



## 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

of each Morning Prayer are available after the service on YouTube. The address is at the bottom of the page.

## A time to speak

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

## Quick Quotes

The church has so many things in its shop window that the cross is lost among them.

Choose life without God and you choose the hardest path.

Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?

*Corrie ten Boom*

## 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 THIS SUNDAY AND THE SUNDAY AFTER.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky told the story of the time he was arrested by the Czar and sentenced to die. The Czar liked to play cruel psychological tricks on the people who rebelled against him by blindfolding them and standing them in front of a firing squad. The blindfolded people would hear the gunshots go off, but would feel nothing. Then they would slowly realize that the guns were loaded with blanks.

Dostoevsky went through this experience himself. He said that going through the thought process of believing he was really going to die had a transforming effect on him. He talked about waking up that morning with full assurance that this would be his last day of life. He ate his last meal and savoured every bite. Every breath of air he took was precious to him. Every face he saw, he studied with full intensity. Suddenly, every experience was etched in his mind.

As they marched him into the courtyard, he felt the heat of the sun and appreciated its warmth like never before. Everything around him seemed to have a magical quality to it. He was seeing the world in a way he had never seen it before. He was fully alive!

When he realized that he had not been shot and that he was not going to die that day, everything about his life changed. He became thankful for everything about his life. He became grateful to people he had previously despised. It was this experience that persuaded him to become a novelist and write about life in a way that before would have never been known to him.

We Christians ought to be fully alive like this. We've stared death in the face. If you are a believer in Christ, then you came to the understanding at some point in your life that your sin would lead you to eternal death. We were all doomed to die. But God sent his Son Jesus Christ to die in our place, and because of that we live. And because of that – the Apostle Paul wrote:

*"I urge you...in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship."* Romans 12:1

The Christian life then becomes one long 'thank you' to God, a giving of oneself to obedience to Jesus and a bending of one's will in submission to the working of the Spirit who shows us not only how to live, but who it is we now live for, and why.

Keep safe and God bless.

Mark

**Margaret Walker** wishes to be remembered to all her friends at St James. She is keeping safe and well and enjoying being in the countryside with her daughter and son-in-law. She has been attending the village church since it reopened in July. She had hoped to come back to Swansea in October to sort out things, as her home in Eaton Crescent is up for sale, but travel restrictions prevented that. Please remember her in your prayers.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE:**

**[www.stjamesswansea.org.uk](http://www.stjamesswansea.org.uk)**

**St. James Sunday Services on YouTube are available here:**

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoNVea6r8mEr\\_KnOkSv6qQA/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoNVea6r8mEr_KnOkSv6qQA/)**

**The Vicar's New blog can be found here: [sonofzebedee.blogspot.com](http://sonofzebedee.blogspot.com)**

## Sunday Collect - All Saints

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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:

**Revelation** 7:9 - end; **Psalm** 35:1 - 10; **1 John** 3:1—3; **Matthew** 5:1 - 12

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> November between 2 - 3pm. **NO BIBLE KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED.**

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 continue asking five questions of someone. This time it is Jonathan Blackham, who obtained his Masters from Swansea University and is hoping to go into the Church.

1. What is your name? - Jonathan Blackham
2. Where were you born? - London, Enfield
3. What is your earliest memory of Church? - Sitting with my Dad, in the minister's box at All Souls, Langham Place in London, doodling on his old notes while I listened to the sermon!
4. When did the Christian faith become important to you? - There was never a single moment.  
I was born and raised in Church as a Christian, I never felt I wasn't a Christian since I was a child. However, I did have several occasions where I realised I should be doing more. Probably the biggest memory of that was my confirmation. I remember the whole church gathering to support me, the Bishop of London guiding me, and afterwards my parents and brother celebrating the event. My Mum and Dad gave me a bible and they helped me realise I needed to start taking Christianity into my own hands rather than rely on the groups around me.
5. What is your favourite Bible verse and why? - Job 39:9  
"Will the wild ox stay by your manger at night?"  
This is in that section of Job where Jesus is recounting all the things He's doing for creation, and all the ways in which it serves Him. I love this verse because to me it shows that Jesus loves the nativity scene where the animals were just as patient in waiting for His birth, and just as reverent at the birth as the ancient church. Jesus is almost proud to say this: that when He's born the animals will be there to see it!

## 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.stjamesswansea.org.uk](http://www.stjamesswansea.org.uk)

## Christmas Cards

Don't forget that Janet Morris has a selection of Christmas Cards and 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.

## 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.**

Why didn't Noah go fishing that often?  
He only had two worms

Where was Solomon's temple located?  
On the side of his head!

## Important dates

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 7pm  
Zoom Bible Study The Book of Acts

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November  
7pm Zoom congregational meeting

So sad to hear **Bobby Ball** has passed away aged 76. Having come to faith later in life he said that his aim was to "show that God's love and forgiveness is for real and available to everyone who reaches out and opens their heart to Him". He also said: "I want to show people that being a Christian is not boring. In fact it's the opposite, it's great!"

Rest in peace Bobby.