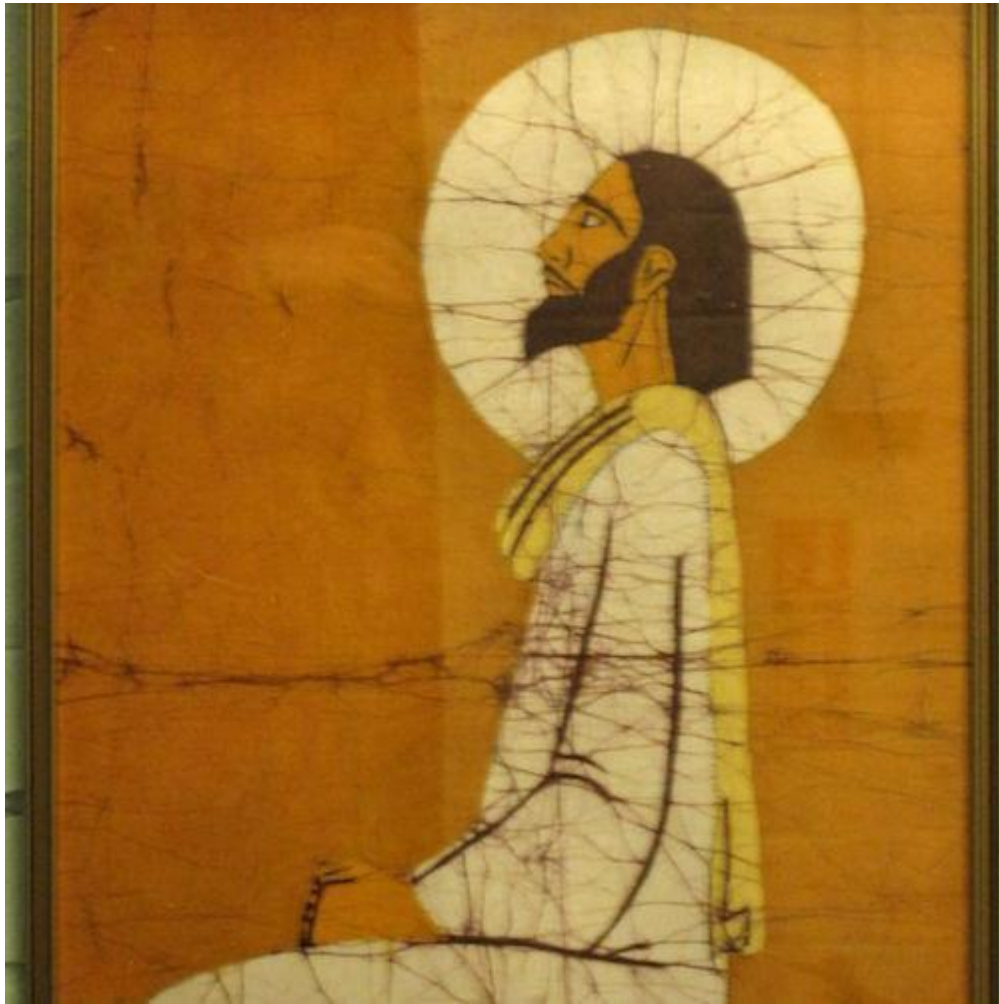


St. Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity



13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# A Message from our Rector

Everyone, I suspect, is in favour of forgiveness, at least in principle. “Everyone,” C.S. Lewis writes, “says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until there is something to forgive” Mere Christianity p.115. What do we do then? What do we do when there is something to forgive?

Forgiveness is the only way forward. That does not mean we forget, condone, or approve of what was done. It does not mean we ignore or excuse cruelty or injustice. It means we are released from them. We let go of the thoughts and fantasies of revenge. We look to the future rather than the past. We try to see and love as God sees and loves us. Forgiveness is a way in which we align our life with God’s life.

God’s forgiveness and human forgiveness are integrally related. That is more than apparent in today’s parable. The king forgives his slave an extraordinary amount. Ten thousand talents is about 3000 years of work at the ordinary daily wage. It seems there is no debt too large to be forgiven. This man, this debtor, was forgiven. That’s what the kingdom of heaven is like. That’s how our God is. This slave, however, refused to forgive his fellow slave 100 denarii, about three months of work at the ordinary daily wage. Too often that’s what our world is like. Frequently, it is how we are. In that refusal the forgiven slave lost his own forgiveness.

This should not be news to us. We acknowledge and pray it every Sunday and probably every day. “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” We pray those words with ease and familiarity but do we live our prayer? “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”

Thoughts and prayers

Godfrey

# Bible References

Year A	Psalm	First reading	Second reading	Gospel
<b>Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity September 13th, 2020</b>	Psalm 103 : 1-13	Genesis 50 : 15-21	Romans 14 : 1- 12	Matthew 18 : 21-35
<b>Monday, September 14th</b>	Psalm 22 : 23 - 28	Phil 2 : 6-11	John 3 : 13 - 17	
<b>Tuesday, September 15th</b>	Psalm 100	1 Cor 12 : 12 – 14, 27 - end	Luke 7 : 11 - 17	
<b>Wednesday, September 16th</b>	Psalm 33 : 1- 12	1 Cor 12: 1 – end of 13	Luke 7 : 31 - 35	
<b>Thursday, September 17th</b>	Psalm 118 : 1-2, 17-20	1 Cor 15 : 1-11	Luke 7 : 36 - end	
<b>Friday, September 18th</b>	Psalm 17 : 1- 8	1 Cor 15 : 12 - 20	Luke 8 : 1-3	
<b>Saturday, September 19th</b>	Psalm 30 : 1- 5	1 Cor 15 : 35 – 37, 42-49	Luke 8 : 4-15	

**Hyperlinks to Guildford Cathedral Services :**

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/worship/services>

# Collect

Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
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.



We welcome today into God's family by Holy Baptism

**Sebastian Patrick House**



# Parish Notices

- **Sunday Services at St. Mary's**

In order to assist us in observing social distancing guidelines and avoid the potential disappointment of being refused entry we ask all worshippers who wish to attend services to continue to notify the Parish office, either by telephone on 01932 866005 or by email at:

[admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk)

Please bring a face mask with you to wear in church

- **Monthly Concerts**

We are delighted to resume our St. Mary's mid-week lunchtime concert programme with an organ recital in church given by Oliver MacFarlane at 1pm on Thursday 24th September

This is our first concert since lockdown. Regrettably we will not be able to provide pre recital refreshments.

There will be a Retiring Collection at the end of the performance

**As with current church services, in order to preserve social distancing guidelines. audience numbers will be limited. Intending attendees must therefore pre register with our parish office**

[admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk)

- **Hall Opening**

The Church Hall is again for regular bookings with effect from 1st September. Other hall bookings may be permitted subject to review on a case by case basis.

Our Terms and Conditions of letting have been adapted to reflect Social Distancing and other current Government Covid-19 health protection measures. These Ts &Cs are available on the Website or upon application from the Parish Administrator. All applications for hall lettings should be submitted to the Parish Administrator in the usual way.

Email. [admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk) Tel. 01932 866005

# Parish Notices - continued

## **Chair Yoga**

Chair yoga has resumed on Mondays from 10.30am in the hall. As it is deemed an exercise class (rather than a social event) it does not fall under the new legislation regarding numbers.

## **APCM**

A reminder that the rescheduled date for the 2019 APCM is Sunday 18th October. With this week's change in Government instructions to further, significantly limit maximum numbers of people gathering in social settings, the APCM will now take place as a virtual 'Zoom' meeting only. Further details on timing and Zoom meeting joining instructions will be advised in due course.