hour
6.30pm	Evensong

Baptisms & Weddings.

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. Our monthly Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet: please email: bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk by Wednesday.

9th Sunday after Trinity

18th August 2019

www.buryparishchurch.com



We welcome you and hope you enjoy being with us. If you're not familiar with our services, don't worry. We follow a written order of service and at times will tell you which page we're on.

We also welcome children in church. If your child gets restive in church, don't be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church.

There is a **Hearing Loop** for those who would value it.



8.00am Said Holy Communion 9th Sunday after Trinity (Pg. 170)

President: Julian Heaton, Rector
Preaching: Julian Heaton, Rector

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School

President: Sheila Beattie. Curate
Preaching: Ian McVeety, Hon Assist't
Hymns : 172; 217; 368; 216; 81
Anthem : S S Wesley : Lead me, Lord
Thomas Attwood : Turn thy face from
my sins

6.30pm Evensong

Minister: Rhiannon Jones, Assoc R'tr
Preaching: Julian Heaton, Rector
Hymns: 627; 611; 581
Psalm 119. 17-32 (Pg.499)
Isaiah 28. 9-22 (Pg.562)
2 Corinthians 8. 1-9 (pg. 971)
Anthem : William Harris : Holy is the
true light

Cornerstone

Serving Bury, deepening our faith, caring for the marginalised, sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Today's Readings

The Collect

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

(Hebrews 11. 29-12.2)

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets--who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented--of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from

us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke *(Luke 12.49-56)*

Glory to You, O Lord

Jesus said to the disciples "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and



daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Heritage Open Day—14 September

Every year, in mid September, churches, museums, galleries and all sorts of other places throw open their doors and invite people in.

We will open at 9.30am as usual.

Highlights will include

- ☺ display of our Silverware, our Registers, our vestments
- ☺ Trips up the tower and to the Clerestory
- ☺ 11.00am Matins (as it might have been in 1876)
- ☺ History talk
- ☺ Victoria Refreshments all day.

To do all this, we need;

- ◇ manikins for our vestments.
- ◇ Can you give an hour?
- ◇ folks to manage stairways to tower & Clerestory

Collects from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England; Common Worship: Pastoral Services; The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects 2000*
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