

## 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.  
Matt 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

Parish Podcast on the YouTube channel—see bottom of main page. .

## Ouch

What's the difference... between Jurassic Park and the Church of Wales? One is a fantasy land full of dinosaurs...and the other is a blockbuster movie.

## Quick Quote

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.  
St. Augustine

## Thank you

for all the donations we have received for our asylum seeker/refugee friends. We have distributed a great many parcels over the past few weeks but we are unable to accept any more donations at present.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE NEXT THREE SUNDAYS. AND DON'T FORGET THE CLOCKS GO BACK ON 25th OCTOBER.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Here we go again, another lockdown albeit for just short of three weeks this time. I think we all recognise the necessity of this and how it will save some lives, take the weight of an over-worked NHS and halt the spread of the disease. But that doesn't make it easier for those in employment, run businesses or suffer from depression. In fact suicide rates are on the up. In the middle of all this there are growing divisions everywhere. Between the young - who are fearless and think we should ride into the storm - and the old(er) - who think we should sit it out; between various countries and regions within the UK; between city and countryside; and in the middle of it all Brexit and the tensions within the EU! These are very challenging, and in some ways, dangerous time for us all socially, psychologically, politically, financially, internationally, communally and let's not forget spiritually. How do we cope?

**First**, for the Christian it is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Let's take Him at His word here. He is the one who invites us to "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29). As the old saying goes: "a problem shared is a problem halved" and who better to take up the slack of our burdens and worries than Jesus? Share with Him. Pray to Him. Rest in Him. It really does work.

**Second**, think more of others. Jesus tells us that as well as loving God we must also love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Whatever others do we must not forget this. I came across this on Facebook which should give us all food for thought in this regard:

*"I don't know who needs to hear this, but your choice to give up the last seven months of your regular life being careful and socially distancing could very well be the reason someone else is alive today and it will always have been worth it".*

Jerry Springer used to have a line with which he would end his controversial shows: "Look after yourselves and each other". He had reversed the last part of the Great Commission! So let me put it right. Look after others and yourselves.

God bless, Mark

## Ecclesiastical Joke

The vicar visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. 'Mind if I have a few?' he asks.

'No, not at all!' the woman replies.

They talk for an hour and as the vicar stands to leave, he realises that he has emptied the bowl.

'Terribly sorry for scoffing all your peanuts, my dear. I really only meant to eat a few.'

'Oh, that's all right,' the woman says. 'Ever since I lost my teeth all I can do is suck the chocolate off them...'

*(from 'A Barrel of Fun' by J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books).*

**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/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoNVea6r8mEr_KnOkSv6qQA/)**

### **Sunday Collect—Trinity 20 (Bible Sunday)**

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Sunday readings:** Nehemiah 8:1-12; Psalm 119:9-16; Colossians 3.12-17; Matthew 24.30-35

### **Life to the full—The basics of Christian Discipleship**

One of the features of any congregation is that Christians are at different stages of learning the faith. We are not all the same. Some are new in the faith, some are a bit further along and some are way out ahead having made studying the Bible their life's work. And so as well as having Tuesday meetings I am starting a more basic course beginning Wednesday 4th November between 2-3.

This course approaches learning from a different perspective and can at first glance seem rather simple and repetitive. But it is VERY effective in helping you learn and remember basic Christian truths. I already have three people interested and so if you want to join just email me and I will send you the materials via email. It would be very helpful if you were able to print what I send in order to do the work. But if not let me know and I will post it to you. God bless. Mark

### **Five Questions**

This week we begin a new series for the newsletter called 'Five Questions' where I ask a member of the congregation five questions about themselves and their faith. This is the turn of Rebecca Connor.

1. What is your names? - Rebecca Connor
2. Where were you born? - Guildford, Surrey
3. What is your earliest memory of Church? - My earliest memory of church is going to a cousin's Christening and feeling very proud when the vicar wanted me to light the candles!
4. When did the Christian faith become important to you? - I became really interested in church when I was 14 and it offered an hour out of the house and away from my many siblings (I am one of 8 children). I asked Jesus to be my Saviour later that year and remember feeling a tremendous sense of relief, and a burden being lifted. I've been heavily involved in church life since then, and particularly since I came to Swansea for University a few (!) years ago.
5. What is your favourite Bible verse and why? - It's always tricky to choose a favourite verse as I find different verses apply in different seasons of our lives. One that has stuck with me over a number of years now is Paul's closing exhortation to the Philippians, chapter 4:6-7.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".*

I am naturally very anxious about virtually everything and like to plan my day/ week down to the 'nth' degree. I find these verses comforting when things go awry, according to my own flawed plans, and remind me that God has an overall master plan that will work out perfectly.

### **Contact information:**

For all contributions to the newsletter please email the Vicar, Mark at: [stjamesuplands1@googlemail.com](mailto:stjamesuplands1@googlemail.com)  
Home phone number: (01792) 470532  
The Parish Website can be found at: [www.http://www.stjamesw Swansea.org.uk/](http://www.stjamesw Swansea.org.uk/)

### **Christmas Cards**

Janet Morris has a selection of Christmas Cards and 4m rolls of gift and Christmas wrapping paper for sale. All profits to St James' Church.

The cards are in packs of 10 costing £1.25 - £1.50 per pack. She understands the present situation is difficult but anyone interested can contact her on 01792 473494 for more details. She is willing to arrange delivery.

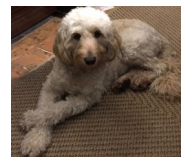
### **New blog 'Son of Zebedee'**

The Vicar has a new blog which you can find here: [sonofzebedee.blogspot.com/](http://sonofzebedee.blogspot.com/)

### **Acts of the Apostles**

Every Tuesday for an hour we are looking at the Book of Acts via Zoom. Interested? Email the Vicar at the address below.

**Please let him know if you want to join anytime and he will send you an invite.**



*Jenny's dog listening to Bible Study very attentively.*

### **Important dates**

27th October—7pm  
Zoom Bible Study on Acts  
12th November 7pm  
Zoom congregational meeting



### **Operation Christmas Child**

Margaret is unable to organise the shoebox collection the same way as in past years. But you can still fill a box and take it to City Church, Dyfatty, eek beginning 9th November. You can also 'build a shoebox nline'. Please get in touch with Margaret by the end of October if you would like to her to do this on your behalf.