

**Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**  
**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021**



Dear Friends in Christ,

***‘You know that rulers and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different.’ (Mark 10: 42 & 43)***

In my life as your Incumbent, rules and regulations seem to be ever present hurdles to climb. Most of them are there for good purpose and must be upheld at all costs. Those relating to safeguarding others are a prime example of this. Yet, at other times, petty ‘red tape’ seems to fly in the face of the spirit of what it means for us to live out our lives in Christ. Jesus was often in the business of countering zealous Pharisaic rules and regulations, and in our Gospel reading from Mark this Sunday, we find Jesus facing down His disciples’ desire to create rules which worked in favour of their own self-aggrandisement. He tells us we must be better than this. We must serve.

As summer moves into autumn, we are (hopefully) emerging from the scourge of Coronavirus. Throughout the pandemic, it has been my view that, as Christians, we need to respond to Christ’s call to serve others in protecting them from infection. For the main part, this has been relatively easy to ask you all to uphold, as we support the needs of our neighbours in the community, and in church agree to socially distance, wear masks, book services and respect the frailty of those around us.



***‘The Woman Caught in Adultery’ by Isaak Askanazy***

However, we now find ourselves in a situation of flux. Many areas of society are relinquishing all forms of COVID regulations and practice as Government has devolved responsibility for maintaining them to the individual. In our parishes, we have been testing the water, allowing a greater flexibility of gathering yet still responding to the needs of the most vulnerable among us. To this end, we are still asking our congregations to wear masks as they enter and leave church - and in small buildings, to continue to wear masks as you worship and sing. We are continuing to ask you all to book seats at services, and we will not gather for coffee after services just yet. Hopefully, these measures will soon be able to be lifted, but for now, your observance of them is much appreciated by the most vulnerable of our worshipping communities.



***'Host of Angels' by Mike Moyers***

In the spirit of what it means to follow Christ and to serve others, it was a joy to be able to attend a service in Winchester Cathedral last Saturday, in which a host of 'angels' across the diocese were licensed as Lay Ministers and commissioned as Lay Workers. Our very own Alastair Barron, already a BCM Lay Worker in our benefice, was commissioned as a Lay Preacher. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Alastair, not only for being accepted onto this demanding BPP training course, but also for completing it with flying colours. I for one, look forward to Alastair bringing his new insights to our worship; helping each of us to understand scripture – and allowing us to break open the word of God in meaningful ways in our lives, as we too strive to serve others in His holy name.

Yours, in service before Christ,

Jax

**Rector, The Downs Benefice**

### **Collect Prayer for the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

God, the giver of life,  
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:  
By the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ  
and make us eager to do your will,  
that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life;  
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.



### **Mark 10: 35-45 - Jesus Teaches about Serving Others**

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to Jesus. 'Teacher,' they said, 'we want you to do us a favour.' 'What is your request?' he asked. They replied, 'When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honour next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.'

But Jesus said to them, 'You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?' 'Oh yes,' they replied, 'we are able!' Then Jesus told them, 'You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.'

When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. So Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

## Schedule of Services

*This schedule is correct at this time but may be subject to future alterations – please check on our website for the most up-to-date information.*

All services start at 10am, unless marked differently on the table below

Please could you continue to book to attend services by contacting the Benefice Office on 01962 880 845 or [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk)

Please would you also continue to wear masks until we are advised otherwise.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>17<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer		8am - Holy Communion	
<i>24<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>			Morning Prayer	Harvest Festival	8am - Holy Communion
<i>27<sup>th</sup> Oct (Wed)</i>			Mid-Week Holy Communion		
<i>31<sup>st</sup> Oct</i>	<i>With Wherwell</i>	All Souls Service		6pm – All Souls Service	3pm – All Souls Service <i>PLUS</i> 6pm – Autumn Meditation Series – Thomas à Becket
<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Nov (Tues)</i>			6pm – All Souls' Service		
<i>7<sup>th</sup> Nov</i>	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	4pm – Café Church ( <i>in Church Room</i> )		
<i>11<sup>th</sup> Nov (Thurs)</i>			10.55am – Act of Remembrance <i>at the War Memorial</i>		

<i>14<sup>th</sup> Nov</i>	10.55am Remembrance Service	10.55am Remembrance Service <i>at the War Memorial</i>	<i>Service at Sir John Moore Barracks. Details to be confirmed.</i>	10.55am Remembrance Service	<i>With Chilbolton</i>
<i>21<sup>st</sup> Nov</i>		Morning Prayer		8am – Holy Communion	
<i>24<sup>th</sup> Nov (Wed)</i>			Mid-Week Holy Communion		
<i>28<sup>th</sup> Nov</i>			11.15am – Patronal Festival	Morning Prayer and Baptism	<i>Service to be confirmed</i>