

Epiphany News

The magazine of Holy Epiphany Church

August/September 2022



*Join us for our services at
10.00 am on Sundays
Sunday October 2nd
Harvest Festival*

*And for coffee from 10.30 am –
12.00 noon on Wednesdays
(except on 24th and 31st August)*

*Wednesday September 28th
Macmillan Cancer Support
Coffee Morning*

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There is a loop system available in church.
Please adjust hearing aids to the relevant setting

From the Editor

This magazine is available in printed form and online.

Contributions are welcome by 10 September please, for the October/November edition, to be published on 25 September. Please consider donating towards the cost of publication.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in Epiphany News are those of contributors, not the editor or the ministry team.

We reserve the right to edit or shorten articles or hold them for a later edition. Mary Hogg, Editor

A letter from Rev Jim Findlay

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is upon us once more! School's out for summer. Many long-awaited planned breaks are about to kick in seeing us flee the drudgery of our



routine. In exchange we face long luxurious hours aside pools and beaches amidst the plaintive cry of the gulls, the clanking of rigging on masts and the soft lapping of waves against the golden sands of the shore. Whether it's Bournemouth, Corsica or Bognor – the holidays offer us a time of relaxation and restoration.

Did you know, though, that our modern “holiday” comes from the Old English “haligdaeg,” which simply combined “halig” (“holy”) and “daeg” (“day”) into one word? Holidays were usually holy days. The pattern of holidays today still follows, largely, the holy day pattern. We have our holidays around Christmas, Easter and Whitsun (Pentecost) – especially if we're tied to school holidays.

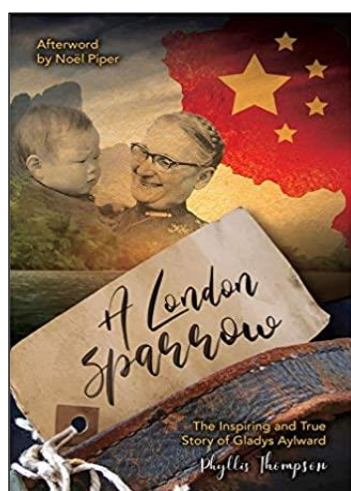
The very idea of a break from routine for the purposes of rest, recovery and recreation has been in existence since the creation of the world.

The institution of the Sabbath, modelled by God Himself in creation, added as an obligation for our own good in the law of the Torah (one of the big 10 no less) speaks of the importance of holy days. *“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”* (Exodus 20: 8). Resting in the Lord, away from routine and work, has always been considered crucial.

Holding onto that history of that word and that practice also reminds us that holidays, whilst escaping routine, are not about escaping from God. We're often very good at claiming the rest and recreation but frequently we're less good at ensuring we do those things in the context of The Lord – keeping the holiday ‘holy’. Their very purpose was to encourage and facilitate our resting in Him, seeking Him, enjoying Him. This holy day season that is upon us should afford us the opportunity to do that too. As the sun shines and new destinations loom large remember to hold onto the ‘holy’ in your holidays. There will be churches where you go, bless the Christians there with your presence. Church also continues through the summer in our own church with our 10 am services. We may well encounter visitors to our church across this time. Let them meet Jesus here, through His people, their worship and their welcome to those who visit.

The holidays can still be holy days. I encourage you to embrace the Lord and find refreshment and rest in Him. Happy ‘holy days’!

In Christ, Jim



During our holiday at the Keswick Convention in July we enjoy the talks, the singing, the walks and the glorious Lake District views. It's also a chance to buy some books and here is one of them!

Part of the story of Gladys Aylward, a London parlour maid who committed her life to serve Christ in China, was told in the 1958 film, ‘The Inn of the Sixth Happiness’. But the way God led her to do what He asked throughout her life shines through this biography by Phyllis Thompson, written just after Gladys' death in 1970. **‘A London Sparrow’** tells the story of this little but determined woman who never stopped serving her Lord. *See Mary Hogg if you would like to borrow it.*

Poems and comment on the Apostles' Creed - by Tony Ingleby



Born of the Virgin Mary

What a way for God to come to His people – by birth into a poor, homeless family on the margins of the world! His only protections were the love and obedience of Mary and Joseph. His only comforts were what they could provide from the gleanings of life on the edge.

We can't conceive the extremity. We know not the glories of heaven and, though we weep for those who live with the privations of being refugees, we only see their sufferings through screens which filter out the pain of grief and hunger and the smell of disease and hopelessness before they deliver the dramatic but sanitised sounds and images to our comfortable homes.

But Jesus came from the incomprehensible highest to scrape life from the bottom of the most unpromising barrel so that He could make a gift to us of life in abundance, eternal life, heaven or, (as He had called it for eternity) home!

Out of eternity into the mire of humanity's sin.

A Palestine stable holds Godness within

Infant divine enters time, space and danger:

Holiest stranger, that babe in the manger

Risk-taker, sin-breaker, breakable, cold,

for Mary to have and to hug and to hold

from Herod's mad pride and passion.

In flesh and fragility God has been fashioned

He shows as futility worldly pretences

Which seek all fulfilment in earth-

bounded senses.

That lie to the soul, saying, 'This is the

solid stuff',

Cry to be whole, 'Trust in matter – it's

tough enough!'

Solid and tough cannot answer that cry.

Matter will finally whimper and die,

disappear and be lost like the cry of a baby.

But God in the Palestine stable cries, 'Maybe

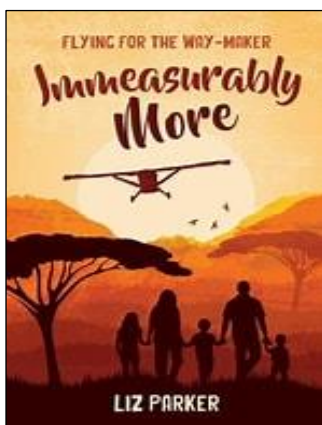
there is just a chance that my crying will live,

a sliver of hope that my crying will give

everyman, everywoman both means and

desire

to move into eternity out of the mire.



My second holiday book is an autobiography telling another story of Christians serving a promise-keeping God. Liz Parker's husband Andrew was based in Africa as a pilot with the Christian charity Mission Aviation Fellowship. MAF planes are used to take medical teams, building materials and local evangelists into remote villages.

In *'Immeasurably More'* Liz tells an unvarnished story of their sometimes-dangerous life with their 3 children in Tanzania, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda from 2009 to 2016. *You are welcome to borrow it.*



Prayer - by Joanne Davis

***"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you"** (James 4 verse 8)*

What is Prayer? Prayer means many things to many people but at its simplest and most immediate it means asking God for help. It is the place where humans and God meet – we have unlimited access to an unlimited God through prayer with God alone, with others and for others. Prayer is motivated by different things at different times and places and with our own individual personalities. There are many ways and no right or wrong way to pray. My prayer time is often chatting and listening out for God as I go on a walk, sitting in the garden, in the hills or by the sea. I also find listening to music either in church or alone helpful to being close to God.

Jesus and Prayer

Jesus spent a lot of time alone praying in various places.

Mark 1 v 35 ***"Very early in the morning while it was still dark Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."***

Luke 5 v 16 ***"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."*** Jesus also taught the disciples how to pray when they asked him. ***"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him "Lord teach us to pray..."*** Luke 11 v 1-4



"What A Friend we Have in Jesus." I don't think you can sum up prayer better than the words of this Hymn written by Joseph Scriven. He hadn't had an easy life, losing two fiancées before he was able to marry them, sinking into a deep depression during which time his only solace was prayer. He shared all his worries and disappointments with the Lord until he began to think of Christ as his best and most treasured friend. But it was not his own troubles that led him to write this hymn but it was for his mother when she was going through a distressing time. The simplicity of Joseph's words drawn from his own experience of lost earthly love alongside the deep knowledge of the loving presence of God has touched the hearts of so many who struggle with their own loss and hurts. So, whatever you are going through – trials, temptations, discouragement, feeling weak and worried, I leave you with the words of this lovely hymn.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

What's happening now in Holy Epiphany?

10.00am
Sunday



services
here



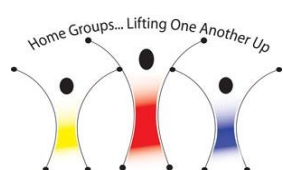
Worship and Praise Services and Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays

Holy Communion Services on 2nd and 4th, Sundays in August and September will be led by Rev Jim Findlay and Rev Robin Harger.

Worship and Praise will be led on 18 Sept by Rev Ben Coulter from St Paul's.

Sunday 2nd October
Harvest Festival

Bring tins and packets of food for donation to the Salvation Army



Home Group – a friendly group who meet fortnightly to share fellowship, study God's word and pray. We meet on alternate Thursdays in the Jubilee Room, from 10.30 - 11.30am, restarting in September. All are welcome so please contact Alan or Mary Hogg on 01202 511759 if you would like to join.

PRAYER
changes things

**Prayer service for the future of our parishes –
with St Paul's Throop at 7.30pm**

September at HE with refreshments – details to be confirmed

Prayer on Wednesday Mornings at 12.00 noon

August 10th and September 14th and 28th

in the Jubilee Room after coffee. *All welcome to pray – silently or aloud*



Epiphany Bright Stars – our parent/carer and toddler group meets on **Tuesday afternoons in term-time** from **1.30 – 3.00pm** in the church.

Restarting after summer holidays on 13th September

A booking system is in place, please email Epiphanybrightstars@gmail.com if you wish to attend.

Snacks and hot drinks are available but please bring a drink for your child.

Cost is £1 per family. Contact Jodie Burge on 01202 776270.



Messy Church – family fun for parents and children followed by a shared meal. Games, craft activities, biscuit or cake decorating, Bible stories and buffet tea. Usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month - 3.00 – 5.00pm in the church.

Meetings are still on hold: contact Mary Hogg on 01202 511759

Messy Church at home - Google

[Eating together - fun family prayer time | Messy Church](#)



Muscliff Care Home Services are currently on hold



Epiphany Pre-School meets Monday - Friday in the church hall during **term-time** from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Please check dates with the pre-school staff.
Phone 01202 612337 for more information

All are welcome

Wednesday Coffee Mornings

Weekly from 10.30am – 12.00 noon. Coffee, chat and games. Come along at 10.30 and enjoy a time of fellowship - play some games, do a jigsaw or other activities, or just chat and off-load.

You are welcome to stay for prayer time at 12 noon on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

No coffee mornings on 24th and 31st August

28th September Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning

Everyone, and all ages are welcome.

Contact Joanne Davis for more information on 07906 355271



Choir practices

7-8pm

2nd & 4th

Fridays

No practices in August

9th and 23rd September



Hymns and Cake

Join in with some favourite hymns, learn a little about them and afterwards enjoy tea and cake. **Hymns and Cake are on hold at the moment.**
Speak to Joanne Davis for more details on 07906 355271.



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Cubs Jan Kingsland
psutton1971@gmail.com

Scouts Simon Blake
simon_blake@msn.com



Brownies Vicky Williams
brownies-40thbournemouth@outlook.com

Guides and Rainbows
Sandra Coomber
07712 129445

St Paul's Throop have community events during the week to which all are welcome



St Paul's Community Café is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (8:45am – Noon) and on Wednesday afternoons (1:30 – 4 pm) for anyone who would like tea, coffee, cake, or a chat



Grapevine is a daytime adult group which meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month, restarting in September, with talks and visits from speakers covering a wide range of interests.



The Church of England's 'Daily Hope' phone line

If you have no access to the Internet, you can listen free, each day, to a hymn with an encouraging talk and a prayer, lasting about 20 minutes.

Telephone number 0800 804 8044

Dear Father God – by Marion Richards

**Dear Father God
In Christ you are
Always with us
Dear Holy Father God
In your Holy empowering Spirit
You are always with us
You are Emmanuel, God with us.**

**Wherever we are,
Wherever we go,
Whatever we do,
Whatever we say,
There is nowhere we can go
No place we can hide.
In Christ the Holy Spirit
You are always with us.**

**Walking by our side
Reaching out, touching us
With your Almighty hand upon us.
Healing us, protecting us
Testing us, forgiving us
Teaching us to stand
Against all the evil
Of invading worldly sin.**

**Leading us against temptation
Rescuing us from dangers that often lurk
within.
Cleansing us with hyssop,
Forgiving us
Washing sin's stain away
That we might be restored to you
And in your presence reign.**

**With hearts and lips
We come to you
To sing praises as we pray
Lifting hearts and voices
In your Holy Spirit's way.
Emmanuel, God with us
You are in our lives to stay.**

***"For you created my inmost being; you knitted me together in my mother's womb
Search me O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"***

(Psalm 139, verse 13 and verses 23- 24)

Parish Registers from June and July

Baptisms: We welcome into the church family:

**9th June
26th June
3rd July**

**Ella Jacqueline White
Nelly Amanda and Mabel Georgia Springett
Olivia Rose Jane Malcolm**



Holy Rood and Holy Epiphany – with photos by Linda Knight



“During the Whitsun half term holidays, Paul and I took three of our grandchildren on an outing to walk the walls of Southampton. It was something I was always intending to do and one day Eliza, who is 6, said she would like to do that. Both my son, daughter and their families live in Southampton. Off we went, and can you imagine the surprise I had to see Holy Rood Church in the High Street! I knew of our church’s connection but had no idea where Holy Rood was. It has a very interesting history.”

The church may date back to Anglo-Saxon times because the word ‘rood’ is Old English for cross, referring to the cross on which Jesus died. The building we see today was erected in 1320. It has seen much history, including brutal deeds during a raid on the city by French and Genoese forces in 1338; soldiers setting off from Southampton to fight battles at Crecy and Agincourt and the arrival of Philip of Spain in 1554, as he came to marry the English Queen Mary.

More recently, Southampton was a target for German aerial bombing during the Blitz of 1940 and Holy Rood did not survive. Michael Gledhill, an eyewitness described the scene that night, ‘I remember the scene was as bright as day with the light from burning buildings. Holy Rood Church was ablaze from end to end, the spire was gone, the roof was gone, and also all the windows. It was just a big inferno. The tower which once supported the spire was now like a Roman candle with masses of sparks coming from the top. The flames shot at least 30 feet (9 metres) into the air.’



There’s a garden of remembrance within the church walls with many memorials including one to the crew of the Titanic, many of whom were local people, and to thousands of people in the Merchant Navy who gave their lives in World War 2. Instead of rebuilding Holy Rood, in an area which was by then industrial rather than residential, Winchester Diocese decided to build a new church for Holy Epiphany, in a developing area of Bournemouth.

We have a piece of stonework from Holy Rood church on the wall at the back of our church here! You’ll find it near the red fire extinguisher by the doorway to the south porch.



Praying with hope – Paul’s letter to the Romans 15:13



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the holy spirit.”

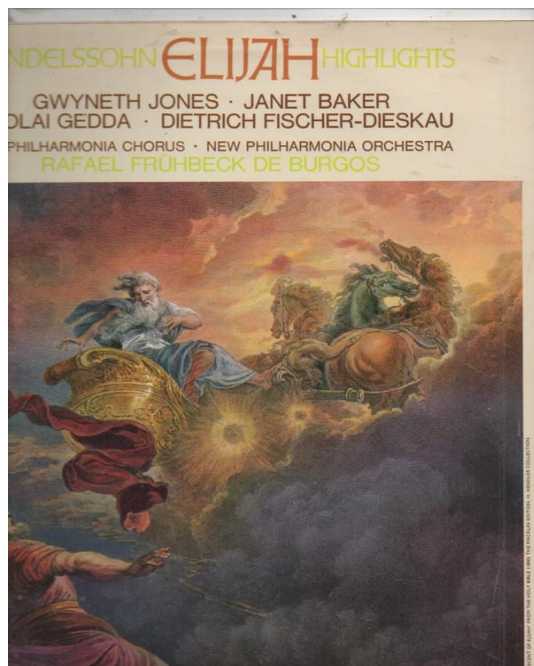
One Sunday recently we sang Stuart Townend’s hymn, ‘There is a hope that burns within my heart, that gives me strength for every passing day; a glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part yet drives all doubt away. I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven; and Christ in me, the hope of heaven! My highest calling and my deepest joy, to make His will my home.’

This hope is not just feeling optimistic. It’s rooted in knowing that our eternal future is with God, through trusting Him that Jesus’s death has paid for our sins. It’s an assurance that the holy spirit gives us and as Paul prays it for the Christians in Rome, we can pray to be filled with this hope too and to know the joy and peace that go with it.

We meet to pray fortnightly at 12 noon on Wednesdays - see Joanne Davis or Alan and Mary Hogg, if you have a prayer request - or put it in the prayer box as you come into church.

A Musical Evening with Light Refreshments

Through the centuries writers, artists, dramatists, and composers have been influenced or inspired by many of the Biblical characters. I would like to introduce you to the work of one such composer; the Oratorio **'ELIJAH'** by **Felix MENDELSSOHN**. I have still got my boxed set of L. P.s with the recording made by EMI featuring such renowned singers as Gwyneth Jones, Janet Baker, Nicolai Gedda and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, together with the New Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra and their conductor Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos.



This oratorio captures the drama of Elijah's life right from the opening phrase, when he proclaims to Ahab, King of Israel, ***"As God the Lord of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."*** (1 Kings 17:1.) It continues with Elijah's time by the brook Cherith, his stay with the widow at Zarephath, his challenge to Ahab and the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel, the return of rain in the land and his encounter with God on Mount Horeb. It finishes when Elijah is taken up by a whirlwind into heaven.

You are invited to join Pauline Wheeler and Val West at 109 Runnymede Avenue, Bearwood, on three Thursday evenings in the Autumn (exact dates to be fixed later) to learn more about Mendelssohn and enjoy this marvellous powerful music. Looking forward to seeing you.



Epiphany School Visit – by Jan Biggin



On Monday 4th July our church welcomed children from Year 1 at the Epiphany School to come and visit Epiphany Church and ask all sorts of very interesting questions.

We were very pleased to have Jim Findlay join us, and he answered the many questions with fun but factual answers. Thankfully Alan Hogg was also with us to answer when they asked things like, "When was the church built?" and, "How tall is it?"

The children were very interested in the font and asked why water was put on babies' heads and where the water came from! One little boy stood very proudly when Jim dressed him in his own official robes. Another child asked if the church had bells and why? Jim answered that it was to welcome anyone into God's house and Alan rang the bells for them. It was a lovely morning and hopefully we can do it again soon.

Later in July we had Year 6 coming to church for their Leavers' Service. This is a very special day that my own children remember clearly from when they were at Epiphany School many years ago!

We were glad to welcome the children and their families to this very special service.

The Gathering for Men - Authenticity and Accountability

- by Mark Vincent



This year in June I went to the Men's Gathering near Swindon, expectant, eager to learn, but as usual

wanting to cram in all I could. God had His plans and I had mine. My plan: start Saturday morning with The Gathering's 5k run at 7.15am. God's plan: start with Bible study at 8.15am.

After a bad night's sleep, I woke not feeling great and avoided the 5k, but managed to get to the Bible study on time. Matt Summerfield was teaching but as I walked in, I felt there in body, but not in spirit. God had other plans, as He usually does, and spoke to me through His word. From that moment on, the presence of God carried me through. Through God's word, reflection, worship, laughs and tears I had a real sense of being held and a need to dig in closer to Jesus. Some call Christian events 'mountain top experiences' and say that when we go back down to the valleys, the worldly stuff quickly smothers us. This can be true if we don't connect, support, and build each other up in God's word.

"Our Identity" was the theme of the weekend. St John describes Jesus saying to him, in Revelation 2 v 17, **'And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.'** As a person of faith, I have a new identity in Christ – I am a child of God. I am known to God by name and made in his image. I am his masterpiece* and like all those mentioned in the Bible, I am written in His book of life. Isaiah 43 v 1 says, **'But now, this is what the LORD says – he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.'**

How do we journey with each other to maintain the amazing truth that God has chosen us as His children? I know I need discipline, correction, encouragement, humility, and love to keep me on the narrow path. Though it is a 'narrow path', it is the way to freedom from guilt, sin, shame, fear and loneliness – all the worldly things that unhealthily shape us. Looking back on my life, often the path was wide, and I stumbled through it alone, using my own strength. Thankfully, I can see where God was working through his spirit and through others he placed on my path.

Uncomfortable as it may sometimes seem, I find freedom in authenticity – in taking off the mask. In walking in faith as a child of God, to be authentic, I need accountability. I cannot do this journey of life in my own weakness. In 2 Corinthians 12 v 9 the Lord says to St Paul, **'My gracious favour is all you need. My power works best in your weakness.'** Paul is glad to boast about his weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through him.

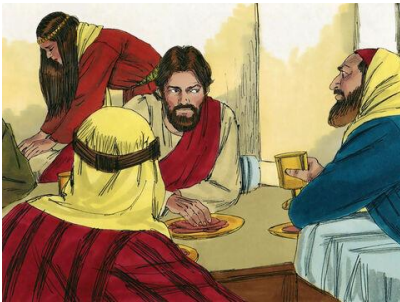
Accountability is the state of being responsible for something or obligated to answer to someone. In Galatians 6 v 1 – 2 Paul says, **'Dear brothers and sisters, if another man is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.'**

I came away from the weekend not wallowing in my weakness but realising that as men (and women) we need to be accountable to each other to help us in our weakness and shine Christ's light anew into each other's lives.

**For an inspiring take on God's Masterpiece watch the 11 minute video on You Tube – Skit Guys – God's Chisel Remastered.*

Family Page: Jesus is being watched

We all like being invited to a friend's house for a meal. Jesus was quite often invited to meals – but the people who invited Him were not always His friends! In the summer and autumn, we will have several Bible readings from Luke's gospel and in Luke 14 verses 1-14 we see Jesus having a meal in the house of an important religious leader... and Jesus is being carefully watched by unfriendly eyes.



The religious leaders are watching to see if He would break the law. What kind of law could Jesus possibly break?

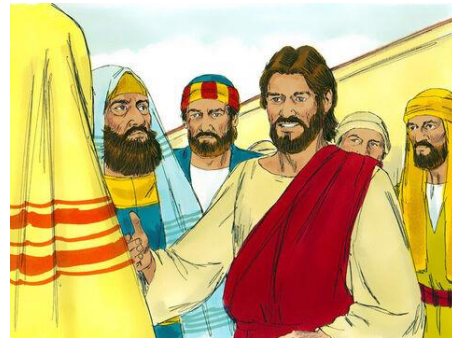
The strict one that the religious leaders, the Pharisees, thought meant Jesus should not do any miracles on the Sabbath day – that's our Saturday, which was a holy day... He's already done several though, earlier in Luke's gospel... And here's a man with dropsy – painful swellings in his joints. Jesus asks the Pharisees if it is lawful to heal him on the Sabbath but they don't answer Him. So, Jesus heals him anyway and then he asks if the Pharisees would rescue a son, or an ox that had fallen down a well on the Sabbath? Again, they don't answer Him.

Jesus doesn't lose His temper with them, but He has been watching them too. He has seen how keen the guests were to get the best seats at the meal. So he tells them a story which helps to explain the Kingdom of heaven and what God thinks of them.



If you are invited to a wedding feast, He said, don't head straight away for those best seats...

Someone the host thinks is more important than you may come in and you'll be asked to move. Be humble and take the worst seat – you may be honoured by being invited to take a better one. Of course, this story isn't just good advice about not being pushy among your friends. The religious leaders think they are important and will have the 'best seats' in heaven, by right. But in God's eyes they are heading for a shock. They need to learn to be humble – be more like Jesus in fact. But they will not admit that Jesus is the promised saviour, God's own son in human form – they just see him as a lawbreaker and a threat.



Jesus again turns their ideas upside down. He tells the host that when he gives a feast next time, he

should invite not all his friends but the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. These are the people Jesus cares about, He has healed many of them, so again – the point is to be like Him. Unlike the host's friends, they cannot invite him back, but his reward will be from God in the Kingdom of Heaven. Accepting that Jesus is God's son and loving and caring about people are what count in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Sunday 2nd October
Harvest Festival 10.00am

Please bring tins and packets of food
(within their sell-by date) for donation
to the Salvation Army

