



St. Andrew ♦ Holy Cross

15th October 2017 – The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Vicar – Rev. Jane Richards

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Welcome to our Worship this morning.

The Collect

**God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

First Reading – Philippians 4. 1 – 9 (Church Bible page 1180)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 22. 1 – 14 (Church Bible page 990)

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

‘Then he sent some more servants and said, “Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.”

‘But they paid no attention and went off – one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, ill-treated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

‘Then he said to his servants, “The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.” So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, “How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?” The man was speechless.

‘Then the king told the attendants, “Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ‘For many are invited, but few are chosen.’

And the winner is.....The Food Ministry Team!

Massive congratulations to everyone involved in food ministry in the parish following the award of Voluntary Group of the Year at the Pride of Basildon Borough Award ceremony held last Tuesday. Despite stiff competition from a number of other very worthy nominees, the work that is being done in the community through the provision of the weekly Thursday lunches, Make Lunch in the school holidays and Restore was judged by the panel making the awards as being the winner. This is a great accolade and proof that God is truly working through us all as we endeavour to spread the love of Jesus throughout the community. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make all of this happen - I am one very proud vicar! **Reverend Jane**



Our representatives receiving the award.

Items for news and prayer to Jackie Stubberfield on 01268 288930 or jmstubber@gmail.com by Thursday afternoon, please.

Next Sunday's readings are – 1 Thessalonians 1. 1-10, and Matthew 22. 15-22

Priestly Pondering - 15th October 2017

On Wednesday we celebrate the feast of St. Luke, the author of both one of the Gospels as well as the Acts of the Apostles. Historical sources suggest that Luke was born in Antioch which was part of Syria and died in Greece around AD 84, a martyr to his faith. He is believed to have been a doctor and indeed is the patron saint of physicians, artists, students, surgeons and butchers - I can't help feeling that there is some irony in being patron saint of both the latter two professions!

Clearly a highly intelligent man Luke spent his life proclaiming the Gospel message and his legacy remains over two thousand years later through the gift of Scripture. Luke is often described as St. Luke the Evangelist, a word that can strike fear in the hearts of the more reticent among us! The image of an evangelist is often of a person loudly proclaiming their love for Jesus and their desire to bring all people into relationship with God on street corners and the like. While that is an amazing calling for many people it is hard to be as upfront and out there about our faith as we might like. I am mindful of something I heard Bishop Stephen say a few years ago when he was launching the Diocesan Centenary Year of Mission - "angel is the nice word in the scary word evangelise" To evangelise sounds rather daunting and to be honest I think to be an angel doesn't sound that easy a task either!

But whether or not we are people who have no fear of standing up publicly in Jesus's name or whether we are more suited to quietly undertaking small tasks which make life just that little bit better for those around us there is something of both the evangelist and the angel in all of us. We have all been blessed by God's presence in our lives and that enables us all to live out our lives in a way that will give glory to Him! And just by doing that we are indeed evangelists for Him.

So whether you're loud and proud about your faith or your style is to quietly proclaim the Gospel through your actions, do so in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit empowers you in exactly the same way it did St. Luke and let us give thanks for his great ministry of recounting both the ministry of Jesus and the work of the early Church which still shapes our faith today.

Reverend Jane

Spiritual Spa

What is "SPIRITUAL SPA?"

A new evening service led by St John's Music Group.

Sunday 15th October 2017 - St Johns Church,

Forest Glade, Langdon Hills, SS16 6RX

From 6pm to 7:30pm

Including:

- o Soaking in God's presence
- o Worship
- o DVD talk
- o Prayer time

For more information, please contact Jill Hurley on 01268 543179

Why not make time to allow God to restore, replenish and refocus your heart and mind? Everyone is welcome.



Thank you

Sue Fisher would like to thank everyone for their prayers for Keith, who is now home from hospital.

Please pray for ...

"Peggy" Stubberfield

Stephen Marigold, Keith Fisher's cousin.

Prayer

If you have a particular need for prayer, please approach a member of the prayer ministry team who will be pleased to help you.

If you prefer to write down your prayer request, cards are available in the entrance lobby in St Andrew's and on the welcome table in Holy Cross. Place your completed card in the box:

these prayers are offered during daily Morning Prayer.

For urgent prayer requests please contact Richard (01268 520688)

or David and Marion (01268 523565).

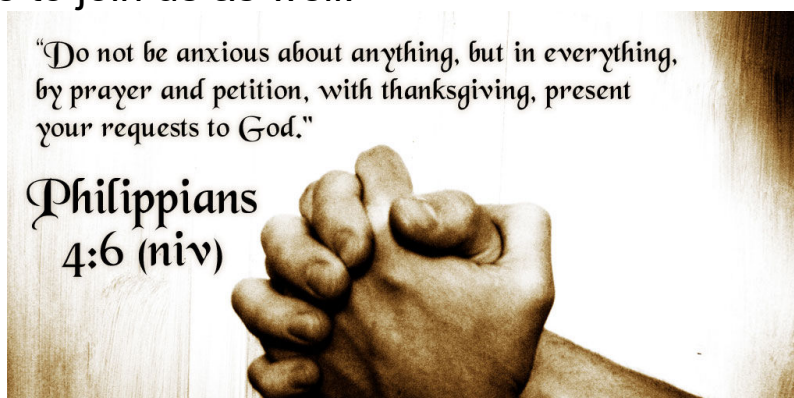


What's on this week

Sunday	15 th	11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
		3:00pm	Service at Mundy House – all welcome.
Monday	16 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		1:30pm	Home Group (Joyce and Tom Hancock).
		6:30pm	Youth Club at St Andrew's.
		7:30pm	Evening Home Group (Peter White).
Tuesday	17 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		10:00am	Home Group (Cyril Phillips).
		7:30pm	PCC meeting at Holy Cross.
		7:45pm	Home Group (Barbara Bowhill).
Wednesday	18 th	9:30am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
		7:30pm	Course in Christian Studies at St Andrew's.
Thursday	19 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		12:00noon	Community Lunch at St Andrew's.
Friday	20 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
Saturday	21 st	9:30am	Music Group Practice at St Andrew's.
Sunday	22 nd	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's.
		11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.

Diary date - Sunday 12th November at 3:00pm

There will be a service at Holy Cross at 3:00pm on 12th November to remember with those who we have loved and lost. We will be inviting families of those whose funerals have been conducted over the past year but the service is open to all who wish to remember a loved one no matter how recent or long ago the loss occurred. I hope many of you will be able to come along and please invite anyone that you know who might wish to be part of the service to join us as well.



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The News Sheet is also available on-line at www.standrewholycross.org