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**September 14th, 2021**

**Dear Friends of St Clement and St Nicholas**

The last year or so has been dominated, it seems to me, by surviving the present - the future has been more uncertain than usual and hard to plan for. Just as Martin in his reflection urges us to have an attitude of looking in a different direction so it is also good to have an intention of looking forwards.

We can bask in past glories or begrudge the failures or put more energy into enjoying now and planning for the future. Some of those plans we will be inviting people to share in and shape. In past week or so I have had number of meetings planning the new parish woodland. Over 150 trees have been ordered and planting, volunteer plans and opportunities to sponsor will follow over the next few months.

A person and person posing for a picture

Description automatically generated with low confidenceLast Sunday I took my first baptism service for well over a year and young Teddy has been recruited as a baby Jesus for Christmas Eve . A sign that we are aiming for Christmas to be on a larger scale than last year.

Over the coming months the Deanery of Jersey will become part of Salisbury Diocese and Martin, Tracy and I had a zoom call with an interesting multi church benefice there on Tuesday- more about developing that link in the months to come.

Let’s move into Autumn enjoying what we have and thinking together how we can make the most of the future.

We hope you are keeping well,

David

*Young Teddy at his baptism on Sunday***Holy Communion Meadow Church**

**September 19th, 2021**

Immortal Invisible <https://youtu.be/4oGuGzCFEWI>

**Immortal Invisible**

**God only wise**

**In light inaccessible**

**Hid from our eyes**

**Most blessed, most glorious**

**The Ancient of Days**

**Almighty, victorious**

**Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting**

**And silent as light**

**Nor wanting, nor wasting**

**Thou rulest in might**

**Thy justice like mountains**

**High soaring above**

**Thy clouds which are fountains**

**Of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest**

**To both great and small**

**In all life thou livest**

**The true life of all**

**We blossom and flourish**

**As leaves on a tree**

**And wither and perish**

**But naught changeth thee.**

**Great father of glory**

**Pure father of light**

**Thing angels adore thee**

**All veiling their sight**

**All laud we would render**

**O help us to see**

**Tis only the splendour**

**Of light hideth thee.**

The Lord be with you. **and also with you.**

**Prayer of Penitence**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

***We pray* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you. Pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**We say Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, Heav'nly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**The Collect for the sixteenth Sunday after Trinity:** O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know

what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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. **Amen**

**The First Reading is taken from James, Chapter 3, beginning to read at the thirteenth verse.**

**(James 3 13-4 3,7,8)**

**13**Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. **14**But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. **15**Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16**For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

**17**But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. **18**Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. 4 **3**When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. **7**Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8**Come near to God and he will come near to you.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

O thou who camest from above <https://youtu.be/IJ6pmSEzJ5A>

**O thou who camest from above**

**The pure fire celestial to impart**

**Kindle a flame of sacred love**

**On the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn**

**With inextinguishable blaze**

**And trembling to its source return**

**In humble love and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart’s desire**

**To work and speak and think for thee**

**Still let me guard the holy fire**

**And still stir up the gift in me.**

**Ready for all thy perfect will**

**My acts of faith and love repeat**

**Till death thy endless mercies seal**

**And make my sacrifice complete.**

**The Gospel Reading:** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**Glory to you O Lord (Mark 9 30-37 )**

**30**They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, **31**because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” **32**But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

**33**They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” **34**But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

**35**Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

**36**He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, **37**“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord  **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon Martin:** Both our readings are about humility, which is difficult to discuss, let alone practice, in a world where pride (the opposite of humility) is seen as a virtue. But the medieval Church made pride the first of the Seven Deadly Sins for good reason. Many people think that humility means humiliation or degradation, so it gets in the way of achieving their true potential, but they are mistaken. The word ‘humility’ comes from a Latin word meaning the soil or the earth, and that means being in touch with the truth about yourself, or to put it another way, standing barefoot on the earth rather than grovelling in it.

The fruits of humility are trust; freedom to serve others; inner peace flowing out to others; gratitude; lack of boastfulness; a belief that all glory and thanks belong to God; and an ability to accept ourselves for the people we are.  James talks about wisdom in our first reading, but he could equally have used the word humility.

Having said all this, if it was easy to be humble, wouldn’t there be a lot more humble people around?! The solution is not to take yourself seriously and also to pray for humility. CS Lewis once said: “as long as you are proud you cannot know God, A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.” I couldn’t have put it better.

God is here! As we his people. <https://youtu.be/8t8y02Vj1Eo>

**God is here! As we his people**

**Meet to offer praise and prayer**

**May we find in fuller measure**

**What it is in Christ we share**

**Here as in the world around us**

**All our varied skills and arts**

**Wait the coming of his Spirit**

**Into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us**

**Of our lifelong need of grace**

**Here are table, font and pulpit**

**Here the cross has central place**

**Here in honesty of preaching**

**Here in silence, as in speech**

**Here, in newness and renewal**

**God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Lord of all of church and Kingdom**

**In an age of change and doubt**

**Keep us faithful to the gospel**

**Help us work your purpose out**

**Here in this days dedication**

**All we have to give receive**

**We who cannot live without you**

**We adore you, we believe!**

**The Creed We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**.

**The Lord’s Prayer**: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession:** Lord in your mercy**. Hear our prayer.**

Intercessions: In the World Council of Churches cycle of prayers we pray for Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Christians Together in Jersey are praying for the congregation of St Matthew’s Church (the Glass Church) and its minister Phil Warren

Let us pray for justice and truth in the world and for all that is good and right

May the world not lose hope for a time when peace shall triumph over conflict and violence

Let us pray that God will show each of us how we may serve him, loving our neighbours as ourselves

Pray for courage and healing for all who are afflicted by physical or mental illness, and for all who care for them

Pray for all who are considered “beyond the pale” in our society, for they too are loved by God.

We pray for those who have died, especially if they have died in tragic circumstances. Let us commend them and our own dear departed to God’s merciful love.

Merciful Father,**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**The Peace** Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace**.**

**May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and forever more Amen**

***Breaking of the Bread*** In our service earlier today we have broken this bread to share in the

body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**Prayers after Communion** O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do,

and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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. **Amen**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty** <https://youtu.be/_vegvb1u5s4>

**Praise to the Lord,**

**The Almighty, the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise him**

**For he is thy health and salvation**

**Come ye who hear**

**Brothers and sisters draw near**

**Praise him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord**

**Who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth**

**Shelters thee under his wings**

**Yea, so gently sustaineth**

**Hast thou not seen**

**All that is needful hath been**

**Granted in what he ordaineth.**

**Praise to the Lord**

**Who doth prosper thy work**

**and defend thee**

**Surely his goodness and mercy**

**Shall daily attend thee**

**Ponder anew**

**All the Almighty can do**

**He who with love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord**

**O let all that is in me adore him!**

**All that hath life and breath**

**Come now with praises before him**

**Let the Amen**

**Sound from his people again**

**Gladly for ay we adore him.**

**The Blessing:** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**