



Our Mission Statement

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...and your neighbour as yourself.
Matthew 22:37-38

Sunday Podcasts

Morning Prayer is available after the service on YouTube and our Parish website. See address at the bottom at the page.

A time to speak

Don't forget the new podcast series that started last week. All the episodes are available as they come along on our YouTube Channel including last week's episode Prayer and Place.

This week will feature Tom Connor.

Quick Quote

"Every migrant has a name, a face, and a story".
Pope Francis

Can you help with any of these?

Thank you for all the donations we have received. In addition to the list last week can we add these as urgent? Winter coats, jumpers and blankets.

Please contact Margaret Lamb on 07719916704 or Sandra Morton on 01792 473569 . Thank you so much.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is good to see those who are able to regularly and safely attend Morning Prayer every week. I know it's not the same as we are used to, and can appear, by contrast to our 'normal' Sunday service, rather understated, sombre and restrained. I know too that it is not Holy Communion, which is at the very heart of our worship. (We are working on this). But until that changes I think it's important to consider what is worship.

First, worship is from an old word "worth-ship" which means giving the object of our adoration - in this case God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit - the very best of ourselves in thankfulness and praise. This is what the Old Testament calls our "first fruits" i.e. the best.

Second, worship is expressed not just on Sundays but over the whole course of our lives in how we live, act, think, pray and serve. But it takes unique and particular expression when we come together every Sunday. There, collectively, we make Him the sole object of our attention and devotion by praying, feeding on His word and offering Him our grateful praise.

Third, what form the service takes is in some ways irrelevant. As long as he is at the very centre of our thoughts and our attention that is the most important thing about it. And so what qualifies it as worship is not so much the shape and form of service but how much of us we put into it. Do we give our all to Him? Or are we distracted and preoccupied?

Therefore, and lastly, worship only becomes worship when we "turn up" not just physically but with the whole of who we are—body, mind, spirit, heart and strength. Of course, to reiterate, Holy Communion is THE service par excellence of Christian worship but we should not see any other service as anything less than our opportunity to worship God with all that we are and have and with total commitment. After all, look what He has done for us.

God bless. Mark—Vicar of St. James with pastoral oversight of St. Nicholas, Townhill.

Redeeming the time

In the apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians Chapter 5:15-17 he writes the following:

"Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity ("redeeming the time" NKJV), because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is".

What Paul is saying here is that we should not waste the time we have been given, but as wise men and women, to use it to find out "what the Lord's will is". In other words learning from Him how to live, think and act every day.

In these difficult and challenging times where nothing is normal. We can't see family or friends, go to football matches or engage in our usual social activities. That leaves us with more time than we are used to. And so Paul's words perhaps apply more now than they ever have as he admonishes us to take this opportunity to grow in our faith and understanding through reading, Bible study etc. And so to help you I have included, below, Stuart Bell's YouTube channel. Stuart is a very gifted speaker and teacher—in my opinion one of the best we have in Wales—so I am sure you will benefit, as I do, from his teaching:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHM5cAMBOohEKwowB1kBeAw>

THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE:
[www.http://www.stjamesswansea.org.uk/](http://www.stjamesswansea.org.uk)

St. James Sunday podcasts on YouTube are available here:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoNVea6r8mEr_KnOkSv6qQA/

Sunday Collect—Trinity 19

O God, forasmuch as without You we are not able to please You; mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.**

Sunday readings:

Isaiah 45.1-7; Psalm 96.1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22:15-22



Operation Christmas Child

As you know I am unable to organise the shoebox collection in the way I have been doing in past years. But it is possible for you to fill a box and take it to City Church, Dyfatty, week beginning 9th November. The alternative is to 'build a shoebox online'. Please get in touch with me by the end of

October if you would like to me to do this on your behalf. Many thanks to those who have already done this.

BOOKING SEATS

TIPS FOR RESERVING A PEW WHEN SPACE IS LIMITED



BE READY THE MOMENT
BOOKINGS OPEN



CAST THE NET WIDE

Helpfulness

A priest is walking down the street one day when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell of a house across the street. However, the boy is very short and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the priest moves closer to the boy's position. He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder, leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring. Crouching down to the child's level, the priest smiles benevolently and asks, 'And now what, my little man?' To which the boy replies, 'Now we run!'



Daily Hope I am very conscious that although a number of you are able to come to church on Sunday, and others are able to listen online to a podcast of the service, there are still others who are not able to benefit from either of these. If you would like to hear some hymns, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services for free every day then can I recommend a service offered by the Church of England - and available to everybody - called Daily Hope.

The line - which is available 24 hours a day - is accessed by ringing FREE: 0800 804 8044. It has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the current crisis.

Contact information:

For all contributions to the newsletter please email the Vicar, Mark at: stjamesuplands1@googlemail.com

Home phone number: (01792) 470532

The Parish Website can be found at: [www.http://www.stjamesswansea.org.uk/](http://www.stjamesswansea.org.uk/)

God's love

Even

After

All this time

The sun never says to the earth,

"You owe Me."

Look

What happens

With a love like that,

It lights the

Whole

Sky.

Author unknown

New blog

'Son of Zebedee'

The Vicar has a new blog which you can find here:

sonofzebedee.blogspot.com/

Acts of the Apostles

Just a reminder that every Tuesday there is an hour's lesson on the Acts of the Apostles on zoom with the Vicar. If you are interested email him at the address below.

Please inform him each week if you are able to attend so he can send you an invitation.

Important dates

18th October—10.30

Morning Prayer—St. James

20th October—7pm

The Book of Acts Zoom Bible Study.

22nd October—2.30 Mother's

Union Zoom meeting. All

welcome. Please contact

Margaret Lamb for the password.

Mickey Rooney was once asked what he most disliked about his appearance.

"Losing my hair. I used to have waves, now there's nothing but beach".

Sour-faced Christianity

Some Christians give the impression that they have been baptised in vinegar not water.