

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

All Saints Day - 1st November 2020

Collect:

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 34.1-10

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.
- 6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,



- and was saved from every trouble.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
- 8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.
- 9 O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.
- 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

A reading from the Book of Revelation 7:9-end

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (5.1-12)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

(cont'd)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, o Christ.

Reflection:

All Saints is one of my favourite feasts in the Christian year—a reminder that through our baptism we are all called to be saints—God’s holy children, and!—that we are connected with all Christ’s faithful disciples in the past, the present and the future, on earth and in heaven. What a wonderful thought, and our first reading from the book of Revelation gives us a vision of what that looks like. Whilst I and many other Christians get excited about the feast of All Saints, in our secular society, everyone else is excited about Halloween, without having any idea that ‘Halloween’ is made up of the words ‘hallows’ (holy ones) and ‘eve’, so, it’s the evening before the feast of All Hallows, the old English word for All Saints. (For those of you, who also enjoy learning about the origin of words: ‘hallows’ comes from Old Germanic (heilig)= Old English (halgion), from which we get ‘holy’, ‘halo’; ‘saints’ comes from Latin ‘sanctus’, (which means ‘holy’), hence Middle English: saints ...so we see, saints & hallows have the same meaning!

Do we ever think about the fact that all of us, who are baptised, are called to be saints? In fact, you could say, we are already saints, because all it takes to be a saint is to belong to God. It’s not a matter of being or doing good, or spending all our time in Church or having no fun. You become a saint when you join the Church, body of Christ in baptism. Then you have everything you need to be a saint: your identity as a beloved child of God, the Holy Spirit to guide and protect you. The one thing left to us is to make the decision to live as a saint; to recognise that the purpose and meaning of our lives is to be saints, to live as God’s holy children and to make living with the God the centre of our lives. You could say: use it or lose it! It means starting out every day with the awareness that all we have and are is gift from God, and that God is with us.

Our gospel reading this morning is the passage from Matthew which we call ‘The Beatitudes’ - from the latin ‘beatus’ ‘blessed’, happy’. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.* Intuitively, we know there is a deep wisdom in here, we know we are shown what it might mean to live as a saint, but in practice the Beatitudes are very challenging. Who likes to be poor or mourning or being persecuted? What does Jesus mean when he says these things? How can we be ‘happy’ if we are poor? How can we be ‘happy’ if we are mourning, perhaps because of the loss of a loved one? How can we be ‘happy’, if we are thirsting for righteousness and justice? The word ‘beatus’, engl. ‘blessed’ ‘happy’ does not mean a superficial happiness, where we are singing and dancing; it means a deeper ‘happiness’, like inner peace, hope and strength, which comes from knowing that God sees me, that God cares about me and loves me. That kind of happiness/ blessing comes from knowing that God is with me, close to me, to us, especially when I am poor—physically, and/or in spirit; when I know that I am out of my depth and I have to rely on God; when I am mourning the loss of a loved one, or a job or other opportunities in life. When I am thirsting for justice and righteousness, not just for myself but for other people around me; for the suffering and destruction I see on the news. This kind of happiness comes when I continue to trust in God despite how I am feeling. When Jesus talks about the experiences of life, listed in the Beatitudes, he knows that these will be part of our lives, and if not of our own, those of people around us, whilst the world is a place of sin and separation from God. As God’s saints, we know we are not alone. It can take us a long time of struggle and pain, before we put God at the centre of our lives. And, we are not alone on a human level—that’s why we find a family, support and friendship in the church, the body of Christ. We are often too shy to draw on this source of encouragement and friendship; or to reach out to others who maybe alone and long for someone to talk to, to be with them. The good news is: we are God’s beloved children, part of the communion of saints and today, we rejoice in our calling.

Revd Jutta

God is love. Those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

This week's hymn:

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress,
and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought
fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warrior cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds,
from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the
countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

For Our Prayers:

The Bishops are calling on every parish to join them using this prayer at home and at every act of worship for our church, that we grow in trust in God's providence and deepen our own generosity giving of ourselves and of our gifts.

**Loving God,
you are always with us,
and give us all we need to be your church
in Suffolk.**

**Help us, we pray, to give as we have received:
abundantly, generously, and joyfully,
that our worship and our service
may bear witness to your Kingdom of
unfailing love.**

**In the name of your Son
who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please pray for:

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Eric Dickerson, Rosemary, Jenny, Andrew Barfield, Kathy Steele, Frank D., Andrew, Peggy, Natacha, Christine, Stephen, Samantha, Rex & Jill, Margaret Christian

Those undergoing treatment or currently ill: Emily, Gloria Elmer, Helen Harlow, Jean Dominy, Leslie Bloomfield, Katie (cancer), Jim, Alice (Joan's grandson's wife), Vincent Lightbody, Trish, Roger Dickerson, Vicky & Matt, Neil Pratt, Gareth Andrews

All who are affected by the Coronavirus in the UK and around the world: *For all who have lost their jobs due to Covid19; all who are despairing. For all who have lost their lives & livelihoods, the injured, the bereaved. For hospital and health care workers*

For our government & MPs', and local councillors: for honesty in politics, for wisdom and justice for all. For refuges across the world & diplomates and peace makers, working to end conflicts

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss: Gwen Strike (Phyllis' sister), Colin Wells, Rachel Fry

Call this number —> for free.

It's a lovely way to worship from home!



Notices:

This Wednesday, 10am, All Souls Service : We will remember the faithful departed. If you have loved ones you would like us to remember by name, you can give us the names this Sunday & on Wednesday before the service, or email Jutta by Tuesday evening.

A huge Thank you to Everyone who supported our Gift Appeal: We will let you know how much we managed to raise and update you on our financial situation. It is now very easy and tax efficient to give via our website 'Donations'. **Please, continue to say the Bishops' prayer on the previous page everyday!**

Sunday School We are able to offer Sunday School again from 8 November. It is essential that parents/ carers book in by Saturday morning. We have done a risk assessment and will keep it simple, but it means children are able to participate in worship again.

Christmas Mini-Market: Weds 18th Nov 11am-1.30pm

- *We need:* donations of jam/chutney, home-baked cakes (wrapped for safe distribution), and ITEMS FOR HAMPERS. We will be raffling off Christmas hampers of goodies. Please donate good quality food/drink etc. by 8th Nov. Questions - speak to Alison Gibbs.

Shoebox crafts: In place of our Christmas craft morning, we are making shoeboxes with craft-kits for children to make at home.

- *We need:* shoeboxes! Children's Christmas wrapping paper. Volunteers to make the 4-5 crafts to go in the boxes. Christmas cards. To volunteer or find out more, speak to Emma.

Christmas cards on sale in the church car park: £2.50 for 5, on Sundays from 18th October and Wednesdays, from 14th October. All proceeds to church funds.

This Week:

1st November: ALL Saints' Day

10am: Eucharist also on ZOOM & livestream
[Facebook/StThomasIpswich](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasIpswich)

(to book in by phone **01473 742973** (Church answer phone) by 9am Saturday

Tuesday 2nd November

7.30pm Meditation Group livestream on
[Facebook/StThomasPilgrimCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasPilgrimCommunity)

Wednesday, 3rd November 'All Souls'

10am Eucharist in Church with livestream on
[Facebook/StThomasIpswich](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasIpswich)

7.00pm Faith Pictures on ZOOM (contact: Malcolm Gibbs)

Bible from Scratch:

Thursday, 5 Nov, 4pm –on ZOOM
Contact Rev Cat for details

Church website:

<http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/>

Sunday Worship & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>

Pray for members of the St Thomas Congregation
(each week we will include a dozen names)

Edith Abbot, Gareth & Theresa Andrews, Erik Baker, June & Kat Baker & family, Jenny & Andrew Barfield, Alan Banks, Michelle & Stephen, Jenny & Gerald Biggs, Pearl Bird, Margaret & Leslie Bllomfield, Naomi with Amelia, Lily-Rose, Archie & Dylan



Birthdays this week:

1st November: Frank Groom & Rachael Rudge

Contacts:

Priest in charge: Revd Jutta Brueck m: 07958 360564
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Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly m: 07530 412988
Email: revcatconnolly@gmail.com

Cat's day off: Mondays

Lay Evangelist: Malcolm Gibbs m:07906 665530

Director of Music: Simon Clark BA (Hons) FLCM ARCO
m: 07961 859344 Email: sussexsi@aol.com

Church wardens: Roger Elmer m:07810 274586
Sylvia Dickerson 07903 739487

If you would like to chat, you could also ring:

Mary Bullass 625135 Gloria Elmer 745590
Rev Jackie 07962 172639 Revd Pat 464748