

He never forgets to allow for our weaknesses and frailty. We have only to follow and obey Him (verse 18).

Verses 19 to 22:

To round off, David begins to contemplate God on a world-wide and, finally, a heavenly scale. He sees God as the rightful ruler of all peoples, not just his own Jewish race (verse 19). He urges the angels in heaven to join with him in praising God and all those saints who already dwell with God in heaven and serve him there (verse 21). Finally, just in case he has left anyone out of this great paeon of praise, he urges all of us and all of creation, to praise God (verse 22) and then adds his personal touch.

Praise the lord, O my soul.

Love Cathy

“Disclosure”, by Ann Lewin

Prayer is like watching for the Kingfisher.

All you can do is

Be where he is likely to appear, and Wait.

Often, nothing much happens;

There is space, silence and Expectancy.

No visible sign, only the Knowledge that he’s been there

And may come again.

Seeing or not seeing cease to matter,

You have been prepared.

But sometimes,

when you’ve almost Stopped expecting it,

A flash of brightness

Gives encouragement.



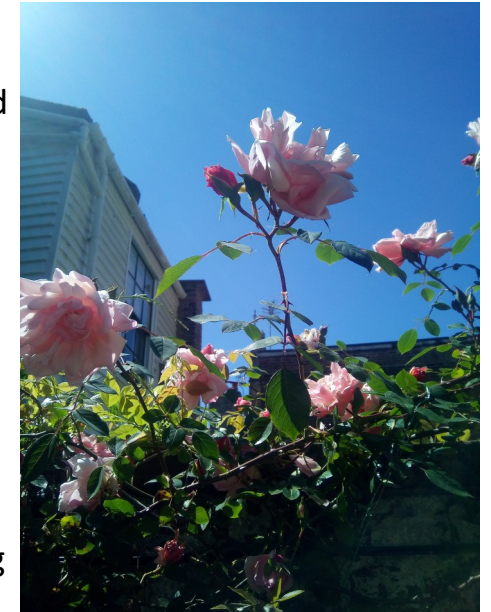
THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 31 May 2020

Clem and I are on a decluttering crusade at home at the moment. We found a shiny cow-bell with heart shaped cut-outs amongst many other things that we are testing against the ‘does it spark joy?’ question. It makes a lovely noise and we rang it vigorously during our last clap for carers on Thursday evening. Our next door neighbours, the second-homers joined in. They arrived on Bank Holiday Monday and are still here. It’s happening all over the Old Town such that the normal parking problems have returned for residents. We have got so used to the absence of traffic and the quiet streets that it’s proving hard to adjust to this change. Although I am looking forward to being able to see more of family and friends, I certainly feel that coming out of lockdown with the

changing rules has increased our anxiety levels, but perhaps that’s a town issue and not a village one?

Together with your Churchwardens and PCC members I am very mindful of the many issues, practical, spiritual and emotional, that need to be overcome if we are to safely and sensitively manage our return to church, possibly at some point in July. We are also aware that many of you are



Our Albertine rose in glorious bloom this week

shielding so it may be later in the year for some.
Our Sunday reading from Acts begins 'when the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.' After weeks of separation due to the lockdown, those seven words, "they were all together in one place," have renewed significance this year. Pentecost highlights that even when being together isn't possible, we continue to be the church for one another, because the Holy Spirit is with us wherever we are. Let's pray that we experience the Holy Spirit breathing new life and purpose into us as we work out how to navigate what lies ahead.

This comes with my love and prayers for you all, Joy

Thank you to Betty Batt for finding this poem and sending it to me (it's not one of her own this time)

And yet.....

Jesus had no servants yet they called him Master
Had no degree yet they called him teacher
Had no medicines yet they called him healer
Had no army yet Kings feared him
He won no military battles,
yet he conquered the world.
He committed no crime yet they crucified him.
He was buried in a tomb yet he lives today.

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another man's wife and arranging that her husband should be placed in the most dangerous position in battle so that he was killed (2 Samuel chapter 11 to 18). The consequences of these actions were severe for him and his family and ultimately led to the death of his beloved son 2 Samuel chapters 11 to 18). Like all of us David suffered grief, loss, illness, rejection and frustration, and yet, in these verses of this psalm, he sees beyond those things and recognises that God has brought him through them all.

Verses 6 to 13:

In this section, David looks more deeply into the forgiving nature of God. God is constantly working to right the wrongs of the world (verse 6) and God made His standards clear when He gave Moses and the people of Israel His laws. These laws, of course simply revealed the inability of human beings to keep them, but God's attitude is still full of compassion and grace; He is *slow to anger* and *abounding in love* (verse 8). David recognises that sin has consequences, as we saw above, he had experienced it for himself in a very terrible way, but he sees beyond the failure and punishment. Somehow, he knows that God will find a way to be merciful (verses 10 and 12). We have only to *fear Him*, not in terror but in respect and acknowledgement of our failings (verses 11 and 13).

Verses 14 to 18:

David could not know exactly how Jesus would accomplish that ultimate balance between judgement and mercy on the cross, but he trusts the loving, compassionate God that He knows to work it out. These verses show David's understanding of God's nature. God made us and sustains us, so

CV19 Homegroup week 8

Thank you to those who have got in touch one way or another this week, it's been good to catch up with you. Last week the writer of Hebrews gave us assurance that we can stand before our Heavenly Father in full assurance that we are forgiven because of the complete work of Jesus. Because Jesus then sent his Holy Spirit to dwell within the hearts of every believer, we can learn to know God directly; but even in the times before Christ came, the Holy Spirit communicated the truth about God's nature to his people through prophets, leaders and psalmists. This week I thought we would look at a psalm of David that tells us so much about the nature of God. It is a wholly positive psalm of praise which sees David rise above the difficulties and failures of life, hopefully to raise our eyes above our current difficulties.

Psalm 103

Verses 1 to 5:

David is completely positive in these verses. In verse 1 we see that God is worthy of praise, not just for what He has done, but because of who He is; and David wants with his whole being to recognise the greatness and wonder of *his holy name*.

He then moves on to praise God for what God has done for him personally, forgiven his sins, healed him from illness, brought him out of a dark place, showed him love and compassion, satisfied his longings and given him strength and energy when he needed it (verses 4 to 5).

David had plenty of dark times in his life, for many years he was an outlaw, hunted for his life by King Saul (1 Samuel chapter 20 onwards). He committed serious sin by taking

Day of Pentecost May 31st 2020

Collect

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Westfield

Acts 2:1-21 John 7:37-39

BCP Readings: for Whit Sunday

Acts 2:1-11 John 14:15-31a

Guestling

Lectionary Readings

Acts 2:1-21 John 7:37-39

Please check the website on Sunday for services Westfield

<http://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-westfield-church/>

Guestling . <https://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-guestling-church/>

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



A brief thought for Pentecost.

We read in John 20 the disciples were in a locked room for fear of the Jews. They were effectively in lock down. They were traumatised, probably suffering from what today would be known as post-traumatic stress after all the momentous events of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Today we are in lock down through fear of the corona virus. Fear is fear whatever the cause. Some of us may know someone who has died of it or is seriously ill. We are all affected by it in one way or another. It means separation from each other, we cannot meet in church. It means separation from a loved one who might be in a home or hospital. Separation from children and grandchildren. It means not being able to give a loved one a hug. It is a very painful time for all of us.

Yet in the middle of our lock down as with the disciples, Jesus stands among us and says "Peace be with you" We read the disciples were overjoyed. It was their risen Lord, fear was forgotten as they realized the reassurance of the power of His presence. With the coming of the Holy Spirit they went from fear to faith, from trauma to growth. Post traumatic stress to post-traumatic growth.

Those four simple words ring down the centuries to us, the power of them undiminished by time. In our time of lock down may we hear Him say "Peace be with you".

Rev. Val Gibbs

WESTFIELD CHURCH HALL UPDATE

Following a PCC decision at the start of the year, the old lights in the church hall have been replaced with LED lighting which is much brighter and more economical to run. It looks as if only two thirds of the lights will now need to be on for a good level of light.

It is planned to get the floor sealed in the summer as it wasn't done last year. Once we have a certificate in place to say that the water system has been tested and is free from Legionella, Playgroup may resume some sessions later in the month. Thank you to Terry for co-ordinating the work and Sue for the liaison with Playgroup and the photo.



GUESTLING CAR PARK LIGHTING

Thank you to Sarah for this photo of the new lamp-post. It can be demounted in order to change the bulbs when needed.

STOP PRESS

I was surprised and sorry to get a text from the Old Town Surgery on Friday saying that the Guestling Surgery will close on 30th June. I understand you will stay registered with the Old Town Surgery so please get in touch with them if you are concerned.

