

**Seventh Sunday after Trinity
Sunday, 31st July 2022**



Dear Friends in Christ,

‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.’ (Luke 12: 15)

What a wonderfully long and warm month July has been. We have reached the relatively unusual phenomenon of the fifth Sunday of the month, and I look forward to worshipping with many of you at St Mary’s, Crawley this coming Sunday, for our Benefice service for all the parishes which takes place when a fifth Sunday occurs.

After this, I shall be taking a couple of weeks’ holiday in the Blackdown Hills in deepest Devon. Charlotte Nash has kindly agreed to write for next week’s newsletter and Alastair Barron the week after. My thanks to them both in advance for the wisdom of the reflections they will be sharing with us all.

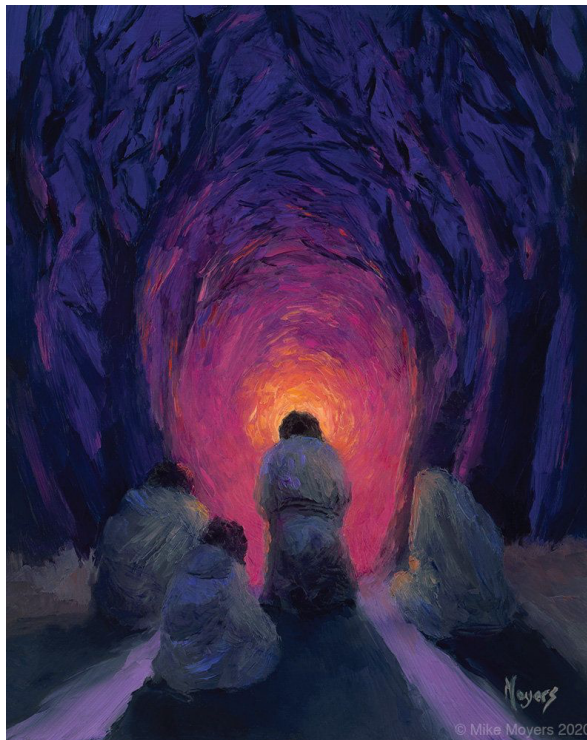
Another individual out and about on their travels this past week has been Pope Francis. He has been spending a sombre time in Canada. In particular, his papal entourage has travelled north to the City of Iqaluit, where Pope Francis has focussed on the need of the Roman Catholic Church to apologise to the Inuit community there for the abuse and disrespect inflicted on many thousands of young people, many of them from the Inuit community, who attended Catholic-run boarding schools for over a century up to the 1970’s.



‘Pope Francis at the Ermineskin Cree Nation Cemetery in Alberta.’

Source: BBC

Thankfully, these dreadful injustices have now been stopped. In an article in the Independent newspaper, Iqaluit's deputy mayor, Solomon Awa, has said *'The Inuit community – which comprises more than half of the city's population – abounds with swirling emotions. There is gratitude that an apology is forthcoming, and frustration that it took so long to come about.'* Though we are not a Roman Catholic community of believers ourselves, Anglicans have also been convicted of abuse against vulnerable individuals in the name of religion. This is always unacceptable. Always wrong. Never Godly. I ask each of you to pray for a lasting healing to come from Pope Francis' visit in the lives of all those poor souls affected by this scandalous situation.



'Stay With Me' by Mike Moyers

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus warns of the consequences of human frailty and our capacity for making foolish mistakes. The rich man in the parable Jesus gives could be any one of us. His parable speaks to the heart of our modern consumer-led world. The un-named man is preoccupied by storing up wealth for himself. He seemingly disregards the needs of others around him who might be hungry and in need of the sort of sustenance and support his riches could provide. The poverty of his earthly abundance becomes clear as Jesus speaks. What he could do for others with his wealth doesn't occur to the rich man.

Jesus points us unequivocally to the folly of such behaviour – encouraging us not to focus on accumulating earthly riches, but instead to work in this life for the good of others. By focussing solely on his earthly needs, the rich man has neglected his spiritual wealth. Jesus makes clear that filling our lives with material possessions at the exclusion of all else and with no thought for the difficulties other people face will mean we will enter eternal life empty-handed.

This summer, whilst many of us have the privilege of enjoying much needed holidays, we must also think of those less able to help themselves. Food and fuel poverty are very real experiences for families all around us at the moment. Please give generously to food banks, Winchester Beacon, The Trinity Centre, and to our church collection plates too – as the more monies we receive, the more our parish churches can support the vital work of the many charities we support in your name.

Wishing you the hospitality of Christ this summer,

Jax

Revd Jax Machin, Rector, The Downs Benefice

Collect Prayer for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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.



Luke 12:13-21 - The Parable of the Rich Fool

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?' Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'

And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself? This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.’

Schedule of Services

Now that all national Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, it is no longer necessary to book seats in our parishes for services. Neither is it mandatory for you to wear masks in church. However, Coronavirus is still very much with us. There are a number of people in our villages with it at present, so we are encouraging people to observe social distancing measures.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Ch</i> | <i>Cr</i> | <i>Li</i> | <i>Sp</i> | <i>Wh</i> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>31st July</i> | | 5 th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion | | | |
| <i>7th August</i> | Morning Worship | Holy Communion | 4pm - Café Church | | |
| <i>14th August</i> | | | Holy Communion | | Morning Worship |
| <i>21st August</i> | Holy Communion | Morning Worship | 6pm – Peace & Wholeness | 8am – Holy Communion (BCP) | |
| <i>24th August</i> | | | Mid-week Holy Communion | | |
| <i>28th August</i> | | | Morning Worship | Morning Worship | 8am – Holy Communion (BCP) |
| <i>4th September</i> | Morning worship | Holy Communion | Show Service in the Littleton & Harestock Show Marquee | | |
| <i>11th September</i> | | | Holy Communion | | Patronal Festival |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | Morning Worship |
| <i>18th September</i> | Holy Communion | Harvest Festival | 6pm - Peace & Wholeness Service | 8am – Holy Communion (BCP) | |
| | 12 Noon – Airborne Forces Remembrance Service at Stonefield Park | | | | |
| <i>25th September</i> | | | Harvest Festival | Pet Service | 8am – Holy Communion (BCP) |
| <i>28th September</i> | | | Mid-week Holy Communion | | |