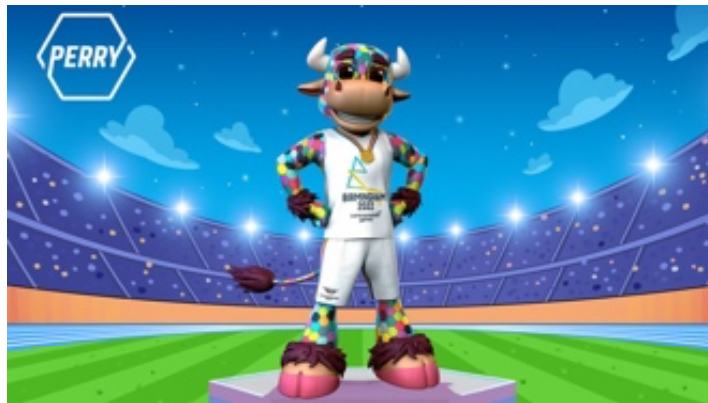


Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 7th August

*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1*

This week has been filled with some captivating sport. Last Saturday history was made as the Lionesses won the UEFA Women's Championship for the first time. The Commonwealth Games taking place in Birmingham are a joy to watch. For many athletes, taking part is their dream and winning a medal the fulfilment of a lifetime goal. They have trained hard with faith and conviction that they can win.



Coventry Telegraph

There are others running a different race as our country looks for a new leader of the Conservative party and someone who will become Prime Minister. At this time when trust is at low ebb we ask, 'Who can we trust?' Trust is something that we all long to see in a leader, and not just the Prime Minister or the Government, but any leader and even in those who aren't leaders. We see it as our right to have a leader we can trust. There are of course, many countries of the world where this is not the case, we need only look at Russia or to other countries where corruption is rife. The question is how to live under leadership that we don't know we can trust?

One thing that can help us is our faith. '*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*' (Hebrews 11:1). We live in a fragile world of war, pandemic and global warming. It is very distant from the world God created at the beginning of time, and in the back of our minds there is always the thought, 'This isn't how it should be.' We long for our world to be restored.



Dreamstime.com

The ancient people Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua and many more whose stories we read in the Old Testament didn't lead easy lives yet they are all commended for their faith. Their trust in God led them to hope for better things, many of which they did not see fulfilled, but which were all part of God's great plan. Jesus endured the cross because he could see beyond the suffering of crucifixion to the joy that was set before him and the fulfilment of the Kingdom of God. Faith looks beyond the present time and gives us hope, not a hope in ourselves, or each other, or even in our leaders, but in the one true God who created the heavens and the earth.

Faith calls us into action. This weekend we hear the parable of the servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet and who kept their lamps burning ready to greet him on his return. They did not wait idly, they were alert and active. So faith calls us to be active not sit idly by as we watch the world. Many people are dreading this winter and wondering how they will pay their bills and have enough to eat. Our faith calls us to see beyond our riches to the needs of others. The words of Jesus, to sell our possessions and give to the poor are hard. The calling is to be sacrificial, to reach out to help those in need, supporting our neighbour and the many organisations that do this. There is more to this life than our worldly riches, let us hold in our hearts and lives Jesus' words, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'



Lord Jesus, open our eyes to the needy
Give us hearts to respond generously
That we may find our true treasure in heaven.
Amen

May our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ guide and sustain us.

With love in Christ,

Charlotte

Luke 12:32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Prayer for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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.

** Service at St Mary's Crawley

We are very sorry to have to announce that the service at St Mary's this Sunday will be Morning Worship, rather than Holy Communion as originally planned. With Revd Jax away on Annual Leave, and at this busy time of year for holidays, we have been unable to find an ordained minister to preside at Holy Communion so will be offering a service of Morning Worship instead.

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

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

[A letter from Ashley Marshman, Head of Business Channels, Southern Water](#)

Hello

We're asking for your help to protect local rivers

You may be aware that a Temporary Use Ban (TUB), sometimes known as a hosepipe ban, was introduced on 5 August 2022 for households in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight who have their water supplied by us.

We have done this because our river levels in Hampshire are lower than they should be at this time of year, and this is where some of the fresh water supplied to customers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight comes from.

For the past eight months we've had very little rain – way below average. In fact, we're experiencing one of the driest years on record and this is impacting river flow, so we need to take action to help protect our precious rivers and their habitats.

Whilst the TUB does not impose restrictions on businesses, we're asking you to support your local area and use water wisely.

You can do your bit by not using a hosepipe or sprinkler for any activity including:

- *The upkeep of grounds of public service buildings*
- *To fill or maintain an ornamental fountain, watering gardens or cleaning paths and patios*
- *Washing taxis and minicabs as these are classed as private vehicles*

Essential and commercial uses for water, for example using water for commercial window cleaners and mechanical car washes, or businesses that need water as part of their operations like pharmaceutical companies and zoos will not be impacted. However, if river levels don't recover further restrictions may be imposed.

We've created some handy posters for you to download to use in your premises to remind customers and staff to use water wisely.

You can find these at: www.southernwater.co.uk/retail/save-water

Thank you for your support

Ashley Marshman, Head of Business Channels

How long will the restrictions be in place?

We'll need these restrictions until we have had enough rain and the river flows are back to a normal level. This will depend on our Drought Permit conditions, but we anticipate this being for at least 21 days.

Thank you for only using the water you need

If we all aim to use a little less water each day, these savings will soon add up. You can find a list of tips and suggestions for ways to save water at:

www.southernwater.co.uk/retail/save-water