

# TEAM & COMMUNITY NEWS

Main clergy contacts are listed on page 2; other contact information, including for churchwardens and other officers, is available in the *Benefice Magazine* and on the Team website [www.dorchesteranglican.info](http://www.dorchesteranglican.info) where you will find links to church Facebook pages and the **online version of the Benefice Magazine**. October magazine is now available in churches. Parish Office: [dorchesterpcc@gmail.com](mailto:dorchesterpcc@gmail.com)

**St Peter's Church** Under current lockdown rules no services other than funerals are permitted but St Peter's Church will be open **daily from 10.00 - 4.00**.

'When we had time to stand and stare', the St Peter's Lockdown Anthology is now available. Please contact Jill Bryant, 1 St Thomas Road, DT1 2PA or [Jill.bryant@hotmail.com](mailto:Jill.bryant@hotmail.com) to order your copy/copies. They are £2.50 each and all proceeds will be going to St Peter's Church.

## **St Mary's Church**

Sadly there will be no further services at St Mary's at the moment, and the church will not be open until we get further Government approval. However, St Peter's is open daily from 10am -4pm for private prayer.

We are seeing a good response to our **Gift Day** and donations can still be sent, in the yellow envelopes, to John Heath our Treasurer, at Flat 18, Copper Crescent, Brewery Sq, Dorchester DT1 1GL. Please make cheques payable to St Mary's Church Council and if you are a Taxpayer complete the information on the envelope, as this will enable us to claim another 25p for every pound donated.

**St George's Church** Our private worship for St Georges:

**Wednesdays 8.30am-4pm**

For the next three weeks we will be sending via Facebook our Sunday messages, as we did before. Thank you to Lucy for doing this for us once again.

Revd Reji Raj-Singh.

**The amount given to Gift Day this year totalled £2910**, which is £500 more than last year. Many thanks to members for these helpful contributions.

## **St Andrew's Church**

With the new lockdown, the Church will be open for private prayer on

**Wednesdays and Sundays from 10.00am until 4.00pm** until we are able to start Sunday services again

## **St Simon and St Jude, Winterbourne Monkton**

Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of the month at 11.15am

**A Virtual service from the Winterbournes at 10am using ZOOM**

email [jean.saddington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jean.saddington@hotmail.co.uk) if you want to join.

# Pews News

## 15th November 2020

### Second Sunday before Advent



*The Parable of the Talents by Rembrandt (Pen & Ink 1652)*  
Louvre, Paris

### **Collect**

*Heavenly Father,*

whose blessed Son was revealed  
to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
grant that we, having this hope,  
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great glory  
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Readings**

**2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent** – Daniel 10.19-end; Revelation 4;  
1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

**Christ the King** – Isaiah 4.2-5.7; Luke 19.29-38; Ephesians.1.15-end;  
Matthew 25.31-end

## **A Reflection and Prayer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

Matthew 25:14-30

Revd. Andrew Mackenzie

“Well done, good and trustworthy slave....enter into the joy of your master.”

Our journey through the liturgical year has passed the end of the “Trinities”, arriving in the Kingdom Season; next week the year culminates in the wonderful Feast of Christ the King. Then we enter Advent, the penitential preparation for the Nativity, four weeks in which we prepare to celebrate the *First* Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In these “Sundays before Advent”, the readings do not simply *presage* our Lord’s First Coming, but are apocalyptic in tone: Jesus teaches His followers how they should live *between* His First Coming, as a babe in Bethlehem, and His Second Coming when He shall come in glorious power - and in judgement. As Jesus made inescapably and manifestly clear, *no one* knows when that Second Coming will be.

In Year A’s readings, Jesus uses two parables, one concerning the Wise and the Foolish Bridesmaids, and one we should have heard today, the parable of The Talents. In both parables, Jesus does not condemn the foolish girls or the lazy slave so much for doing *wrong*, but for doing *nothing*.

Today’s parable is, in many ways, a realistic one. The three slaves are gifted differently; yet two of them make the most of their gifts (whether we think in financial terms, or in terms of talents in the modern sense.) Of course we are *all* given different gifts (thank God!) and some of us, in whatever fields we are thinking of, are more greatly gifted than others. What Jesus says is that, however we may define our gifts, *all* his followers must *use* these gifts, to God’ glory and to the advancement of God’s kingdom.

We can make many excuses for our lack of committed action, including that subtle one that we are “not gifted enough” for such-and-such a role. I have fairly often made this excuse to myself. But when I have reflected more honestly on the situation, I *know* that God has gifted me sufficiently for the task, and that He will not let me down but will supply the support, strength and inspiration to fulfil whatever task it is that He has called me to.

The servant who received one talent was not condemned for failing to reach the five-talent goal, but because he *did nothing* with what he had been given. The gifts we receive from God include skills, abilities, family connections, social positions, education, experiences, and more. The point is that we are to *use* whatever we have been given for God’s purposes. The severe judgement on the unproductive servant teaches us that we are not to *waste* our lives, but to *invest* them.

**A Prayer/Meditation from St Teresa of Avila, very familiar, but no less powerful for that** “Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Please pray for Keith and Ruth Magee as Rev'd Keith prepares to begin his ministry as Team Rector of Dorchester and the Winterbournes next Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Among those in special need: Rev'd Andrew Mackenzie, Julian Cherryson, Hilary Morley, Pam Wheatley, Alison, Caroline and Neil, Abigail Craddock, Jean Baker, Johanna Benjafield, Christine Peake, Emma Foxwell, David Dunford, Linda Blundell, Brenda Knight, Tom Goss, Marion Tait, Hugo Lord, Brianna & Braxton. (*To add or remove names in this list, please contact: Canon John Wood 01305 268749*)

*Remember also all who are cared for by Dorset County Hospital, in our community hospitals and hospice and all who are caring for them and working to address their needs; especially pray for all who are suffering from or are affected by COVID-19, and those working to develop identification, treatment and cure.*

**Among those who have recently died:** Liz Pulfer, Pauline Sefton-Smith, Pam Haines, John Marr, Margaret Riddle, Violet Osborne, Ron Huxley, Olive Payton, Nicola Chittenden.

**Remember those whose Year's Mind falls this week:** Peter Woodward, Helen Welsby, Richard Allen, John Howarth, Bob Wishart.

**The licensing of our new Team Rector, the Rev'd Keith Magee** will go ahead as planned at St Peter's Church on **Sunday 22nd November** at 3pm. The service will be conducted by the Bishop of Salisbury, and only 5 others will attend – the Archdeacon, St Peter's Churchwardens, Patron's representative and Keith. The service will be streamed so that it can be seen as a public service – and so that many of us can participate at home! **The following link will take you to the live streaming of the service:**

<http://dorchesteranglican.info/live>

### **Team Clergy Contacts:**

**St George, Fordington:** Revd Reji Raj-Singh 07983 430050 and [reji4@btinternet.com](mailto:reji4@btinternet.com)

**St Mary, Edward Road & Winterbourne Monkton:** Revd Rosemary Bassett 01305 262615 and [rosemary.bassett42@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.bassett42@gmail.com)

**St Peter, High West Street: & St Andrew West Stafford** Canon John Wood 01305268749 and [johnsamwood@me.com](mailto:johnsamwood@me.com)

**For the Winterbourne Churches:** Revd Jean Saddington 01305 889992 and [jean.saddington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jean.saddington@hotmail.co.uk)