

Pew News

Milborne Port, Milborne Wick, Goathill, Charlton Horethorne and Stowell.

Sunday 15 November 2020
2nd Sunday before Advent

Dear friends,

One of my favourite verses from the bible is John 10.10 where Jesus says I have come that you might have life in all its fullness. Live life to the full.

The third slave in today's gospel reading chose not to live life to the full.

The master in today's gospel reading took a huge risk when he gave those slaves that money. In the story he gives them an amazing gift and then he goes away. There are parallels here. Jesus was with the disciples for 3 years gave them the resources that they would need to continue his work on earth and then he seemingly goes away. A talent in 1st century Palestine was actually money – and not just a specific coin but a considerable sum. In fact, a talent was roughly equivalent to 20 years' pay in Jesus' time...so in our story the wealthy master is taking a huge risk as he doles out those massive allowances to his three servants.

He does no research into whether he thinks they are good enough ...he just doles out his riches and trusts them to make the most of them. That's what God does. God provides everything we need to satisfy our deepest longings - new life, forgiveness, unconditional love – and invites us to make the most of them.

The slaves who received the 5 and 2 talents were so excited that they went off at once. They must love their master so much because they want to do their best for him. - they put his money to work and double it. If they felt that they were going to be punished for any mistake they made I don't think they would have felt free to do what they did. They acted with confidence, not only in themselves but in their master because they knew they were loved no matter what happened.

The third servant acts out of fear. He buries the money to relieve himself of the responsibility of having to do anything. He is looking out for himself and not the master.

The question for us is "How are we going to respond to this God who risks so much in us? What are we willing to risk for him?"

15th November - Sunday Service on Zoom

Sarah Godfrey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday service

Time: Nov 15, 2020 10:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855472512?pwd=SkVzVHQRbHpuM1dmeXc5aEtZc2dCQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 5547 2512

Passcode: 362692

Hymns

Rachel our organist has recorded some more hymns for this month:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9vhhBGlhbObqMS4O9BU6YmTPXAnxYp62>

And you can go to our new [YouTube channel](#) to find a selection of hymns to sing along to whilst the church is closed. If you don't have a hymn book, most of the words can be found [here](#).

Watch this space-worship in the waiting

"In everything that is anxious and traumatic and heart breaking; in everything that is busy and rushed and burdensome; in everything that never seems to stop or slow we dig out with bare hands a well from which to drink finally sitting back as the water impossibly rises up. And so we watch this space and give thanks for the blessing of a moment of being and not doing"

"Watch this Space" is very much the head-line for these times of uncertainty. We watch and wait to see what the government will tell us next. It is also an Advent theme as we watch this space and wait for God. Are you thirsting for God in these difficult times? Do you long for God to fill the space? Or have you forgotten how to thirst for God?

Throughout Advent we will be holding a weekly gathering on Zoom on the theme of 'worship in the waiting'

They will be held at 7pm on Thursday evenings

26th November: Waiting for a King

3rd December: Holy suspense

10th December: Active Patience

17th December: Hope-filled expectation

Watch this space for further details and the zoom link.

Collect

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings

1 Thessalonians 5.1–11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! **4** But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; **5** for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. **6** So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; **7** for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25.14–30

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; **15** to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. **17** In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. **18** But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. **19** After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. **20** Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." **21** His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." **22** And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." **23** His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." **24** Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." **26** But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. **29** For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **30** As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

A call to prayer for the nation

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of London have called the Church of England to pray for the nation throughout the month of November.

The Archbishop's have suggested 6pm as a good time. But please pray sometime in the day

Here are the themes for each day.

Sunday: For family friend and loved ones

Monday: Schools and colleges, children and young people

Tuesday: The elderly isolated and vulnerable

Wednesday: Businesses, workplaces and economic well-being

Thursday : The NHS and other key workers

Friday: National and local government

Saturday: all who are grieving and all who are suffering with physical or mental ill health

This is the prayer for the coming week

Loving Father God,

be with us in our distress;

be with our families, friends, and neighbours,

our country and our world.

Give health to the sick,

hope to the fearful,

and comfort to mourners.

Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,

insight to our Government,

and patience to us all.

Overcome disease with the power of your new life,

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Below is a link to prayer resources.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation#sunday>

Planning for Christmas Day

It is very hard to plan services in our church buildings when we don't know what restrictions will be in place. My best guess is that social distancing will still be in place which will reduce the numbers we can fit into the churches on Christmas Day. We may have to ask you to attend just one service over the Christmas week so that we can accommodate everyone.

It would help me to know if you wish to attend a service on **Christmas Day** so that I can plan. I will send round a separate survey in due course.

At the moment the pattern for the run up to Christmas (which is subject to change) looks like this

Sunday 20th at 10.30am Christmas communion

- *Charlton Horethorne*

6pm Candle lit service

- *Milborne Port (Ticket only)*

Tuesday 22nd at 6pm Candle lit service (over flow if necessary)

- *Milborne Port (Ticket only)*

Christmas Eve at 10.30am Christmas Communion

- *Goathill (15 max)*

4pm Crib service

- *possibly outside Milborne Port*

Christmas Day 9am Morning service

- *Charlton Horethorne (30 max)*

10.30am Christmas Communion

- *Milborne Port (60 max/Ticket only)*

Sunday 27th 9am Benefice Breakfast Zoom Service

10.30am Christmas Communion

- *Milborne Wick or Stowell*

Remember Remember your church in November

During the crisis whilst we are having to keep physical distance from each other and cannot meet in our church building or do our usual fund-raising activities, it is vital that we maintain our financial giving.

If you do online banking you can make a donation by BACs remembering to put your name in the reference box.

For St Johns Milborne Port

PCC of Milborne Port, Sort code 60-24-37, Account no 68700067

For Charlton Horethorne

PCC of Charlton Horethorne Sort Code 60-19-12 Account no 68723601

For Goathill

PCC of Goathill Sort Code: 60-19-12 Account No: 97870897

This is even more important through November as there will not be any income from collections.

We are very conscious that these are difficult times and many people are struggling financially. We are not holding a gift day at our churches this autumn but would be grateful if you could remember them financially.